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CECA Newsletter 3 - December 2020



Dear Members of CECA

So much has happened since our last newsletter in May. We are still in the midst of this unprecedented crisis and CECA activity has been busy on several fronts.

In this newsletter we would like to inform you about the following topics.

- CECA website
- Development of virtual activities
- General Assembly 2020
- Lists of CECA members
- Special interest groups
- Definition of the museum
- Outlook for the year 2021 - deadlines Best Practice Award and Research Award

Together we can build a strong community in order to support and inspire each other to move forward. So stay connected and share your thoughts, worries and successes on our Social Media channels!

The Board wishes you a save and joyful 2021 with new horizons.

Marie-Clarté O'Neill, President of CECA

CECA website

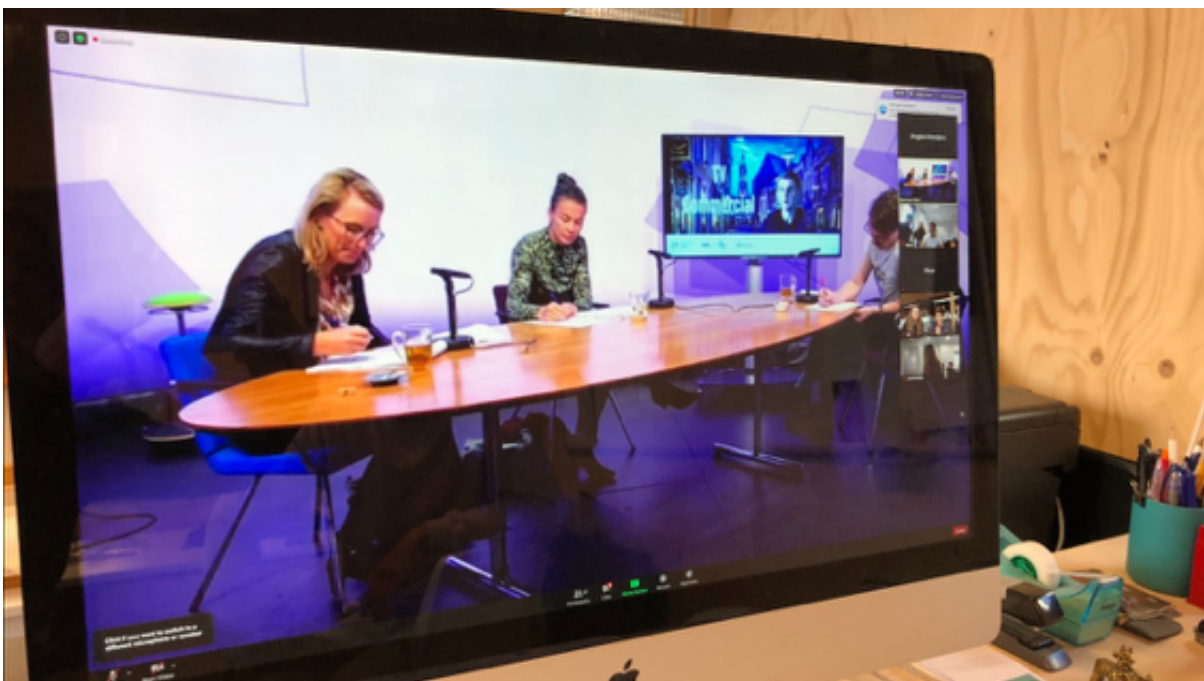
First of all, because it is our permanent liaison tool, news of the evolution of our site. We continued, until the end of the summer, to solve various technical issues. A change of service provider on the ICOM sites and the expertise of Marie-Françoise Delval, our webmaster, seem to be leading us towards a fully functioning website. We invite you to consult our website regularly.

Development of virtual activities

The pandemic, which has impacted our working lives so severely, has had an unexpected but probably lasting impact on the way we work. We have been driven to greatly expand the use of virtual communication technologies, both to communicate with each other and to work with each other.

Our Annual General Meeting, Board meetings, meetings with National Correspondents, Special Interest Group working sessions, all these moments of contact have been organized and even intensified thanks to an increasing use of digital platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.

CECA now has a professional Zoom subscription allowing us to hold long meetings with a large number of participants. This trend is set to intensify, even after the pandemic is over, as these new working arrangements will allow more members around the world to participate actively in our work, especially those who might be unable to join the annual conferences in person.



General Assembly

The General Assembly of CECA usually takes place during the annual conference and can therefore only bring together those members who attend. The cancellation of the conference, scheduled to take place in Leuven Belgium in October 2020, has therefore forced the CECA Board to find a virtual alternative. This new-style meeting therefore took place on Saturday 17 October.

To inform the whole CECA network, important communication work has been done through the website, messages sent by the regional coordinators and through social media on which the CECA is very active, thanks to the energy and competence of Nelly Aboud.

From all continents, 175 members or non-members registered to connect to the platform. Eventually 69 people attended the meeting, a higher number than during the last meetings onsite.

We planned a fully trilingual meeting thanks to Nicole Geshé's sequential multilingual translation. Although this was a time-consuming process, it allowed everyone to participate fully. The reports prepared by each of the members of the board on their activities during the year can be consulted on the [website](#).

Lists of CECA members

All international committees are struggling with the problem of access to the list of their members which should be found thanks to the IRIS database. The IRIS database is a database fed by the national committees and which should indicate the possible international committee to which each member would like to belong in order to become a voting member of that international committee.

The functioning of the IRIS database poses several types of problems: its complexity and therefore the little use that national committees make of it to keep it up to date. While the numbers of members is accurate, their contact details are often obsolete. It is therefore important that each CECA member has access to his or her personal space on the ICOM site and makes any necessary corrections. (cf. CECA website).

A great deal of work has been carried out in recent weeks to familiarize ourselves with the database and extract all the information available from it, the question of addresses still remains to be dealt with.

We have thus been very proud to note a very significant increase in the total number of our members between 2019 and 2020:

- CECA 2019 individual members: 1962
- CECA 2020 individual members: 2709
- CECA 2019 institutional members: 110
- CECA 2020 institutional members: 76

The breakdown by region is as follows :

- Europe: 1907
- North America: 211
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 306
- Africa: 80
- Arab States: 49
- Asia Pacific: 231

However, this significant growth should not mask two problematic aspects:

- The unequal distribution of members according to regions
- The impossibility for many educators with precarious statuses, particularly impacted by the job cuts linked to the pandemic, of paying ICOM registration fees.

With this in mind, the Board decided to give everyone free access to the General Assembly (excluding voting) and to the proposed virtual activities, such as Special Interest Groups, reserving participation in the various prizes and scholarships for members only.

Special interest groups

As you know, these groups were created with two goals in mind:

- To strengthen the interactivity of the relationships between members
- To make virtual sharing possible for those members unable to attend the annual conference or, for all, in the event of its organization being impossible.

I would like to remind you of the themes and their coordinators:

1. Cultural Heritage and Tourism - Coordinator: Frederike van Ouwerkerk (*ouwerkerk.f[at] nhtv.nl*) or (*Ouwerkerk.F[at] buas.nl*)
2. Professional Development of Museum Educators - Coordinator: WenckeMaderbacher (*wencke.maderbacher[at]yahoo.de*)
3. Research on the reception of educational programmes by the public - Coordinators: Marie Pierre Bera Delaporte (*mariepierre.delaporte[at]mahj.org*), Jean-François Leclerc (*muzeumexpert[at]gmail.com*) and Anne Jonchery (*anne.jonchery[at]culture.gouv.fr*)
4. Learning and engaging digitally - Coordinators: Angela Manders (*angela[at]artekino.nl*) and Areti Damala (*areti.damala[at]gmail.com*)
5. Universal accessibility, the inclusive museum - Coordinators: Raffaella Russo Ricci (*r.russo.ricci[at]orange.fr*) and Paolo Cuiça (*paulocuica[at]egeac.pt*)
6. Presenting difficult topics, working with complex communities - Coordinator: Adam Duckworth (*duckworth.a.f[at]gmail.com*)
7. Museum Education and Decolonization – CECA LAC – Coordinators: Silvana Lovay (*sillovay[at]gmail.com*) and Fernanda Venegas (*fernandavenegas.a[at]gmail.com*).

These various groups have grown remarkably in recent months, bringing together a growing number of members (from 6 to 60 depending on the group), offering increasingly regular virtual meetings on topics selected by consensus, offering both thematic presentations, exchanges of documents or good practices and moments of discussion.

The results of this work will be presented and discussed in workshops during the annual conference and will eventually be published in our ICOM Education magazine and proposed via the website.

These groups are looking forward to new members. **Join them!**



The new process of exploring a new museum definition explained by MDPP 2

Definition of the museum

As President of one of ICOM's largest international committees, I was invited to be part of the working group on a renewed definition of the museum. Over the past few months, this group has established a working method that will enable all the national, international and other ICOM committees to be involved in the various stages of development. Our goal is to reach a result that is as widely accepted as possible in 2022 at the next General Conference in Prague. From the beginning of 2020, the members of CECA were invited to take part in a survey conducted through the regional coordinators. The survey was designed to highlight the essential points related to the professional specificities of our committee that our members wanted to see included in a renewed definition. The marker concepts of this survey were: education, institution, inclusion, social role of the museum, importance of the materiality of the collections. The summary of this joint work will be published in ICOM Education 29 at the end of the year.

Outlook for the year 2021

The new procedures for submitting candidatures 2021 for these important CECA awards will soon be included on the website. However, we can advance the deadlines to present them:

BEST PRACTICE AWARD: May 22, 2021

RESEARCH AWARD Colette Dufresne Tassé: April 1, 2021

[Be sure to check the website!](#)

So many projects have been initiated during the year 2020 that there is an obligation to deepen, develop and extend the new ones, without forgetting the traditional projects: the development of research, the Best Practices prize, the forthcoming trilingual publication of in-depth texts on Education and Cultural Action,

our guidelines for action.

Two imperatives are becoming more and more pressing:

- The development of our virtual activity offerings requires a reinforcement of our technical possibilities and expertise. New types of subscription to more powerful platforms should allow us to do so.
- The growing attention to the issue of trilingualism. Systematic in our written publications, we wish to extend it as far as financially possible to our virtual offerings and to exchanges between members.

CECA, its President and each of the members of our active and inventive Board are therefore embarking on this year 2021 with determination, having demonstrated in the months ahead a resilience that has rarely failed.



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