

ICOM-CECA Report 2024

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Young Members Network



Introduction:

We as ICOM_CECA Board feel it is important to give everyone a voice within the Committee. As a result, we started the Special Interest Groups in 2020. These online communities are formed around a content theme. The Young Members Network is an exception and formed around an age group, because it is also sometimes nice to share experiences with peers.

This network is ment for students and young professionals in museum education aged 18-35. They can join meetings, conversations, networking, workshops, competitions in order to share and learn from each other.

This was the second year of the Young Members Network. We now have 131 email addresses of young members on the list. These young members come from different parts of the world: Asia, Australia, Middle East, Africa, North America, South America and Europe.

Although there are many young members on the list, there are about 10-15 young members who are regular participants. Time (3pm in Amsterdam = 11pm in Tokyo and 8am in Mexico City) and language is a barrier for some that is not easy to overcome. Also, not all email addresses are up to date. Young members in particular are in a stage of life where a lot changes and end up in different workplaces.

Recently 16 students were added to the list on request of one of my young members who is a tutor in the Education in Museums and Heritage (EDUMaH) in Glasgow. "As a tutor in the Education in Museums and Heritage (EDUMaH) programme as well as in Museum Education, I have many students who are eager to engage in museum field research and have amazing experiences working in the museum sector. A couple of students who are current ICOM student members and who is applying membership have expressed their interest and enthusiasm in participating.'

Our mission:

What we want to achieve with this CECA-Young Members Network is to bring together students and young professionals up to 36 years old, who are engaged in museum education, visitor services and public participation in the museum sector. With this,

we want to provide a platform to share thoughts, experiences and knowledge among peers, so that we can learn from each other and explore new possibilities together.

Organisation:

To achieve this, an online meeting is organized once a month around a specific topic, on Fridays, Saturdays or Tuesdays. Due to the international nature, we have to take into account the different time zones, therefore the meetings will take place at 3:00 PM (Amsterdam Time). The working language will be English. In the week before the meetings, you will again receive a reminder by email and Whatsapp.

The modus operandi is always:

- Introduction of the topic
- a personal reflection on the subject
- An informal group discussion
- Conclusion: answers or more questions ...

There is room to give your own short presentation on the topic, introduce a concrete question or initiate a project among the participants. If so, let me know in advance.

In June, I sent out a survey to collect wishes from the group to better match the target group. In it, they could indicate their preferences in terms of time, day and content and the reason what stopped them from participating. Time and language were the most mentioned reasons why people did not participate in the meetings. An idea to address this is: global meetings facilitated by me, and additionally organise local meetings, with a young member being the facilitator.



The topics are divers: from Decolonization to Digital skills and what it means to be at the start of your career.

Official Meetings Young Members Network 2024:

- 20 Januari 2024:

Working in museums: struggles and passions! Speeddate with (new) colleagues. We discussed the following questions: 1] What is your motivation to work in the museumsector? , 2] Name your passions working in / for a museum , 3] Name your struggles working in/ for a museum , 4] What does this (struggles) have to do with? Position within the team, organisation? Age and experience?

- 2 March 2024:

Theme International Museumday: Museums for Education and Research. We discussed the following questions: What are your thoughts around this theme? International Museum Day supports a set of goals from the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In 2024, we focus on: goal 4: Quality Education and goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure. How does or could your organisation contribute to these goals?

- 19 March 2024:

Digital skills - what do we need or understand as a museumprofessional? This was a joint meeting with two other SIGs: *Learning and Engaging Digitally* and *Professional Development*. The key speaker was Chiara Parisi, also one of the young members. The presentation was about the use of digital in the museum

addressed to their application with educational purpose, thinking about the reason why (or why not) we should use or implement digital tools in our educational activities, discussing challenges and opportunity and analyzing the difference between the use of digital educational tools on site and online.

- 20 April 2024:

Museum Education and Decolonization. Presentation by Sylvana Lovay (Spanish spoken), supported by Adriana Palafox (translations), one of our young members. The presentation was about the role and objectives set for the creation of the SIG "Education in museums and decoloniality", the work done since its creation in 2020 to date, and its importance for Latin America and the Caribbean.

- 8 June 2024:

Participant choice: Presentation by Anna Iwasaki: The Global Playlist-Curating Connections. This was an inspiration session where she presented the project she has set up. She gave us an insight into the project itself and how we can participate in the project. Just like how a playlist strings together songs, this project connects individuals through a chain reaction of artworks and personal connections. Each participant selects an artwork or object that resonates with them and adds it to our evolving map. But here is the twist: your selection is influenced by what is already on the map, creating a dynamic playlist of connections.

- 29 June 2024:

Inclusivity and accessible, both in the museum and online. This was a joint meeting with the SIG: Learning and Engaging Digitally. Areti and I were facilitating it together and it was the last time facilitating the SIG: Learning and Engaging Digitally. Our guest speaker was Raffaella Russo-Ricci, she coordinates among others the SIG : inclusive museum and global accessibility.

- 27 September 2024:

Developments and trends in Museum Education. We explored trends in the museum and specifically those within education and audience support. What does this mean for positions (job opportunities) within the museum and the associated skills and knowledge (professional development - museum studies) of the museum professional. We discussed the following questions: How do we see the new museum definition reflected in contemporary museum education? What does this mean for the organisation and specifically for the educator, when we talk about staff skills, knowledge and attitudes?

- 26 October 2024:

How to deal with topical issues from an educational perspective. In preparation for the annual conference in Athens we reflected on the subject: difficult topics!. Which play out in society and which you still want to discuss with the public as a museum. 1] Which topics do you think are topical and sensitive and can be discussed in your museum?, 2] Who decides whether it is a no-go within the museum? , 3] What does it depend on? , 4] And if you make it discussable, how do you do it? What methodology do you use?

- 18 November 2024:

On-site meeting - workshop held at the annual CECA conference in Athens. The title of the workshop was: Young Museum Professionals in the lead! There was a short introduction about the Young Members Network, mission, organization, topics and how to join the meetings. After that we worked on the topic: Delicate topics.

What can be delicate topics can vary from one individual and society to another. Our audiences are increasingly diverse and international and we cannot blindly rely on our own experiences and knowledge. So how can we avoid or highlight sensitive topics if we don't know what they are?

In this workshop with international participants, we explore together what delicate topics might be, why they are sensitive (what defines them) and how we (can) deal with them personally and from within the organisation.

In the workshop we discussed 1] the blind spot, both personal and institutional, that creates situations you didn't foresee in advance and 2] situations you couldn't reasonably foresee but have to deal with as a museum. As an example, we took a picture from an exhibition in a Dutch museum of Putin, bare-chested on a horse. The photo itself may be offensive, but it also created a stir when war broke out with Ukraine. In groups, the participants explored the given situation and came up with an approach on how to deal with it. We discussed this together and held it next to the Dutch museum's solution.

- 20 December 2024:

Reflection on the workshop at the conference: theme, personal experiences and lessons learned.

To register for the YMN: <https://forms.gle/bd47ecUwgAWnbaxJ9> or send an email to [ceca\[at\]artekino.nl](mailto:ceca[at]artekino.nl)

Upcoming activities 2025:

- Launch Young Members Award 2025
- Online meetings Young members Network

Dates	Topic	Comments
Saturday 11 January	The educational museum versus the participatory museum	
Tuesday 21 January	Barriers to entry: understanding challenges	A joint session with SIG: Prof. Dev.
Friday 14 February	Empowered evaluation: programs, educators and reflection	
Saturday 15 March	Enhancing accessibility of your museum collection	
Friday 18 April	Museum decolonization: bring about change within or outside the established order?	
Tuesday 20 May	Diversity in Museum Education: breaking down barriers	A joint session with SIG: Prof. Dev.
Saturday 21 June	Open for requests: a topical issue	Young Members choice: whatever you want to address

Young Members Award:

The CECA Young Members Award this year was the second to organize for members between the ages of 18 and 36 in museum education. The prize is to stimulate active participation and visibility within ICOM-CECA.

The prize money of €1200 is intended to cover the cost of your participation in the 2023 Annual Conference in Singapore where the winner will present their winning project.

This year Adriana Palafox from Mexico was the first prize winner and was present at the Annual CECA Conference 2024 in Athens, Greece to present her winning video. The jury was formed by: Angela Manders, Margarita Laraignée, Marina Gross-Hoy and Muminur Rashid (winner 2023).

What do the young members have to do to enter the contest? **What to submit:**

- A video (MP4) on museum education they have worked on (5 minutes max).
- The video should be about ONE museum education program or initiative.
- The program contributes to sustainable development practice in museum education and visitor participation

More information: [<https://ceca.mini.icom.museum/travel-grant/icom-scholarships/>]

Winner first prize:

The winner this year is: Adriana Palafox Argáiz, Regional Museum of the peoples of Morales, Palacio de Cortés (Mexico). Her project is a conservation and restoration project of the collections in the biodiversity, bioculturality and preclassical halls: preventive conservation workshop for museum guards. (custodians)

The video shows us how important personal development is for achieving shared goals. The workshop helps to ensure certain processes within the organization for the preservation of the collection and thus knowledge for future generations.

