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Museums and Cultural Landscapes

The 2016 International Museum Day theme is Museums and Cultural Landscapes. ICOM-SA and ICOMOS-SA have initiated a joined programme to explore the concept of cultural landscapes and to develop a policy framework for the conservation of cultural landscapes from an African perspective.

The World Heritage Convention defines cultural landscapes as cultural properties that represent the “combined works of nature and man”. Conserving cultural landscapes involves the curation of sites in terms of social and cultural values, visual relationships, natural features, geomorphology, vegetation and infrastructure as well as economic aspects, intangible dimensions of heritage and aspects of cultural diversity and identity. Cultural landscapes can reflect specific forms of land use or the unique spiritual relationships between humans and nature. Cultural landscapes always have boundaries whether political, mental or geographical. Museums do not only explore these relationships and boundaries, but also challenge existing relationships and boundaries. Relationships and meanings are not static, but are continuously reconstructed. In addition, there is a growing tendency to see museums as part of heritage and art networks with a blurring of the borders between institutional and private initiatives as well as between in situ and ex situ.

The South African landscape reflects South African heritage in all its diversity. It includes sites and spaces rich in living heritage; sites containing evidence of our geological and palaeontological heritage; sites reflecting our agricultural and industrial past; and urban and townscape that not only reflect our architectural heritage, but also our divided political past. The documentation and conservation of our cultural landscapes forms an integral part of our tangible and intangible cultural heritage and should be conserved and interpreted as such. Museums form an important part of the cultural landscape. In addition, as archaeological repositories and keepers of objects associated with the built environment, museums collect tangible and intangible testimonies of their environment and can play an important role in promoting understanding of the evolution of cultural environments.

We invite members to participate in the series of focus group meetings and workshops that are being organised across the country. A national workshop is planned for the end of August in Gauteng and will be followed by the ICOM-SA AGM and election of the Board for 2016- 2019.

Helene Vollgraaff
ICOM-SA Chairperson

International Museum Day Programme

ICOM-SA and ICOMOS-SA are organising a programme around the 2016 IMD theme that consists of a series of focus group meetings across the country followed by a national workshop in Gauteng. . The purpose of the programme is to develop a policy framework on museums and cultural landscapes. The focus group meetings take place in April and May and the national workshop in late August. Members will also have the opportunity to comment on draft policy frameworks.

To participate in the focus group meetings, please contact the relevant coordinator. Please note that there have been slight changes to the Gauteng focus group programme.

Province	Coordinator
<p>Eastern Cape <i>Consultative focus group meetings in Port Elizabeth (6 April), Graaff-Reinet (12 April) and East London (26 April).</i></p> <p>Theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to define cultural landscapes • Defining the role of museums in interpreting and documenting cultural landscapes through collecting and research programmes • New models to extend the museum beyond the restrictions of buildings to interpret and conserve cultural landscapes and activities in situ • Heritage Education and Social Cohesion 	<p>Sylvia.Vanzyl@ecsrac.gov.za</p>
<p>Gauteng <i>A series of six consultative forums starting on 8 April 2016.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining cultural landscapes – exploring different perspectives: World Heritage Convention, museum practice, fine art, natural science, African World Heritage Fund offices, Midrand, 8 April 2016 • Museums within urban landscapes, University of Pretoria, 14 April 2016 • The role of museums in interpreting and documenting cultural landscapes through collecting and research programmes, Freedom Park, Pretoria, 21 April 2016. • Developing new models to extend the museum beyond 	<p>Ntsizi November ntsizinovember@gmail.com</p>

<p>the restrictions of buildings to interpret and conserve cultural landscapes and activities <i>in situ.</i>, EcoAfrica Office, 35 Theiler Street, Irene, Centurion, 28 April 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling conditions for the development of new models to integrate museum activities and heritage resource management practice. (A). An overview of the relevant legislative framework within which cultural institutions operate; (b). the possible integration and alignment of policy within such institutions, National Heritage Council, 6 May 2016 • Heritage Education and Social Cohesion or Building responsible and proud citizens through Heritage Education, Department of Arts and Culture, Pretoria, 20 May 2016 	
<p>KwaZulu-Natal Consultative focus group meeting, KwaMuhle Museum, Durban 26 April 2016</p> <p>Facilitator: Anne van de Venter-Radford Discussion: Anne conducted a survey regarding the removal and/or relocation of heritage statues and memorials in KwaZulu-Natal. At the workshop, Anne will discuss the results of the survey and facilitate a discussion towards recommendations to be included in the policy framework.</p>	<p>Steven.Kotze@durban.gov.za</p>
<p>Western Cape Consultative focus group meeting, Cape Town 26 April 2016</p> <p>Facilitator: Laura Robinson Speakers Liana Jansen, Helene Vollgraaff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How we understand cultural landscapes • (Cultural) Landscapes in the African region, towards a charter • Meaning of heritage in public space, a museum perspective 	<p>Nicolette Nunes admin@heritage.org.za</p>
<p>Free State Consultative focus Group Meeting, Oliewenhuis Museum, Bloemfontein 4 May 2016</p> <p>Facilitator: Loudine Philip Programme: To be confirmed</p>	<p>Marianna Botes mbotes@nasmus.co.za</p>
<p>National Workshop, Gauteng August 2016</p> <p>Date and programme to be confirmed</p>	<p>Registration details to follow</p>

Partnership Events	Contact person
<p>Africa Speaks, UNISA Keynote speaker: George Abungu, Vice-President of ICOM 18 May 2016</p>	<p>Event is open to the public. To attend, please contact Anneliese Mehnert for more information at mehneah@unisa.ac.za</p>
<p>Consultative Forum in partnership with UNISA Department of Anthropology and Archaeology Keynote speaker: George Abungu, Vice-President of ICOM Discussion: Addressing the transformation of the urban visual landscape – dealing with apartheid era monuments and exploring new models for memorialisation.</p>	<p>Limited seats are available for the seminar. To attend, please contact Anneliese Mehnert for more information at mehneah@unisa.ac.za</p>
<p>SAMA Western Cape Conference Theme: <i>The Relevance of Museums located within Cultural Landscapes</i> Keynote speaker: Helene Vollgraaff, ICOM-SA Chairperson 9 – 10 June 2016 Venue: Old Harbour Museum in Hermanus</p>	<p>Programme and registration details to follow. For more information contact Eliz-Marié at es.museum@la-motte.co.za.</p>

Update on Milan 2016

The ICOM Milano 2016 conference is only a few months away. Please see: <http://network.icom.museum/icom-milan-2016//> for more information. Also keep an eye open for the Call for Papers from the different International Committees that are circulated by email.

We received two applications for travel grants to attend the conference, namely from Helene Vollgraaff and Vicky Heunis. Both applications were successful.

Members who are planning to attend the conference must please contact Vicky Heunis urgently. Vicky is liaising with the conference organisers to facilitate our visa applications.

The new Executive Council of ICOM will be elected at the conference. In addition the General Assembly, the highest policy making body of ICOM will also meet in Milan on 9 July 2016. As a National Committee, ICOM-SA can nominate five members to vote in the elections and to participate in the General Assembly as voting members. These members will be selected from those attending the conference and are not limited to Board members. The only qualification is that the person must be a member in good standing at the time of nomination. Unfortunately, student members may not vote. Preference will be given to individual members.

ICOM-SA AGM and Board elections

It is not only election year for ICOM in general, but also for ICOM-SA. A new Board will be elected at the AGM in August 2016. The Board is our governing body and consists of at least five elected members. These include a chairperson, a treasurer/secretary and at least three elected members. However, due to the workload, the work of Secretary is currently managed by other Board members. The SAMA President is an *ex officio* member of the Board.

To be eligible to stand for election one must be a member of ICOM in good standing. If institutional members want to nominate a staff member, the nomination should be supported by an official letter of the head of the institution. In addition, if the person resigns from the institution, the person also has to vacate their position on ICOM-SA Board. Unfortunately student members are not eligible for election. The Board is elected for a period of three years (2016 – 2019), in other words their term will end shortly after the ICOM Kyoto 2019 Conference and General Assembly. A person may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. Those of you who are not eligible for election such as student members, but want to become involved, can make yourself available as volunteers.

Being a member of the ICOM-SA Board or a volunteer is hard, but rewarding work. ICOM-SA is registered as a non-profit organisation at the NPO Office, Department of Social Development as well as a Tax Exempt Organisation at SARS. Therefore ICOM-SA has legal obligations that it has to comply with. Being an active member of the Board is a great learning experience in NPO management and project management while at the same time you build a good network amongst colleagues.

Though each Board will decide their own priorities, the work descriptions of the current Board may give you an indication where you can possibly contribute.

Chairperson	<p>Strategic direction, coordination and leadership Reporting to ICOM Executive Council, ICOM Secretariat and members Represent ICOM-SA at ICOM Advisory Committee that meets annually in Paris. (Though grants to attend are made available, no person may receive a grant each year. The chairperson must be able to raise funds to attend of at least one meeting). Ensure that members are informed about activities, policy initiatives and opportunities in the broader ICOM network Represent ICOM-SA at events and programmes (can be delegated to other Board members) Accounting officer of ICOM-SA who may enter into contracts and agreements on behalf of ICOM-SA.</p> <p>This is a great position to build your network and to be aware of the newest policy directions in museums.</p>
Treasurer	<p>Financial bookkeeping and management Budgeting and approval of expenditure Managing relations with the bank Liaison with auditor Completing tax returns</p>

	The important and responsible job of making sure ICOM-SA remains financially sound and sustainable.
Secretary	<p>Organising Board meetings Reporting to NPO Office Maintaining ICOM-SA archive, including the Register of Resolutions General correspondence with members Manage circulars and notices to members</p> <p>In this position you will learn management skills related to the non-profit environment. In many ways, this position is the understudy of the Chairperson.</p>
Membership administration	<p>Maintaining and updating membership databases Chairing the panel that screens new membership applications Liaising with ICOM Secretariat (Membership Department) Administrative tasks such as posting cards and stickers.</p> <p>Most of the work takes place from December to April each year.</p>
Website and facebook	Maintaining and updating the ICOM-SA website and facebook page
Communications	<p>Writing and editing newsletters, notices and circulars Developing information resources for the website</p>
Professional Development	<p>Managing projects such International Museum Day programmes and workshops, seminars and conferences.</p> <p>This portfolio is shared by more than one member in order to spread the workload. In other words, a member may have to work very hard one year and have little to do the next year.</p>