

Call for papers

Museums Facing a Planetary Emergency

Joint conference of ICOM Germany, Greece & Cyprus

12 – 14 November 2020

Athens, Greece

Over the last century, humanity has benefited from remarkable improvements in health and in quality of life. Yet at the same time, we have been exploiting the Earth's resources in unprecedented and unsustainable ways. Our world is now changing rapidly under the influence of human behaviour: climate change and biodiversity loss but also pandemics are just some of the most dramatic manifestations. These changes threaten the security of critical ecosystems and jeopardise the gains made over the past century in human health and well-being. As trusted sources of information and sites of transformative engagement, museums can and must play a role in addressing these issues. How should museums reinvent themselves in the face of a planetary emergency? How should we prepare ourselves for increasingly frequent extreme weather events and social unrest? What is the role of our collections and how can they be protected, in the face of global changes but also local disasters? What new roles could our institutions, and ICOM itself, play in the age of Fridays for Future and Extinction Rebellion?

The conference will be divided into a general part with invited keynote lectures by environmental scientists, social investigators, cultural practitioners and political activists, and a more practical part based on case studies from the point of view of museum individuals, associations and authorities that will examine possible future scenarios and inform a panel discussion. This call for papers refers to the second part of the conference.

Topics could include for example:

- Museums as platforms for environmental discussions (climate change, biodiversity ...)
- Museums facing global pandemics – rethinking the visitor model
- Climate change, extreme weather events and conservation – the challenges for collections
- Citizen science – the role of museums
- Community engagement for the Fridays for Future generation

Participants from all countries are welcome. The conference language is English. Papers are intended for publication.

Please submit your paper by 30 June 2020 on conference@icom-deutschland.de

Papers must be in English and contain the following information:

1. Author(s)
2. Organization(s)
3. Email Address(es)
4. Short biography of the author(s)
5. Title of abstract
6. Body of abstract (max. 400 words) incl. key questions the presentation addresses
7. 3 – 5 keywords

The presentation time at the conference is 15 minutes, followed by questions and discussion.

Papers will be selected and authors notified by 31 July 2020.

We welcome you to our conference and to the beautiful city of Athens!