

# ICOM - International Committees' Annual Report

## CAMOC ANNUAL REPORT 2020

### **Name of International Committee**

Accronym and complete name (eg. CECA - IC for Education and Cultural Action)

CAMOC – International Committee for the Collections and Activities of Museums of Cities

### **Email**

[secretary.camoc.icom@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.camoc.icom@gmail.com)

Date: January 10, 2021

## A) Adaptation of activities due to the pandemic

### Has your IC been able to conduct its Annual Meeting?

NO    YES

#### If NO, please give details of the decision to cancel or delay the meeting.

For example: when that was the decision taken, how that was communicated to members, etc.

The fifteenth CAMOC Annual Conference, dedicated to The Right to the City, was initially planned to take place in Krakow, Poland, on June 3-6, 2020. After setting the dates in early December 2019, CAMOC announced the call for papers for the 2020 Annual Conference in mid-December 2019 and the call remained open until mid-February 2020. In response to the Call for Papers, we received about 70 proposals from 5 continents, demonstrating the increasing geographical diversity of our network.

The selection results for the speakers and grantees were announced in the beginning of March 2020.

With the aggravation of the sanitary situation and travel limitations on a global scale, the conference was first postponed for early October 2020 (decision in March 2020), and then, in August 2020, postponed for late February 2021 (to be revised by mid-January 2021).

The decisions were communicated to all members via mailing list, CAMOC website and social media. The selected conference speakers, grantees and attendees were informed via dedicated Krakow conference email.

However, CAMOC organized a webinar on *Museums of Cities at the Time of Pandemic* and managed to set up the annual assembly online (for details please see Section B of this Report, *New activities undertaken*).

#### If NO, does your IC plan to hold the meeting at a later date?

Supporting documents like draft themes, draft programmes, presenters' profiles, etc., can be uploaded at the end of the form.

Yes – in August 2020, new dates were defined for the on-site meeting (February 25-27, 2021). However, due to the continuation of unfavorable development of the pandemic, this decision will be revised by mid-January 2020.

While both the CAMOC Board and the CAMOC Krakow 2020 local hosts have been strongly in favour of holding the meeting on site, other scenarios will also be pondered, such as: keeping the set dates and changing the conference format to an online event, postponing the date and planning a mixed online/on-site event, or merging it with the Barcelona 2021 conference.

NOTE: please also see Annex 2 - CAMOC Krakow Annual Conference 2020 – Conference themes and the list of accepted participants

### **How did your IC adapt the already planned activities to the pandemic?**

The CAMOC Board decided to keep the 2020 Annual Conference theme and structure as initially planned, but, in response to the new reality marked by the pandemic, planned the *Museums of Cities in the Time of Pandemic* webinar for October 27, 2020.

As noted during the CAMOC Assembly, held online on the same date, the 2021 annual conference, planned for Autumn 2021 in Barcelona, will be dedicated to post-pandemic cities and their museums.

The ongoing Special project, *The City Museums Global Mapping Project*, required adapting the project timeline and focusing on the research and components that can be done remotely (for a detailed review, please see Annex 7a and 7b).

The CAMOC Board has currently been working on a set of scenarios and possibilities to adapt the planned 2021 on-site events to become mixed or online-only, which includes both the 2020 and 2021 annual conferences and the planned special project workshops.

### **Could you outline a timeline of 2020 showing how they have been adapted?**

This item can be further elaborated through an additional attached document.

#### **THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE TIMELINE**

- **December 2019** – the CAMOC Krakow Annual Conference dates set for June 3-6, 2020
- **March 2020** - the conference postponed for October 1-3, 2020
- **August 2020** – the conference postponed for February 25-27, 2021
- **October 2020** – CAMOC Assembly takes place online
- **Mid-January 2021** – decision to be made on the possible new conference dates and/or format

#### **THE UPDATED SPECIAL PROJECT TIMELINE**

- **March 2020** – the project begins
- **October 2020** – deadline extended to December 2021 and ICOM subsidy received
- **Ongoing as of January 2021:**  
development of the theoretical framework and glossary; survey and gathering data; creation of the project website
- **From March 2021:**  
survey launch; continued content building
- **From the second half of 2021:**  
sharing partial results
- **Second half of 2021** – the first project workshop
- **December 2021** – project report, Years 1&2

NOTE: Please also see Annex 3 – CAMOC Activity adjustment timeline

**If your IC was unable to adapt a particular planned activity, why was it?**

For the CAMOC Board and the 2020 Annual Conference host, the Museum of Krakow, holding an on-site annual meeting has been the preferred option, even with the series of postponements needed to adapt to the unfavorable evolution of the pandemic. This preference, justified by the specific nature and the subject of museums of cities, lead to the choice not to adapt the Annual conference in 2020 to the online format.

**How did your IC's members react to your adapted activities?**

Generally, the members showed understanding and have been supportive of all CAMOC Board decisions regarding the adjusted activities. The annual conference speakers, grantees and attendees also expressed understanding for the Organizing Committee's decisions and willingness to adapt to the new proposed dates and formats. The members' interest for the CAMOC Webinar and online Assembly, held on October 27, 2020 was very high (over 160 registrations were received, being the usual number of participants on the on-site conferences around 100).

## B) New activities undertaken

### **What new, not foreseen activities did your IC develop within or without the network, tailored to the ongoing sanitary context, in spite of the manifold sanitary restrictions?**

On October 27, 2020, CAMOC organized an online event, open to its members, but also to a broader audience, which consisted of a webinar dedicated to the city museums in the pandemic context and the CAMOC Assembly.

The webinar, entitled *Museums of Cities in the Time of Pandemic*, focused on the city museums' reaction and response to the pandemic. Six panelists, all renowned city museum experts, were invited to share their experiences and different, tailor-made approaches to this new reality.

The speakers were: Michal Niezabitowski (Museum of Krakow), Sarah Henry (Museum of the City of New York,) Jan Gerchow (Historical Museum Frankfurt), Joan Roca (Barcelona History Museum), Cristina Miedico (Fondazione Scuola dei Beni e delle Attività Culturali, Rome) and Joana Sousa Monteiro (CAMOC Chair /Museum of Lisbon).

The speakers reflected on the pandemic which we still have been living through as a challenging reality, but also noted the possibility to think differently about the role and strategies for city museums.

In the continuation, the CAMOC Assembly provided a review of activities since the Kyoto meeting in September 2019, the current challenges and plans for future activities of the Committee.

Over 160 colleagues have registered for the two online events (in Kyoto, in 2019, 106 delegates were registered for the CAMOC conference).

The events were broadcasted on our Youtube channel and the recordings will soon be made available for the members and broader public.

### **What activities have your IC come up with that regard specifically to the early COVID-19 resilience of your network's museums?**

We intensified the regular correspondence and contacts with all members and other colleagues from our network interested in the museums of cities, regarding the postponing of the annual conference, the release of our publications, and other news and updates, via member mailing list, regular updates to the website and frequent posts on the social media.

Our communication team researched the social media communication status of major city museums in the world and CAMOC members. Because most members have their own social media to share their information, their needs related to CAMOC's social media have changed.

Our results led CAMOC's communication team to establish the following principles and strategies for 2020 and 2021 for CAMOC's communication on our social media and website:

- focus on CAMOC's activities;
- fact-check all information before posting, to avoid misinformation or disinformation;
- use social media channels to support CAMOC members' communication as they need it;

- during the pandemic, CAMOC has been focusing on demonstrating our support on the channels instead of sharing news, as the information has been changing rapidly.

## C) Communication

### Website address

<http://camoc.mini.icom.museum/>

[http://network.icom.museum/camoc/](http://network.icom.museum/camoc/migrationcities.net)

[migrationcities.net](http://migrationcities.net)

<https://citymuseums-mapping.com/> (the Special project website, under construction)

### How did your IC keep in contact with the members during the pandemic?

- All news and updates have been shared through usual communication channels: member mailing list, the up-to-date website and posts on the social media
- The CAMOC communications team increased the presence and interaction on social media
- A dedicated email address created for the planning and organization of the Annual Conference in Krakow has been used to reach all presenters and registered attendees and send specific, conference-related information and surveys
- The CAMOC Assembly, which is usually organized within annual conferences, was held online, on October 27, 2020.

### Did the method of communication with the members change?

NO YES

If NO, why?

If YES, how?

Due to impossibility of organizing the on-site annual meeting, the major change in the communication with CAMOC members was the online CAMOC Assembly.

In 2020, as required by ICOM, the CAMOC team developed a new website. The new website is still a work in progress, and for that reason, the old website has still been active and regularly updated as well (in the coming trimester, the CAMOC team will be focusing on the transition from the old site and completion of the resources and previous conferences pages).

The information and updates about the Global city museum mapping project will be shared via its dedicated website, currently under construction.

The CAMOC communications team continues sharing information, being present and connected with our colleagues through social media.

### Have your network's websites and online contents been further developed as a result of the pandemic?

Yes. Please refer to the Annex 4 - CAMOC Communications Report.

### In which social media are you active?

Please provide possible information on your social media activities

CAMOC actively shares information and content on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. The Committee intensified its online presence in 2020 with the aim to keep connected with our members, respond to the new reality and share information about the new, pandemic-

related initiatives and projects of interest for the museums of cities. Significant increase in reach of all our social media was registered:

- On Facebook and Instagram, almost 1100 people started following CAMOC this year.
- The most popular post on our Facebook page in 2020 reached about 6400 people, while the maximum reach in 2019 was 4800 people.

**Facebook – page:** <https://www.facebook.com/museumsofcities>

The Facebook page is CAMOC’s principal means of communication on social media.

In 2020, we published 103 posts and got 821 new followers to reach the current total of 3727.

**Instagram** - @insta\_camoc

In 2020, we published 88 new posts on Instagram and got 273 new followers to reach the current total of 621 people.

**YouTube** – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-2yER0juEP2X16OIL8oUw>

The CAMOC YouTube channel is used to facilitate sharing audio-visual materials from the conferences, workshops and other events.

It is planned to make the recordings from the CAMOC Webinar and the online Assembly available for the members and broader public in January 2021.

NOTE: Please also see Annex 4 – CAMOC Communications Report.

## Newsletter

YES      NO

### If YES please specify

Please provide possible information on your newsletter (average number of pages, frequency, language(s), electronic address)

The *CAMOC Museums of Cities Review* is a quarterly publication, aiming at providing a platform to advance knowledge relevant for the museums of cities, and to give our contributors – not only city museum experts but also other researchers and experts on urban issues – the opportunity to share their experience and information on recent projects, activities, exhibitions and conferences. Three online issues are usually published per year, with a special issue at the time of our annual conference, in both print and online versions. The circumstances related to the pandemic disrupted the publishing plan for 2020 – two online issues were published instead of the usual three (in April and October 2020), while the special issue, being the annual conference postponed, could not be realized.

All issues and the complete archive of the *Review* and the former *CAMOCNews* are available via CAMOC website.

The ISSN obtained for the *Review* is ISSN 2520-2472 (Online) and ISSN 2521-7593 (Print).

**Editorial Board:** Jelena Savić (Editor), Layla Betti, Chunni Chiu, Renée Kistemaker, Gegê Leme Joseph, Marlen Mouliou, Susan Sedgwick, Joana Sousa Monteiro.

**Supporting Team:** Catherine C. Cole, Ian Jones, Chet Orloff, Eric Sandweiss, Rainey Tisdale, Susan Sedgwick, Jackie Kiely.

**Design:** Bingul Gundas



The physical scope of the *CAMOC Review* has been as follows:

- *CAMOC Review* #1/2020 – 38 pages
- *CAMOC Review* #2/2020 – 28 pages

For more information and free access to the complete *CAMOC News* and *CAMOC Museums of Cities Review* archives:

<http://camoc.mini.icom.museum/publications-2/camoc-review/>

<http://network.icom.museum/camoc/publications/camoc-review/>

### **Publication(s)**

YES      NO

### **If YES please specify**

Please provide the following information on your Publication(s): Title; Author(s)/Editor(s); Publishing Language(s); Number of pages; Electronic and/or Paper Version; if Electronic Version: electronic address ; if Paper Version please specify: Publisher; ISBN; Number of printed copies

### **Title(s):**

*Museums of Cities as Cultural Hubs: Past, Present and Future. CAMOC Annual Conference 2019, Kyoto, Japan, September 2-5, 2019, Book of Proceedings*

**Editor(s):** Jelena Savic and Chunni Chiu

**Publishing Language(s):** English + abstracts in Japanese

**Proofreading and revision:** Manuel Morais

**Graphic design:** Bingul Gundas

**Number of pages:** 196

**Electronic and/or Paper Version:** the proceedings have been published as an e-book only, which can be downloaded from:

<http://camoc.mini.icom.museum/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2020/09/KYOTO-CONFERENCE-BOOK-OF-PROCEEDINGS-fs0915-web.pdf>

**Publisher:** CAMOC - ICOM International Committee for the Collections and Activities of Museums of Cities, September 2020

**ISBN Identifier(s):** 978-2-491997-07-6

NOTE: In recent years, CAMOC has mainly focused on digital publications, aiming to reach even more museum and city researchers, experts and others interested in urban life. Hence, this volume is available as an e-book, free of charge, with the copyright conditions defined by the CC BY-NC-ND license.

### **Summary**

The CAMOC's 2019 Annual Conference was held in Kyoto, Japan, as a part of the 25<sup>th</sup> ICOM General Conference. The conference was dedicated to *Museums as Cultural Hubs: The Future of Tradition*. Our conference theme, *City Museums as Cultural Hubs – Past, Present and Future*, resonated with the theme of the General Conference. Following a very successful call for papers, we welcomed over forty experts on cities and city museums, from five continents and twenty-three countries. The speakers came not only from museums of

cities but also from our CAMOC 2019 organisation partners - ICOM-DEMIST and ICOM-ASPAC, from universities, research centres and other institutions linked with cities.

The Book of Proceedings, with its twenty-two original texts, is the tangible outcome of our 2019 meeting in Japan. The main language of the publication is English, however, thanks to the efforts of Chunni Chiu and the commitment of our Japanese contributors, Japanese versions of all abstracts could also be included.

The structure of the Book of Proceedings necessarily differs from the thematic subdivision of the conference – it is simplified since not all of our speakers could submit full papers for this volume. The authors are based in three continents – Asia, North America and Europe – many of them from city museums, but also from other professional contexts related to cities. The book is organized in three parts - one for each continent represented. The main themes of interest in city museums in different parts of the world have been juxtaposed: a number of thematic lines, city museum trends and urban concerns converge at a global scale, but, within the global trends, each geographical, urban and cultural context poses specific challenges, which require site-specific research and understanding, and tailor-made, creative approaches.

### **Part 1 – Asia: City Museums between Local Cultures and Identities and Globalizing Tendencies**

The first chapter contains five texts by authors from Asia, the host continent of our conference. The contributions tackle: multiculturalism and diversity in the specific context of Japan, preservation of local cultures in light of globalisation and the relationship between the museums and communities.

### **Part 2 - North America: Humanist Museums, Sustainable Communities, Culture of Diversity**

The second chapter, gathering five texts from North American authors, presents different forms and possibilities of community engagement, developed with the aim to foster multiculturalism, representation of diversities and inclusion.

### **Part 3: Europe**

The third part of the publication is dedicated to the largest group of contributors, that of European authors. It is thematically divided into two sub-chapters, each one with six articles. The first sub-chapter, entitled ***The New Generation of City Museums***, presents a series of creative, state-of-the-art approaches and case studies from the European museums where museums acted as cultural hubs to bring into the spotlight and debate pressing, contemporary social issues related to inclusivity and representation, embracing non-museum voices or responsiveness to urban change. The second sub-chapter, named ***Relevance and Strategies for the Future***, groups the authors whose principal focus is on tackling the future of the city and envisioning the directions for the city museum.

Although the 22 texts that this publication contains could bring about just a part of the themes and discussions from the Kyoto conference sessions, and only a partial insight into the city museums' activities and directions today, common threads and converging themes of interest can be followed across continents: different forms of inclusion and diversity

concerns, stepping out of the “conventional” roles and boundaries of a city museum, putting people in the focus of attention, tackling strategies to maintain relevance for the cities and communities of the future. As a rule, within every specific city and case, a tailor-made, creative methodology, sensitive to the context and the local values, was built.

NOTE: Please find the publication attached in the Annex 5 of this Report.

## D) Budget

### **How did the pandemic affect your budget?**

In 2019, CAMOC successfully implemented all planned activities, used the funds available from previous years and ended the fiscal year with just 1.196,83 Euros on the bank account. As for 2020, the planned activities could only be partially concluded. This affected the budget significantly, leaving a large portion of the funds unspent. A total income of 23.200 Euros was projected, and exactly the same amount was foreseen for activities and expenses. However, the 2020 conference in Krakow could not be held, so no planned revenue was obtained from the registration fees; on the other hand, there were no conference organization expenses nor the planned travel grants could be awarded. The principal expenses of CAMOC in 2020 were related to the publications (the Book of Proceedings from the CAMOC Kyoto 2019 conference and the *CAMOC Review*) and a part of the planned research activities for the purposes of the ongoing Special project. Instead of the projected 1.196,83 €, the committee ended the fiscal year with 9.961,13 € available.

### **Do you have projects for 2021 where unused 2020 funding are planned to be used? If yes, are these projects that have been planned for 2020, but that have been modified and adapted to the new situation?**

**Yes:** the unspent funds planned for 2020 will be used in 2021 for the CAMOC's Special Project subsidized by ICOM, entitled *The City Museums Global Mapping Project*.

In December 2019, CAMOC submitted an application for "The City Museums Global Mapping Project" in partnership with NTUE – the National Taipei University of Education, ICOM COMCOL and ICOM ASPAC.

In March 2020, the project partners were notified that the application was successful and that the amount of 5750 euros was attributed by SAREC as the subvention for the project activities.

In the light of the ongoing sanitary crisis, it was necessary to update the original project proposal, also taking into account that ICOM has extended the implementation deadline for the first-year activities until 31 December 2021. As the first-year funds were transferred to the Committee only in October 2020, this fact also affected the planned dynamics and influenced the necessary adjustments to the original project.

However, most of the project components remain unchanged. The main alterations refer to the adjustment of the project timeline and flexibility in the organization of the project events (introducing the option of online workshops).

NOTE: For further details, please review Annexes 7a (the original project), 7b (the updated project) and 7c (holdover letter) of this Report.

### **If still unused, how do you think to use 2020 young members travel grants?**

Since the CAMOC Annual Conference in Krakow could not be held yet, the 2020 young members travel grant remained unused. The CAMOC Board has been working on the

possible scenarios to hold the conference and other events planned for 2021 and expects to adopt the new event plan around January 15, 2021. Based on that decision, the grant use will also be defined (the possibilities being pondered: postponing the conference and awarding the grants; redirecting this amount to reinforce financial support for the young members to attend the 2021 annual conference and/or meetings and workshops related to the ongoing special project).

## E) Membership

### **Have you implemented new institutional strategies to better attract young individual members?**

From October 2019, the implementation of the new CAMOC's communication and social media strategy began. The aim of this strategy is to act as a forum for those who work in museums about cities, but also for anyone involved and interested in urban life: historians, urban planners, architects, and citizens, including the younger audience and potential new members.

The new communication and social media strategy ensure that information of all the CAMOC conferences, projects and publications is being shared and visualized by a broader audience and potential new young members. There is a component of the social media strategy especially focusing on young followers - engaging them by asking to share news and events from their city museums and cities.

From March 2020 and the beginning of the pandemic, the CAMOC social media team increased the Committee's online presence, the number of posts on social media and invitations for the members to interact. This has already resulted in expanding our network (for example, the CAMOC's Instagram more than doubled the number of followers in 2020).

NOTE: CAMOC currently has 131 young members (up to 35 years old), which represents 21.9% of all individual members. In 2019, the Committee had 95 members 35 years old or younger (18.3%). The largest portion of our fans and followers on social media are between 25 and 44 years old. About 34% of them are under 35 (about 1270 people out of over 3700 current followers).

### **Number of Members in 2020**

to be completed/reviewed by ICOM Secretariat

598 (individual members), 80 (institutional members);

\*\*\* Note: the IRIS Manager experienced serious difficulties in the database functioning and running the necessary reports

### **Number of Members in 2019**

to be completed/reviewed by ICOM Secretariat

520 (individual members), 70 (institutional members)

### **Number of represented countries**

66 (63 in 2019)

### **Increase/Decrease of Membership in %**

To be completed/reviewed by ICOM Secretariat

Increase + 11.5% (individual members)

### **Did you provide additional financial support for young members?**

YES    NO

#### **If YES please specify**

Please provide information on the kind of support for young members that you provided, their countries of origin, age, institutions and their contribution(s) to your activities. Please provide the name, country and ICOM membership number of the grantees.

NOTE: besides the ICOM Young Member Grant, CAMOC planned additional amount for young member grants from the committee budget; however, it was not possible to award them since the 2020 Annual Conference had to be postponed (it was planned to support the participation of a total of five members).

## F) Miscellaneous

### **Could you please mention what you consider your IC's three main strong points?**

- Knowledge sharing and dissemination strategies (publications that present state-of-the-art knowledge in the field and focus on free, digital publications in order to reach even more museum and city researchers, experts and others interested in urban life)
- Membership diversity (board members from five continents, members from six continents and 66 countries)
- Strong communication and social media strategy with the focus on young members

### **Could you please mention what you consider your IC's three main weak points?**

- Language obstacles to engage more members (efforts are made to provide translation whenever possible, yet the main language for the publications and events remains English)
- A majority of the Committee members are European; while every effort is made to achieve balance between European and non-European members and events, that has proven very difficult
- Limited human and financial resources to pursue larger number of simultaneous projects.



## **UPLOADS**

- Financial Report 2020 (Appendix 2.1) and Budget 2021 (Appendix 2.2)

### **Supporting Documents**

- Annex 1 - CAMOC Annual Report 2020 (signed)
- Annex 2 – CAMOC Krakow Annual Conference 2020 – Conference themes and the list of accepted participants
- Annex 3 – CAMOC Activity adjustment timeline
- Annex 4 – CAMOC Communications Report
- Annex 5 – CAMOC Kyoto 2019 Book of Proceedings
- Annex 6a – CAMOC Museums of Cities Review No. 1-2020
- Annex 6b - CAMOC Museums of Cities Review No. 2-2020
- Annex 7a – CAMOC Special Project Application 2019 (original)
- Annex 7b - The Global Museum Mapping Project - update Nov 2020
- Annex 7c - The Global Museum Mapping Project – holdover letter
- Annex 8 – CAMOC Webinar and General Assembly announcement poster

### **Comments**

n/a