

Dear ICOM members

At the end of what has been a year like no other, I thought I would update you on recent discussions related to ICOM's development of a new definition of museums. As you know, this issue has been current since the decision taken in Milan in 2016 to develop a new definition for ratification at the General Assembly in Kyoto in 2019. ICOM Australia has consistently supported change but acknowledges that more needs to be done to develop a definition that is clear and unambiguous.

I was pleased to accept a nomination to join the reconstituted standing committee for a new definition, known as Museum Definition, Prospects and Potential 2 (MDPP2), and have been able to represent Australia's interests in that group. In recent months, we have met to discuss the way forward and to canvass views of what is needed to achieve change in the interests of the organisation. I am pleased to report that the new president Alberto Garlandini has consistently supported the work of the committee.

A recent meeting of the committee agreed on a new methodology for extensive consultation with ICOM members to develop a new museum definition proposal for the next General Assembly in Prague in August 2022. My sense is that this methodology allows for a strong process of engagement through the National Committees and International Committees of ICOM, and that it provides many opportunities for members to involve themselves in the process. In the interests of transparency, I have attached a recent report of the Standing Committee for the Museum Definition to the Advisory Council. Renamed ICOM Define, the Committee is now chaired by Luran Bonilla-Merchav, of Costa Rica, and Bruno Brulon, of Brazil, and it is committed to working actively through this process through 2021.

ICOM Australia will forward the work we have done previously on the museum definition, including the results of the survey run in late 2019, to ICOM Define for consideration, as the first step required under this new methodology. We will then participate in the process outlined in the attached document and will undertake to report regularly to you, and invite your contributions as possible. Please take the time to become familiar with the discussion as it unfolds and play your part if you feel able to. My hope is that the process this time leads to a productive conclusion rather than stalling, but it will take all of us to ensure that is so.

Finally, I wish you a happy and joyful festive season in this year which has provided so many challenges. We all need this opportunity to take stock of what is important to us with family and friends and make sense of what we have lived through in 2020. Please stay safe and enjoy the break, and I look forward to catching up with you in 2021.

Best wishes

Mat Trinca

Chair

ICOM Australia