ICOM General Conference 2013

**Places for reflection:**

**museums as connectors of cultures, times, people and social groups**

Conference of the international committees for historic house museums (DEMHIST),

for museums and collections of glass (GLASS)

for museums and collections of decorative arts and design (ICDAD) and

for museums and collections of fine arts (ICFA)

Rio de Janeiro/Brazil, 12–16 Aug 2013

Call for papers and posters

The theme for the 2013 annual meeting focuses on the role of museums in their communities or neighborhoods. While the historic houses clearly represent the architecture of a certain period, they also share what they have inherited from the history of the districts and, consequently, of the cities where they are located. They represent symbolic grounds that reveal the memory of these places, from the perspective of their earlier residents’ habits and way of living. By means of their interpretative programmes, they remain as a place of interaction with the visitors, especially with the local community.

The discussion of this theme, within the ICOM – Rio 2013 framework, showcases some Brazilian experiences, as far as the social function of these institutions is concerned, thus highlighting the social programmes of some museums including community museums and favela museums, as well as experiences from some international museums.
These dialogues with the community enhance the rescue of a sentimental memory and of people’s history, thus promoting an interaction that can play a major role in museums of this category.

Within the theme “Places for reflection: museums as connectors of cultures, times, people and social groups” papers will focus on the following main ideas:

1. “Relationship with its community”: Discuss the relation of the museum with its city and the challenges of finding opportunities and promoting the ability that the museum has to interact with its surroundings.
2. “Dialogue with the artifacts”: Demonstrate how the museum artifact can be interpreted as an example of local uses and customs.
3. “Social role of the museums”: Discuss how museums can serve as a link between cultural heritage and the society, showing case studies and experiences of museums worldwide that develop programmes of this kind. What can they do to change social realities?

The deadline for submission is March 24, 2013. Please, send an abstract of your presentation, including the following:

1. Title;
2. Author(s) name(s) and contact info;
3. Biography (max. 15 lines);
4. Indicate choice of whether an oral presentation or poster is preferred;
5. An abstract of no more than 350 words outlining the purpose, methodology, findings, and conclusions;
6. Two jpg or tiff images, each under 2 MB, may also be submitted.

Send your submission by e-mail to: demhist.rio2013@gmail.com and mjmonge@gmail.com. More information on http://www.icomrio2013.org.br/.