

CAMOC news 01

THE COLLECTIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF MUSEUMS OF CITIES 2011



CAMOC's Aims and Objectives for 2011-2013

CAMOC's goal is to be a recognised international authority on our subject and a "think-tank" for ICOM on cities and city museums.

Based on the discussions at the CAMOC annual meetings, the answers of CAMOC members to the recent survey questionnaire and the evaluations of the Executive Board, the document on CAMOC's Aims and Objectives for 2011 – 2013 is formulated as follows in our Annual Report 2010.

- *To become a project based organisation*

In our efforts to make CAMOC's work more targeted and output-oriented, to encourage collaboration between museums, international committees, other organizations, and cities, to develop joint projects (like those monitored by the EU), and to sustain the intellectual level of our conference meetings, we aim to make CAMOC an organisation committed to developing and supporting projects. To this end, these are our objectives:

- *To create a database of city museums*

The envisaged "database of city museums" will be made up of data on date of establishment, size of collections, use of digital systems and styles of governance as well as

mission statements, activities, partnerships (with other museums, urban agents, and academic institutions), challenges encountered, and future plans. We intend to ask museums in the same country to work together on the project, perhaps also joining with a university and a relevant administrative office. And bring their results, preferably with assessment and interpretation to, possibly, our 2012 Annual Conference.

This kind of a research will not only enable us to see the differences, trace the evolution, determine the tendencies concerning the structure, purpose and role of city museums but it will also provide researchers, urban actors (local administrations, planners, architects, etc.), academics and citizens with a unique and valuable resource for their studies, inquiries and inspiration. The intensive networking this undertaking requires will help to advance communication and cooperation among members/museums and to attract new ones. This database project could lead to publications/ e-publications as one of its outputs.

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- *To support for and implement collaborative actions with civil society as well as governmental bodies*

In this context various environmental disasters, which affect urban communities in various cities/countries around the world require immediate attention. The devastating floods and mudslides in Rio de Janeiro's mountain region has been one such example. CAMOC has nominated Maria Inez Franco, Vice Chair of CAMOC, our representative in Latin America and a long-standing Brazilian museum professional involved in regeneration projects in Sao Paulo and elsewhere, to explore the possible contribution CAMOC could make in the region. So far she has consulted ICOM Brazil, and written to the Governor of Rio who in turn has appointed museum coordinators for initiating dialogue with CAMOC. She has also proposed collaborative action promoted by the Federal Government/IBRAM, the State of Rio de Janeiro Government, ICOM Brazil and CAMOC, with the aim of developing an international seminar in the affected region, which could be attended by CAMOC specialists with experience of similar urban environmental disasters in places such as New Orleans. More information on this project will be reported as the initiative develops and begins to produce tangible results. Then, there have been terrorist attacks in New York, Moscow and elsewhere which have been documented by city museums. We need to learn from and share experience with museum specialists who have been involved in these urban disasters, and our experience in Brazil will help us to map out the most appropriate and beneficial action for CAMOC to take.

- *To help establish a new generation of city museums*

These museums are about the past, present and future of cities and serve as platforms to encourage the participation of citizens to discuss and tackle urban and social issues.

We want to do more than express good intentions – we want to share the expertise and knowledge of our members amongst city museums and encourage the creation of new city museums particularly in developing countries. Amongst our members there is a great deal of expertise to share.

- *To fund for young members, especially from developing countries*

- *To increase membership, especially from developing countries*

The more members, the more CAMOC can achieve. To repeat what was mentioned earlier: Our membership, like that of other international committees, is weighted towards the developed world: Europe, North America and Australasia. This is understandable on financial grounds alone. Creating a greater balance therefore is not easy, but we must try, not least because some of the most dramatic growth in cities takes place in the developing world. It is also good in itself: An international committee should aim to be representative of the whole world, not particular sections of it. We should aim for a minimum of 250 from all countries by 2013. It is not a difficult target. We also need to attract more

city museums in countries where we already have members. As yet, we have only scratched the surface. For example, only a small fraction of Europe's city museums are represented in CAMOC.

- *To develop on-line and print publications*

Our Annual Conferences provide us with material for publications. Another source would be the seminars and projects we plan to develop. In both the project development and implementation processes, publications/e-publications will ensue. We are considering also the possibility of an e-journal.

- *To improve our web site*

We intend to update the design of the CAMOC web page to reflect the more dynamic character of CAMOC and improve the software on the server side so that the web site is more interactive and inspirational and serves a greater range of functions, including the requirements of the prospective database of city museums.

- *To generate income and have greater financial independence, with an active sponsorship and fundraising arm*

- *To build partnerships with other ICOM International Committees and the academic community and implement joint projects with them*

As for collaboration with other international committees, our next conference will take place in Berlin in conjunction with COMCOL, the International Committee for Collecting and Collections. We also have plans to cooperate with the Reinwardt Academy, Amsterdam, to organize a workshop on the practice of New Museology.

- *To establish partnerships with cultural and heritage development agencies, such as UNESCO and ICOMOS*

In addition, because of the particular nature of the new generation of city museums we need to encourage active involvement in social issues and to this end we intend to establish relations with organisations such as UNDP and the World Bank.

- *To reform the structure and objectives of our annual meetings*

To this end, we will introduce a new format that combines panel discussions and interactive workshops to help improve museum practice. These workshops would also focus on specific matters (new city museums, urban regeneration programmes, social inclusion programmes, etc.).

- *To organise a special seminar about what exactly a city museum is*

There is need to refresh our concepts about what exactly a museum city is and redefine it for the first quarter of the 21st century. CAMOC has already thought in the past about organising a special seminar on the topic, one that needs to be addressed and analysed thoroughly.

■ From the CAMOC President

'CAMOC is a forum for people who work in or are interested in museums about cities, urban planners, historians, economists, architects or geographers, all of whom together can share knowledge and experience, exchange ideas and explore partnerships across international boundaries.'

CAMOC Newsletter can be pivotal in providing the platform for this kind of communication and collaboration not only among CAMOC members but also within the broader museums community of ICOM and the urban agencies. This is also a means to furthering our values and supporting the work of our colleagues. The results of our recent survey, which Marlen Mouliou interpreted so proficiently, present a roadmap that underlines this conception.

For the time being CAMOC Newsletter will be published four times a year and sent to our members. It will be available also on our website. We have intentions to transform it into an e-journal in the coming years, but time and practice will show if and when we are ready for it.

This is our first newsletter with the new page layout. We hope you like it. This is also the longest newsletter that you have ever received from CAMOC and perhaps ever will. We wanted to share with you some basic sections of the CAMOC Annual Report 2010 that we submitted to the ICOM headquarters at the end of February. CAMOC's Aims and Objectives for 2011-2013 and CAMOC Survey Results 2011 are the ones we quoted here.

Maria Ignez Mantovani Franco's article on the place of memory in cities hit by disasters, like the devastating floods and mudslides in Rio, sheds light on CAMOC's concern and interest in the developments in all cities of the world and its commitment to collaborate with museums and museum professionals across national boundaries, sharing its knowledge and experience.

Our website is in the process of being improved. As work progresses, we will be able to send you the CAMOC Newsletter electronically. It will no longer be a PDF attachment like this one. For the new website and the e-newsletter we need your contributions (see Announcements). It will be your submissions as well as the news from your museums and cities that will eventually determine the quality and substance of our publications.

Because of time constraints and unresolved technicalities, Marlen Mouliou and I ended up co-editing this newsletter and somewhat belatedly. We got help from Ian Jones as a native speaker of English. We felt much pressurised in the course of production but we enjoyed the process. Some take-off defaults might have been inescapable for which we hope for your understanding. We will get better with experience and stronger with your help and contributions.

Suay Aksoy

■ CAMOC 2011 Annual Meeting

The next CAMOC annual conference will be held in Berlin, at the Museum Europäischer Kulturen from October 31st to November 3rd 2011.

Realizing its objective to cooperate with other International Committees, CAMOC will organize the 2011 Annual Conference jointly with COMCOL and ICOM-Europe. All three committees will participate in some sessions collectively. The general theme that is chosen for 2011 is "Participative strategies in documenting the present".

More information will be sent in the coming days on the call for papers, deadline for submission of proposals, structure of the programme, registration and other practical matters.

■ Announcements from CAMOC

Send us news about your museums, new exhibitions and projects!

We wish to publish them in our newsletters and put on our website to inform our members about the activities of city museums all around the world. The deadline for submissions is May 10th.

Send us photographs of your museums!

We need visuals of your museums (outside and inside) to use on our website. Images that can be used horizontally would be easier to adjust to the narrow rectangular space that our graphic artist reserved for this purpose.

Please send your emails to Marlen Mouliou, the CAMOC Secretary, at mmouliou@gmail.com

Disaster and the City: the Place of Memory

The social and environmental disasters that occurred last January in the mountain region of the Brazilian State of Rio de Janeiro give pause for thought on the fragile equilibrium of cities.

These episodes of panic and catastrophe can be understood not only as an illustration of the failure of cities to cope, but as an indication of the extreme fragility of urban planning in different countries. In 2005, the Katrina tragedy in New Orleans, as well as the great disaster that has now devastated a number of Japanese cities, have made clear that even those societies we regard as well developed are not always well prepared to deal with all the power and strength of extreme weather events such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, tornadoes, snowstorms, floods, prolonged droughts and other man made or natural disasters. The complexity of the disorder and resulting damage that affect communities is evidence of the difficulties faced by public authorities in different regions and countries.

"...people certainly need a place for memory, where they can grieve, acknowledge their losses, and recall their old habits, and where the past can be absorbed into the present in order to rebuild the future."

For all these reasons, when we hear that a city needs to be rebuilt, it is imperative to consider the city we are talking about: Who will decide what should be rebuilt? Which values does society, after burying its loved ones, decide to preserve and rebuild? The city's infrastructure and its buildings may have been destroyed, but what to say about the people who lived there? After the tragedy, nothing or nobody will be the same. There are countless urgent matters that need to be addressed, treated, sutured, but these, in due course, will enable a reappraisal, a new equation, or in other words, new choices to be made. Thinking of rebuilding means reassessing what already existed and choosing what we want to rebuild for the future.

Thus, each city overwhelmed by catastrophe has to involve its inhabitants in a dialogue, which respects their choices and finds new ways for collective action, linking reconstruction with the gathering together of the fragments of memory which can restore the social narrative.

Besides financial resources, material donations, medical rescue, and social assistance, people certainly need a place for memory, where they can grieve, acknowledge their losses, and recall their old habits, and where the past can be absorbed into the present in order to rebuild the future.

A city may lose its physical characteristics, may be destroyed, may be threatened by scars that never heal, but it should strive to perpetuate the human ability to preserve memories, to choose life instead of pain, to find symbolic objects that have the power to arouse emotion. Memory enables reconstruction, tolerates the necessary refusals and allows resurrection to take place - a reasoning that, even if fragmented, continually enables us to make the choice of what to remember and what to forget.

Rather than rush to reconstruct cities, it is necessary first for the victims of tragedy to recover the capacity to believe, to renew expectations and to rebuild their self-esteem and the sense of belonging.

The International Committee for the Collections and Activities of Museums of Cities (CAMOC), an integral part of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), is in contact with the authorities of the affected regions of the State of Rio de Janeiro in order to collaborate in the process of reconstruction in the cities concerned. At present, CAMOC is studying means of developing actions to safeguard social memory in these regions in Brazil and to help prepare people to face similar events in the future, based on similar, sensitive actions undertaken by museological programmes such as those designed in New Orleans after Katrina and in New York after September 11, where members of CAMOC took the initiative.

Therefore, attention should be paid to the fact that the existing museums in those regions hit by natural or man made disasters may play a role that goes beyond collecting material donations - a task that reflects citizenship and is in fact both necessary and welcome, but can very well be taken on by other social organisations. City museums are places of memory - they are social institutions capable of collecting the remains and symbolic narratives of disasters in order collectively to turn them into reference points that could mobilize social strategies to help overcome the impact of these disasters on people.

*Maria Ignez Mantovani Franco, PhD
Vice-president and Latin America
representative of CAMOC*

CAMOC Survey Results 2011

CAMOC values:

- **Innovation:** Be a think-tank in the forefront of innovations and developments within ICOM and city organisations as a whole.
- **Creativity:** Develop new ways, new professional resources and guidelines on the management and development of city museums around the world.
- **Inclusivity:** Be a collaborative participatory museum community that promotes interaction between its members and offers equal opportunities to different voices to be diversely expressed.
- **Transparency:** Be completely open to share information on the decision-making processes followed by the Executive Board.

With these values in mind, the new CAMOC Executive Board through its new Chair (Suay Aksoy) and Secretary (Marlen Mouliou) conducted a question-based survey among the committee's members with the aim to get feedback on CAMOC's performance as well enable it to review its mission, objectives and immediate courses of action. Twenty-five (25) responses have been collected which provide insightful comments and suggestions.

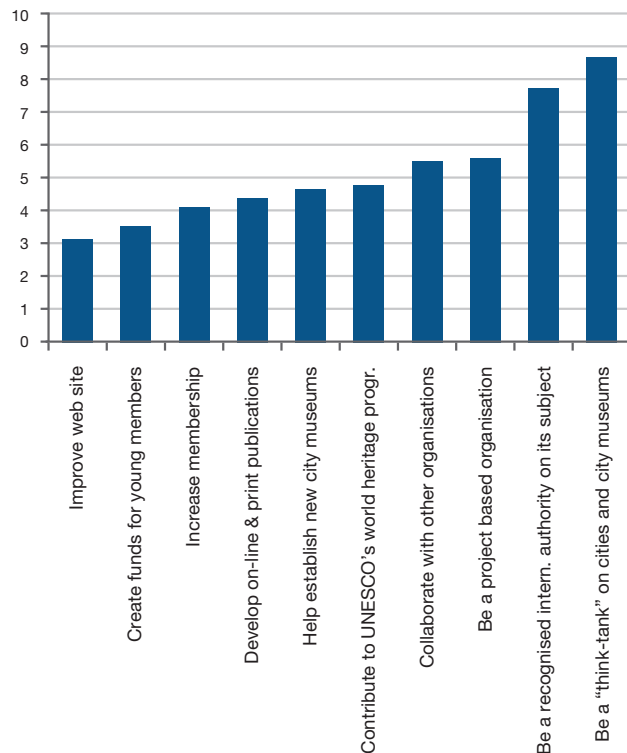
Below is a brief account of the survey, which at the same time presents the road map for the implementation of our 2011-2013 plans:

1. Mission statement

The current mission statement of CAMOC provides that "CAMOC is about cities and the people in them. It is a forum for all who are interested and involved in cities, where they can share knowledge and experience, exchange ideas and explore partnerships across national boundaries". This is a satisfying statement for at least half of the respondents. The original idea when CAMOC was formed was to go beyond the immediate world of city museums and attract other people and organisations involved in cities. CAMOC's present mission statement has been extensive, with an aim to include a variety of issues and be open to interdisciplinary work. It not only considers city museums but also their collaboration with different stakeholders, for the benefit of their cities. However, there have been constructive comments from some of our members on this mission statement. Obviously, our object of study is the museum, but we know that it is part of a complex society. Thus a stronger and clear-cut focus on museums and museology must certainly be taken into account. CAMOC is principally a network of city museums and is not a forum about urbanism in general. It is about museums dedicated to cities and the people in them. So, the mission statement must include the words "city museums" and should also say something about the role that city museums play in informing the conversation about where cities are going.

2. Main goals

Our members continue to believe in CAMOC's two main goals, that is: to be a "think-tank" for ICOM on cities and city museums and to be a recognised international authority on its subject. The chart below presents the overall ratings of the 10 different goals the survey questioned. The highest bars represent higher priorities in the choice of goals by the respondents.



Q: "CAMOC's current aims are as following. Can you prioritise them?"

Some supplementary comments offered by a number of respondents reinforced CAMOC's previous decisions regarding its goals, i.e. the idea that CAMOC needs i] to be focused on what makes city museums unique, not just museums that happen to be in cities, but museums that are about cities, ii] to build up a representative organisation of city museums, a kind of forum for existing city museum professionals to share ideas and expertise, iii] to be more present and active in the global discussions about cities' development, iv] to provide opportunities to revitalise museums in cities through transnational cooperation to help build new city museums, as well as v] provide free collaborative reading materials and guidelines on city museums.

3. Fields of action

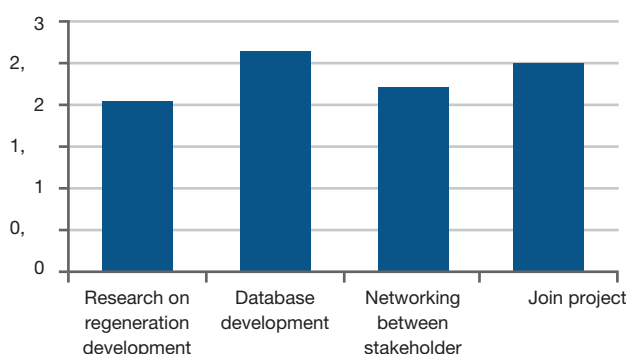
CAMOC's fields of action can be many, but we need to prioritise them in order to make progress and get better results. According to the survey results, the development of a database for the operation of city museums worldwide, which would incorporate information on the mission

statements, aims and objectives, administrative structure, funding, policies, collections, audiences, etc. of city museums, seems to be the No. 1 priority. This is actually very encouraging, for this is also the priority of the current Executive Board. Then, there is a slight preference for the establishment of joint projects between city museums as well as between city museums and other organisations regarding the role of city museums in tackling social, financial and environmental issues in the life of their cities. However, the networking between different stakeholders, the sharing information and the determination of best practices as well as the undertaking of research on city regeneration and city development, on environmental issues and on urban municipal projects and their connection to city museums are also very well received.

Generally speaking, we need to promote areas of good world-class practice and to share information on developments across the spectrum of the membership. The organisation of training and educational programmes in developing countries, through which CAMOC members could share, teach and exchange experiences with people on how to develop city programmes is also an important and viable undertaking. We need to establish the networks and methodologies to implement them efficiently and systematically.

Partnerships between city museums, let alone city museums that are CAMOC members, are already established. We need to develop this network further, by creating possibly a search engine for prospective partners and also encouraging joint projects that go beyond exchange of exhibitions.

In times of global financial uncertainties, fundraising to support city museums is a noble but difficult undertaking. We need to study the most effective ways to promote these kinds of actions and initiatives.



Q: "CAMOC's fields of action can be many, but we need to prioritise them in order to make progress and have better results. How do you rate and sort the following options?"

4. Communication between CAMOC members

The majority of the respondents (60%) commented that there is now need to improve communication and interaction between the CAMOC members whereas some (32%) found the current communication quite sufficient.

There are many good ideas as to how we can improve the existing communication routes (website, e-newsletter, email correspondence) as well as on how to establish new ones. Our aim is to make our members feel they are involved in CAMOC and that their opinions matter. Besides, undertaking this survey is a good proof of this.

The following suggestions should be now seriously considered:

- Update and upgrade the website to make it more usable and inspirational, well structured and designed, interactive and participatory (more member-orientated), always functional and up-to-date.
- In this same respect, create an interactive web platform, for both board members and all CAMOC members, to communicate as well as manage joint projects and share information (i.e. collaborations where CAMOC members can exchange information and invitations among each other to participate in collaborative activities such as staff exchanges, collections sharing, exhibit exchanges, etc.). Members can post items relating to their work through a news forum.
- Create an e-journal (possibly published quarterly and distributed from the website and through members email list) that would contain important up-to-date information on CAMOC conferences and other professional meetings, publication of proceedings, discussion of significant developments and case studies, interesting city museum projects, new exhibitions, special activities, items of interest about projects run by CAMOC members and their respective museums, major city and urban issues, other ICOM general news etc.
- Post routine e-mails from the President, Secretary and the other CAMOC officers.

5. Website re-design

According to the comments collected, the current website needs amendments both in terms of design, layout, navigation and functionality as well as content. Most than all, apart from being regularly updated it must be able to adjust to more collaborative and participatory ways of communication between CAMOC members (and the non-specialist audiences).

As suggested by one of our members, the challenge for the CAMOC website is to be an interesting open space for people interested in studying the cities, and not only a website to connect CAMOC members. We have to think on how to have in our pages lively global news from cities and also the most interesting and interdisciplinary analysis from the best specialists in issues involving cities.

Lots of specific proposals have been offered for discussion:

- The interface can be more collaborative, presenting CAMOC programmes and projects, as well as interesting papers and ideas about cities, a special bibliography about cities, ICOM and CAMOC calendars, a list of CAMOC members, a timeline with the highlighted topics of CAMOC history, besides the always necessary “who we are”, mission and objectives. A blog to share opinions could also bring many suggested contributions. Thereafter, we can inform how CAMOC had organized its best publications and concepts about museums and cities.

- The web site must contribute to the wider discourse on the quality and the future of urban museology. It can have publications of conference materials (like a download library with educational training material and other pedagogical tools on various aspects of city museum work), information about (joint) projects, better quality pictures describing urban exhibitions, presentation of cities.

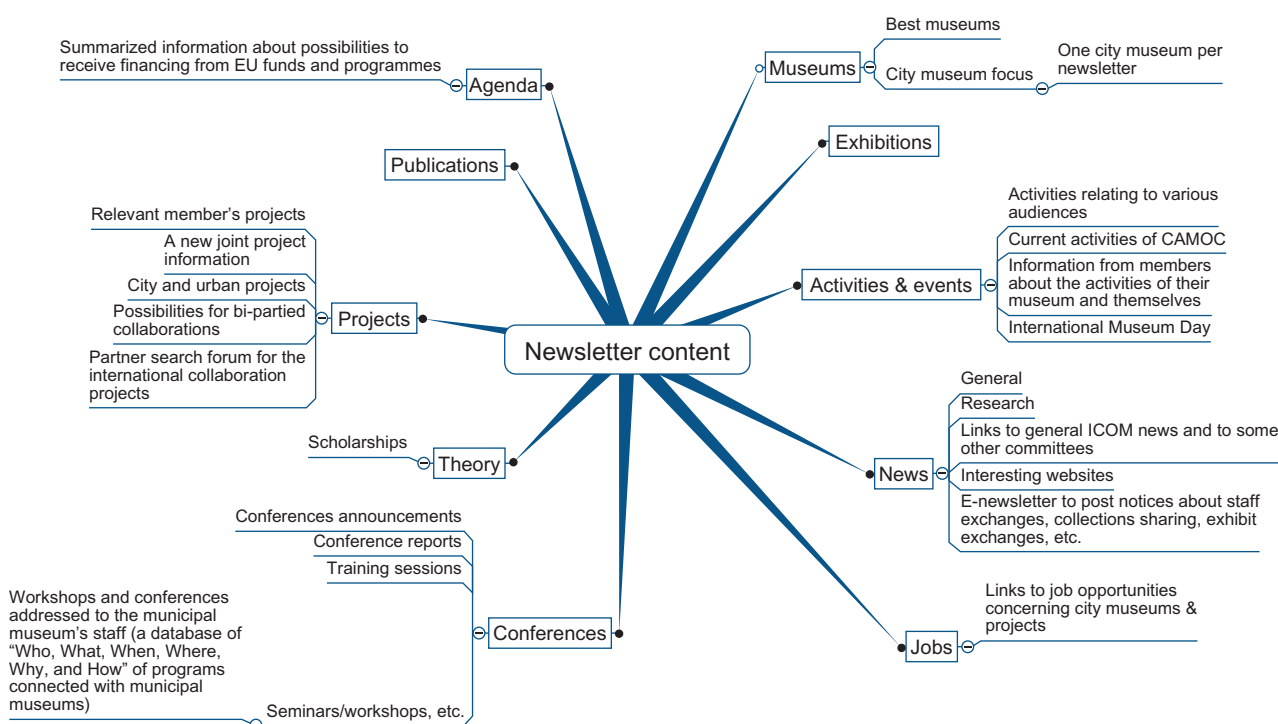
- It must incorporate a database on city museums (list of museums per country, individual entries for each one with information on their mission, aims, management model, collections, activities, policies, etc.)

- It must not have only CAMOC’s projects but relevant city museum projects, current city museum events, research projects concerning cities and about some of the other ICOM committees considered of particular interest for all (like INTERCOM, CECA, ICOFOM, ICMAH, ICOMOM or CIDOC), etc.

- Last but not least, it must provide general information in different languages.

6. Newsletter

To the question “What type of information would you like to see in it?”, the comments provided have been most helpful. We tried to digest and organise them in the following schematic plan that will help us proceed with the design and implementation of this enterprise. The expectations of the members from the newsletter are so wide-ranging that the idea of creating a periodic e-journal gains ground. However, the latter requires the commitment of a number of contributors – a point that needs to be thoroughly explored before taking any steps.

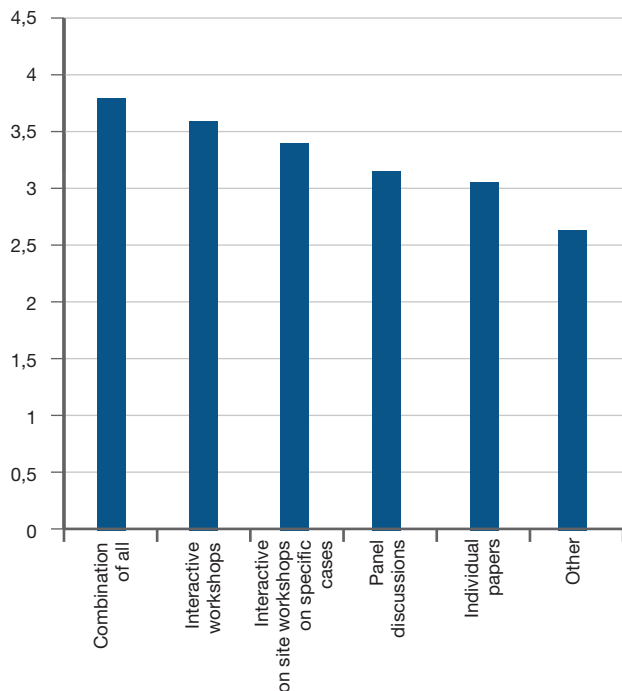


7. Annual Conferences

It is true that the traditional lecture-based structure of the annual meetings is not the most productive and fruitful model to exchange and discuss ideas. Individual papers can be good but they can create an overly passive audience who just sit there as it was very well observed by one of the survey respondents. We need to invent alternative and more interactive ways to exchange of information and ideas. This issue was addressed in the survey and the respondents’ feedback reflects similar preoccupations. Thus, panel discussions can be good if well chaired and where many

people are encouraged to speak, not just those with excellent English. Interactive workshops (like training sessions) aiming to update museum theory and improve museum practice as well as interactive on-site workshops focusing on specific cases can be great. A respondent also suggested the preparation of roundtable discussions and workshops that are facilitated, written up and shared. Another one suggested the organisation of sessions and workshops with other related ICOM committees, for exchange of experiences, theories and practices. With this aim, we could select themes of interest for three or four committees and could also invite special guests to share our annual conference with us.

Naturally, the best option is the one that encompasses and combines different methodologies.



Q: “Annual Conferences: What structure would you prefer?”

The respondents focused on a number of interesting topics which they would like to be part of CAMOC’s thematic agenda for the next years. We tried to categorise them in broader yet distinct thematic groups.

8. CAMOC award for various accomplishments and activities of city museums

Through the survey, we wanted to explore the idea of introducing an award (annual or bi-annual) for various accomplishments and activities of city museums. 16 respondents (app. 64%) replied positively to the idea, whereas 8 respondents (app. 32%) found the idea a low priority issue. There was one no reply.

In this respect, there have been comments such as: “there are better ways of spending our money, like helping young people from developing countries to take part in our activities” or “it’s too early, we have to prove CAMOC’s worth first” or “this is a lovely idea but... can get costly, bureaucratic, time consuming, difficult to have agreed criteria that can be applied objectively etc. These things can, and should, be considered when CAMOC is very big. But awards and such like can take a lot of administrative resources”.

We also explored which of the following categories would be more appropriate for such an award: a) Best museum of the year (for its overall achievements), b) Best new exhibition/redisplay/temporary exhibition of the year, c) Best museum activity/event of the year, d) Best digital application of the year (website, podcast, blog, etc.), e) Other.

MAIN THEMATIC CATEGORY	TOPICS
Back to basics	What is a city museum (definition, characteristics)
	What is the history of city museums
	Case studies of museums that are about and for the city
Museums and communities	Inter-culturalism, common identity, multi-culturalism in the museum
	Contemporary human global diasporas and the cities
	City museums and migration
	Cities in sorrow and crisis (wars, terrorist attacks, financial crisis, etc.) in contrast with cities in joy
	Cities, city museums and the needs of children and youth
From global to local and vice versa	Beyond nostalgia... how to be more than a celebratory place, but to contribute to municipal debate and decision making
	How city museums can interact with global tendencies
	Learning how to share the city
	City museums’ challenges in developing countries
	How museums can promote social improvement
	Municipal museums and challenges of contemporaneity
Collecting the city	City museums and collecting policies: Capturing the change, participatory collecting of the present etc.
Planning the city	The role of city museums in city planning
	Specific urban questions concerning social and economic issues
Professionalism & networking	New city museum projects
	City museum management
	Interdisciplinary nature of the city museum – research directions and different perspectives on urban heritage
	Urban museum as a centre of education
	Cooperation and partnerships between museums, their cities and society in general
	Exchanges (of staff, collections and exhibits)
	New technologies

Mostly preferred category (as expected) was the first one, for it embraces most of the other sub-options. However, we also collected some supplementary suggestions for other categories of wards:

- Best project of any type that really gets the idea of being a museum of the city that focuses on notions of identity and place
- Best educational and/or research interchange initiatives among city museums
- The best publication of the urban museum
- Best action for cooperation between museums or institutions (to stimulate museums to share ideas, actions, projects)
- Best innovation or museum initiative that in fact results in better life for the city museum community
- Best city museum programme or project that really helps the city and its community to think about their future
- Best policy documents
- Best professional of the year

9. General comments

Finally, some respondents submitted a number of general comments that have been most useful and inspired the Board in the drafting of the forward plan for 2011-2013. These are:

- Prepare, with our members' cooperation, a list of international institutions that could be interested in exchange with CAMOC. CAMOC might propose, organise and share meetings with these institutions about some issues of mutual interest.
- Organize special CAMOC work groups interested in studying city museum solutions for mega-metropolis.
- Work hard to open our minds to merging the city museum model with new museum concepts and also with socio-museology solutions involving people who live in cities. We do have to develop a new city museum model more devoted to people. The MINOM (International Movement for a New Museology) could be a great partner for us in this regard.

Conference Alert 2011

Conference theme

Regional Development and Policy - Challenges, Choices and Recipients

Place & Dates

Newcastle (UK), 17-20 April 2011

Information on-line at

<http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/events/2011/april-newcastle/register.pdf>

Description

The conference will include daily plenary, workshop and special roundtable sessions. The challenges for regional development are intensifying. Long-term factors shaping the prospects for cities and regions include the effects of climate change and new demands on energy, water and food systems. Cities also face significant demographic shifts. Rapid technological changes - captured in the notion of an emerging Knowledge Economy - will also affect cities and regions. Moreover, we are witnessing significant changes in international political economy - encapsulated by the term globalisation - but increasingly understood as incorporating the rise of new economic powers, such as the BRICs (Brazil, Russia, India and, above all, China).

Conference theme

The City: 2nd International Conference - Culture, Society, Technology

Place & Dates

Vancouver, British Columbia, (Canada), 5-6 May 2011

Information on-line at

<http://www.interdisciplinarythemes.org/conferences/index.php/C2/>

Description

Proposals for papers and posters in all disciplines that address the concept of The City are welcome. Papers will be published. Proposals are welcome from any disciplinary perspective, as well as those that cross disciplinary boundaries, on the topic of The City: Culture, Society, Technology. Topics might include: The city and literature, art or culture, social perspectives on the city, cities and crime, urban space & planning, cities and leisure, the city and the garden, architectural perspectives on cities, mass transit, mapping cities, including the changes effected by technology, technology and communication in cities, virtual cities, urban living, the psychology of urban life, the city and education.

Conference theme

Perspectives on Public Space in Rome, from Antiquity to the Present, Istituto Nazionale Urbanistica

Place & Dates

Rome (Italy), 12-14 May 2011

Information on-line at

<http://www.biennalespaziopubblico.it/>

Description

The conference is an integral part of the three- day Biennial of Public Space organized by the Italian National Institute for Urban Planners (INU). It wishes to bring together various perspectives on public space in the city of Rome pertain

Conference theme

16th International Conference on Urban Planning and Regional Development in the Information Society, GeoMultimedia 2011, Change for Stability, Lifecycles of Cities and Regions. The Role and Possibilities of Foresighted Planning in Transformation Processes

Place & Dates

Essen (Germany), 18-20 May 2011

Information on-line at

<http://www.corp.at/>

Description

Some of the topics to be discussed are: Quality of life as benchmark of successful urban development, influence of “new technologies” on urban development, spatial aspects of innovation and transfer of knowledge and technology, management of rapid growth, structural change and shrinkage, sustainability through intelligent resource management, stability, safety and vulnerability of modern cities, anticipatory planning under economically challenging circumstances, together instead of side-by-side: Rearrangement of cities, new life in old structures.

Conference theme

European Urban Research Association 2011, Cities Without Limits

Place & Dates

Copenhagen (Denmark), 23-25 June 2011

Information on-line at

<http://eura2011.org/>

Description

The conference is organised by the European Urban Research Association (EURA 2011) in cooperation with the Centre for Strategic Urban Research - formed by University of Copenhagen and Aarhus School of Architecture. It will be funded by Realdania Research and University of Aalborg. The conference will focus on the challenges for urban policies, planning and design which arises when clear cut separations of city and countryside give way to new hybridised ‘urban landscapes’ with increasingly blurred borderlines between cities and between the city and the countryside and the growing impact of new relational geographies at the regional as well as the global level. Urban restructuring has been at the agenda for several years, now facing cities, professionals, politicians and researchers with new questions about the identity of cities and citizens and how to deal with the new relational geographies that are replacing well-known geographies of places. The following themes have been selected for further investigation: 1. Conceptualising cities, 2. Governance in cities unbound, 3. Residential liveability in urban regions, 4. Resilient Metropolitan landscape, 5. The city of talent - knowledge economy and urbanity, 6. Open track. Topics to be selected by the participants.

Conference theme

4th International Conference on the Inclusive Museum

Place & Dates

Johannesburg, (South Africa), 30 June to 3 July 2011

Information on-line at

<http://onmuseums.com/conference-2011/>

Description

This conference invites museum and culture professionals, and interested scholars, to explore the current and future role of the museum in this era of tremendous global change

Conference theme

Centre for Metropolitan History in Association with the University of Cape Town, Shadow Cities: Realities and Representations

Place & Dates

Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London (UK), 6-7 July 2011

Information on-line at

<http://www.history.ac.uk/events/event/2152>

Description

More than a billion people live in improvised dwellings or shanty towns in the early twenty-first century. Whether in inner cities or on the outskirts of a metropolis, these settlements have been dubbed “Shadow Cities” by Robert Neuwirth.

The aim of this conference is to investigate and explain the historical existence of Shadow Cities, their varying nature in different historical and geographical circumstances - such as medieval Europe, nineteenth century North America or the twentieth century global South - the living conditions and experiences of their inhabitants, and the perceptions or representations of such settlements.

Conference theme

2011 Asia Pacific Cities Summit (APCS), The Business of Cities

Place & Dates

Brisbane, Queensland (Australia), 6-8 July 2011

Information on-line at

<http://www.apcsummit.org/Program/CallforBestPracticeProjects.aspx>

Description

Under the broad theme The Business of Cities, world-renowned speakers will focus on the following sub-streams: a) the business of green cities, b) the business of smart and connected cities, c) the business of growing cities. A strategic business matching program will encourage relationships, partnering and trade and investment among Summit delegates, sponsors, exhibitors, clients, business representatives and government agencies. The Summit’s interactive hub will be Trade Market Square, which will showcase more than 50 global businesses. This prime networking arena for delegates and exhibitors will be the backdrop to the business matching programme.

Conference theme

Annual Research Committee 21 Conference 2011, The Struggle to Belong. Dealing with Diversity in 21st Century Urban Settings

Place & Dates

Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research - Urban Studies, University of Amsterdam, (Netherlands), 7-9 July 2011

Information on-line at

<http://www.rc21.org/conferences/amsterdam2011>

Description

The RC-21 2011 Conference will analyze how globalization and individualization have given rise to new forms of diversity -ethnic, religious, gender, sexual, class and otherwise-, and new deliberations and conflicts over citizenship and belonging in urban settings in both the Global South and North. The conference organisers want to know how people with diverse backgrounds locate themselves and others in new social hierarchies, how they struggle to create meaningful places, in what ways they develop strategies to belong, and with what consequences. Moreover, they aim to understand better what types of (new) policy responses and forms of governance have developed to manage diversity in urban settings. In sum, the central concern of the 2011 RC-21 annual conference is the ways in which individuals and communities in an urban context respond to the major social processes of globalization and individualization: how do they articulate various forms of diversity and develop inclusive or exclusive strategies to ‘belong’?

Conference theme

Londonicity. The 1st Annual London Studies Conference

Place & Dates

Institute of Education, London (UK), 12-14 July 2011

Information on-line at

<http://www.thelondonconference.com>

Description

The great world city of London which is the focus of this conference is the product of some two thousand years of growth and development, setback and renewal. London reflects many of the glories of urbanisation and yet is also marked by many of its inevitable contradictions, from the great beauties of its artistic and architectural heritage to the dramatic

challenges it now faces - alongside other world cities - to reduce its excessive carbon footprint, its pollution, and its criminality. These striking ambiguities provide the context for the conference, at the approaches to Olympic Year 2012.

Conference theme

Montreal Ecocity World Summit, People. Ecology. Urbanity. Moving Towards Ecocities.”

Place & Dates

Montréal (Canada), Palais des congrès, 22-26 August 2011.

Information on-line at

http://www.ecocity2011.com/appele-de-communications/default_e.asp

Description

Ecocity World Summit 2011 will be a great opportunity to showcase research projects and achievements that will help governments, researchers, and professionals answer the challenges they are facing in the search for solutions that contribute to a healthier and more sustainable world. This international event will build on work of past Ecocity World Summits while adding new conference topics, participatory methods, and projects that will last beyond the life of the conference. It will gather professionals, academics, and decision-makers who are interested in discussing the major issues related to sustainable urban development. More than 1,500 participants are expected from around the world.

Conference theme

18th International Seminar on Urban Form, ISUF 2011 & Concordia University, Urban Morphology and the Post-Carbon City

Place & Dates

Montréal (Canada), 26-29 August 2011

Information on-line at

www.isuf2011.com

Description

The aim of the seminar is to explore how interdisciplinary research on urban form can contribute to debates, policies, and progressive professional practice for addressing environmental challenges of our times.

Conference theme

Urban Data Management Symposium 2011, UDMS at 40 Years: Making Contributions to the Future

Place & Dates

Delft (The Netherlands), 28-30 September 2011

Information on-line at

<http://www.udms.net/cms/delft-2011/first-announcement-call-for-papers.html>

Description

The Urban Data Management Society has organised international symposia at various locations throughout Europe since 1971, and UDMS 2011 will mark its 40th anniversary. Consequently the general theme chosen of UDMS 2011 is: UDMS at 40 years: making contributions to the future. UDMS 2011 will include, for the first time, dynamic Discussion Working Sessions in which academics, representatives from local authorities and professionals will discuss relevant topics and problems for which solutions are required.

Important Programmes on Urban Issues 2011

Organisation

The Cities Programme of the London School of Economics

Information on-line at

<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/LSECities/citiesProgramme/introduction.aspx>

Description

The Cities Programme is an innovative centre for teaching and research on urban issues, located in the Department of Sociology at the London School of Economics. Its distinctive focus is on the relationship between the physical and social development of cities. The Cities Programme takes a multi-disciplinary approach to urban problems, drawing on expertise and insights from the social sciences, architecture and urban design, urban planning and related fields.

Organisation

URBAN - Community Initiative of the European Regional Development Fund for Sustainable Development in the Troubled Urban Districts of the European Union

Information on-line at

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/urban/thematic_strategy.htm

Description

The Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment was adopted by the Commission on 11 January 2006. Commission proposes strategy to improve the environment in Europe's cities. The Strategy is accompanied by an Impact Assessment covering its social, economic and environmental consequences. The Strategy is based on the results of extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders.

Organisation

URBAN II - Community Initiative of the European Regional Development Fund for Sustainable Development in the Troubled Urban Districts of the European Union

Information on-line at

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/urban2/index_en.htm

Description

Urban II is the Community Initiative of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for sustainable development in the troubled urban districts of the European Union for the period 2000-06. As a follow-up to Urban I in 1994-99, Urban II aims more precisely to promote the design and implementation of innovative models of development for the economic and social regeneration of troubled urban areas. It will also strengthen information and experience-sharing on sustainable urban development in the European Union.

Organisation

European Urban Knowledge Network

Information on-line at

<http://www.eukn.org/eukn/>

Description

The key objective of EUKN is to enhance the exchange of knowledge and expertise on urban development throughout Europe, bridging urban policy, research and practice.
