

President’s Report

Period: August 2020 to July 2021

To be presented at the 21th UMAC Annual General Meeting, 3 September 2021 (online)



Table of Contents

Governance	2
Board Meetings	2
Finances	2
Participation in ICOM	2
Increase UMAC’s and ICOM’s Global Visibility	2
UMAC Members	2
UMAC Annual Conferences	2
UMTWS 2021	2
UMAC Webinars	3
Support and Advocacy	3
UMAC Projects	4
Social Media Presence	4
UMAC World Database of University Museums and Collections	4
UMAC-ML Mailing List	4
Examine Unexplored Ethics	4
UMAC Projects	4
Increase Recognition in Higher Education	4
<i>UMACJ – University Museums and Collections Journal</i>	4
UMAC Award	5
Acknowledgements	5
About UMAC	6
Appendix – Chronology	7

It is my great pleasure to report to the UMAC membership our strategy and activities since our last annual general meeting, which took place online (27 July 2020) and can be accessed [here](#).

In the last year, the pandemic continued across the world, preventing activities as we knew them in 2019 and worse, impacting severely the activities of universities with direct and indirect consequences to university museums and collections, their programs, their audiences and, sometimes, their very existence.

In 2021 UMAC commemorates 20 years. It's also the year we will have our very first online conference fully online, jointly organised with Universeum, the European Academic Heritage Network.

The report is guided by the goals established in [UMAC's 2019-22 Strategic Plan](#): Goal 1 – Increase UMAC's and ICOM's Global Visibility; Goal 2 – Examine Unexplored Dimensions of ICOM's Code of Ethics in University Museums and Collections; and Goal 3 – Increase University Museums and Collections' Recognition in the Higher Education Sector, preceded by a section on Governance. A chronological appendix is also provided.

Except when clearly indicated, all numbers below refer to 31 July 2021.

GOVERNANCE

Board Meetings

The UMAC Board held three meetings during this period (5 September 2020, 16 December 2020, and 25 February 2021). Minutes are available to members upon request.

Finances

There was no significant movement in the bank account. A detailed budget will be presented at the 21st UMAC AGM, 3 September 2021.

Participation in ICOM

Apart from participation in ICOM annual General Assembly (18 June 2021) and Advisory Council meetings (17 June 2021, extraordinary 22 July 2021), UMAC has also participated – via Vice-President Andrew Simpson – in ICOM SAREC, chaired by Emma Nardi.

In May 2021, UMAC has participated in two ICOM consultations: the revision of ICOM Code of Ethics (expected for Prague next year), and the new museum definition (ICOM Define).

See also more collaborations with national and international committees below.

Increase UMAC's and ICOM's Global Visibility

UMAC Members

In 31 December 2020, UMAC had 690 members (630 Individual Members and 60 Institutional Members), represented in 65 countries and territories.

The geographical distribution of members can be accessed [here](#).

Annual Conferences

UMAC 2021

UMAC 2021 should have happened, in presence, at the Technische Universität Dresden, in Germany, in a joint conference with Universeum, the European Academic Heritage Network. However, the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic prompted the Chairs of the Local Organising Committee – Kirsten Vincenz and Jörg Zaun – to propose its postponement to a future date, which was accepted (Board Meeting 16 December 2020). The decision about the date should be made at the 21st UMAC AGM.

In any case, the joint boards of UMAC and Universeum decided that it was important to have an annual conference online in 2021, between 1-3 September. The call for papers resulted in 36 oral papers, 6 videos and 6 workshops. The Program was published July 22, and can be accessed [here](#). At the time of this report, 158 participants have registered, from 43 countries.

UMAC 2022

UMAC 2022 will be integrated in the 26th ICOM Triennial General Conference, Prague.

UMTWS 2021

The University Museum Training Week Shanghai (UMTWS) results from a partnership created in 2017 between ICOM-UMAC and the Qian Xuesen Library and Museum of Shanghai Jiao Tong University (QLM-SJTU) in China. UMTWS courses aim at promoting professional development among university museum professionals in China and Asia. In 2020, UMTWS was cancelled due to the pandemic, but the 2021 edition happened online, between 14-18 May. 33 participants attended.

UMAC Webinars

UMAC Origins

UMAC commemorates 20 years in 2021. A ceremony was planned for the Annual Conference in Sydney. However, since this was cancelled, the idea to create UMAC Origins came up: a series of conversations on YouTube with key persons involved in the creation of UMAC. Eight episodes were already broadcasted and can be accessed [here](#):

- Lyndel King, 10 August 2020
- Bernice Murphy, 17 August 2020
- Hugues Dreyssé, 31 August 2020
- Panu Nykänen, 1 October 2020
- Peter B. Tyrrell, 9 October 2020
- Dominick Verschelde, 16 October 2020
- Ing-Marie Munktel, 23 October 2020
- Steven de Clercq, 29 December 2020

Zoom In: New Projects

This series is aimed at giving visibility to new university museums or new projects in already existing university museums.

Three episodes were transmitted, accessible [here](#):

- Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art (YSMA), Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos, Nigeria, 4 December 2021.
- The new GUM, Ghent University Museum, Belgium, 1 April 2021.
- The exhibition CONTAGION, Science Gallery Bangaluru, India, 2 June 2021.

Support and Advocacy

AAMG Statement Against Monetizing the Collections of Academic Museums and Galleries

UMAC supported the [Statement](#) by the US-based Association of Academic Museums and Galleries (AAMG), which results from their Task Force for the Protection of University Collections (UMAC is represented by Vice-Chair Steph Scholten).

Supporting Beirut University Museums

Another tragedy forced UMAC to act last year: the 4 August 2020 Beirut explosion, impacting several university museums and collections. UMAC combined forces with young professionals on the field and established a partnership with ICOM Lebanon and ICOM itself to mobilise resources in the first response.

The main three universities impacted were: the Université Libanaise, the American University of Beirut and the Université de Saint Joseph. UMAC facilitated contacts with rectors and university administrations, provided resources from its global network, talked to museum directors and staff, disseminated the damages through

mailing list and social networks, promoted contacts with journalists, among others. This support is ongoing and so far the developments can be seen in a series of episodes called [BEIRUT SERIES](#) on UMAC you tube channel.

UMAC Projects

Ethics of Repatriation and Restitution

See *Examine Unexplored Ethics*.

Social Media Presence

Facebook (created 2012)	Twitter (created 2016)	Instagram (created 2016)	WeChat (created 2017)	You Tube NEW (created 2020)
Total 129 posts Likes: 842 Post reach: 63,910 Editor: Andrew Simpson	Total 274 tweets Followers: 1,882 (new followers 332) Twitter impressions: 152,784 Editor: Andrew Simpson	Total 50 posts Followers: 1,979 (new followers 394) Likes: 2,501 Editor: Marta C. Lourenço	Total: 29 posts Followers: 345 (new followers 84) Editor: Wenjia Qiu	Total: 26 videos Followers: 222 (new followers 132) Editor: Marta C. Lourenço

Data from August 2020 to July 2021.

UMAC World Database of University Museums and Collections

UMAC has been contributing to our knowledge of university museums and collections around the world since its creation in 2001. An important dimension of this knowledge is the ongoing survey, whose results are presented in the [World Database of University Museums](#). The database has 3,970 entries from all over the world (100 new entries since last year).

UMAC-ML Mailing-list

The mailing list UMAC-ML includes all institutional and individual members, both active and inactive. It also includes non-members interested in university museums, collections and heritage. Subscription is free and messages are moderated. The total of subscribers is presently 3,502 (15 more subscribers than last year). UMAC-ML is regularly used to circulate news, communicate with members and consulting.

Examine Unexplored Ethics

Projects

Ethics of Repatriation and Restitution

Early 2020, UMAC was awarded a grant from ICOM Special Projects. The project "Ethics of Repatriation and Restitution" involves UMAC, ETHCOM, ICME, ICOM Australia and UNIVERSEUM, and it aims at raising levels of awareness, expertise and sensitivity in universities and their museums and collections and to contribute to the body of knowledge around the issues of restitution and repatriation in the wider museum community, by drafting guidance that can complement the Code of Ethics. The project chair is Steph Scholten, UMAC's Vice Chair. The project was much delayed for obvious reasons, but its results will be presented and discussed at the UMAC/Universeum conference in August 2021. As part of the project, an [online workshop](#) was presented at the UK Museums Association Conference in November 2020, and the webinar [Polyphonic Perspectives](#), with ICOM Australia and CAUMAC in June 2021.

Increase Recognition in Higher Education

UMACJ – University Museums and Collections Journal

ISSN: 2071-7229

The year 2020 was the first where the University Museums and Collections Journal was an open call, open source publication rather than a recorder of conference proceedings. A revised set of guidelines is now available on the UMAC website that gives information for potential authors. The journal is managed by a 13

member Editorial Board. All submissions to the journal are peer reviewed. Two issues were produced in 2020. Volume 12, issue one consisted of seven articles, volume 12, issue two consisted of nine articles. Both issues featured images of objects from the newly opened Chau Chak Wing Museum at the University of Sydney, this was to be the venue for the UMAC 2020 conference cancelled by the Covid 19 pandemic.

In 2021 UMAC Journal (volume 13) will consist of at least two issues, one will be the abstracts volume for the joint UMAC Universeum conference, the other will be a thematic issue entitled 'Hub for Pedagogies' based on examples of creative teaching practice in university museums. This year we are also applying to register our journal with a number of journal indexing services. These will be noted on the journal website in due course. Gina Hammond, Australia, is now in charge of UMACJ's copying, editing and design.

2021 has also seen the publication of volume 11 issue 2 of the University Museums and Collections Journal in Chinese through UMAC's partnership with Shanghai University Museum. The Editorial Board of the journal are most grateful for this work which introduces UMAC authors to an extensive Chinese museum practitioner and academic community. We thank Professor Guo Ji from Shanghai University Museum for his journal translation work and recommend extending this partnership to enable the production of further issues of the journal in Chinese.

UMAC Award

Every year since 2016, UMAC recognises outstanding projects in terms of excellence, impact and transferability in university museums and collections around the world through the UMAC Award.

Typically, nominations occurred between September and December every year.

The winner of the UMAC AWARD 2020 was announced [online](#), 28 September 2020: the project '**A Hundred Faces of the University of Tartu**', University of Tartu Museum, Estonia. Second place in the UMAC Award 2020 was shared by the 'Egyptian Coffins Project', Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge (UK) and the 'Return of Cultural Heritage Project' by the Manchester Museum, University of Manchester (UK).

The announcement was preceded by individual presentations, also online. The videos and more information about the winners can be found [here](#).

In 2021, the same model will be followed: individual presentations of the shortlisted nominations during the last week of August and announcement of the UMAC AWARD 2021 winner on September 3, during the annual conference. More information about the shortlist can be found [here](#).

The UMAC AWARD Evaluation Committee includes: Andrew Simpson, Vice-Chair UMAC, Australia; Steph Scholten, Vice-Chair UMAC, UK; Laishun An, Vice-President of ICOM, China; Isabel Garcia Fernandez, University Complutense of Madrid, Spain; Terry Simioti Nyambe, ICOM Executive Council Member, Zambia and Akiko Fukuno, Japan (Chair, in a non-voting capacity).

Acknowledgements

During this past year UMAC is grateful to:

- Kirsten Vincenz and Jörg Zaun, TU Dresden
- the Board of Universeum, the European Academic Heritage Network
- the LOC and Program Committee of UMAC-Universeum 2021: Andrew Simpson (UMAC, Australia), Esther Boeles (Universeum, The Netherlands), Frédérique Andry-Cazin (Universeum, France), Maria Economou (Universeum, UK), Margarita Guzmán (UMAC, Colombia), Martin Stricker (Universeum, Germany), Nathalie Nyst (UMAC, Belgium), Nicole Crawford (UMAC, USA), Sébastien Soubiran (Universeum, France), Steph Scholten (UMAC, UK), Wenjia Qiu (UMAC, China).
- Kai Xhang and the Qian Xuesen Library and Museum of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China.
- the participants in the UMAC Origins Series: Lyndel King, Bernice Murphy, Hugues Dreyssé, Panu Nykänen, Peter B. Tyrrell, Dominick Verschelde, Ing-Marie Munktell, and Steven de Clercq.
- the participants in the UMAC BEIRUT SERIES.
- the participants in the UMAC ZOOM IN: New Projects
- the candidates to the UMAC Award 2021

- the UMAC Award Evaluation Committee, coordinated by Akiko Fukuno
- the authors, editors and referees of *UMACJ*
- Gina Hammond, Australia
- our partners ICTOP, ETHCOM, ICME, ICOM South Africa and ICOM Australia
- the University of Strasbourg
- the University of Lisbon
- the Shanghai University Museum
- the chairs of UMAC Webinars
- ICOM-SAREC
- the enlarged UMAC community of members and non-members who replied to UMAC-ML posts, made comments on social media and made general suggestions by email.

This report was made with the contributions of the UMAC Board.

Marta C. Lourenço
Lisboa, 2 August 2021

Appendix – Chronology of UMAC’s Main Public Activities Since the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020

- 31 March: Resilience survey to the UMAC community
- 1 April: Proposal of University of Sydney LOC to cancel the UMAC Annual Conference
- 5-11 April: University Museum Training Week Shanghai CANCELLED
- 5 May: Creation of UMAC You Tube channel
- 5 June: UMAC Webinar I (morning edition and afternoon edition) (online)
- 12 June: UMAC Webinar II (morning edition and afternoon edition) (online)
- 19 June: UMAC Webinar III (morning edition and afternoon edition) (online)
- 23 June: I Meeting of South African University Museums (online) (online)
- 26 June: UMAC Webinar IV (morning edition and afternoon edition) (online)
- 3 July: UMAC Webinar V (morning edition and afternoon edition) (online)
- 27 July: UMAC 20th Annual General Meeting ADAPTED (online)
- 7 Aug: BEIRUT SERIES: Gilbert Nicholas (online)
- 12 Aug: BEIRUT SERIES: Message of UMAC Chair to volunteers in Beirut (online)
- 10 Aug: UMAC Origins #1, Lyndel KING (USA) (online)
- 14 Aug: BEIRUT SERIES: Elsa Urtizverea (ICOM) (online)
- 17 Aug: UMAC Origins #2, Bernice Murphy (Australia) (online)
- 27 Aug: BEIRUT SERIES: Suzy Hakimian (ICOM-Lebanon) (online)
- 31 Aug: UMAC Origins #3, Hugues Dreyssé (France) (online)
- 5-7 Sep: Annual Conference University of Sydney CANCELLED
- 1 Sep: UMAC AWARD: Announcement of the nominees (online)
- 3 Sep: Meeting between Chairs of UMAC Ethics Project partnership (online)
- 7 Sep: UMAC AWARD Presentation of nominees: The Fitzwilliam (online)
- 9 Sept: BEIRUT SERIES: Grâce Homsy-Gotwalles (online)
- 14 Sep: UMAC AWARD Presentation of nominees: The Manchester Museum (online)
- 21 Sep: UMAC AWARD Presentation of nominees: Tartu University Museum (online)
- 28 Sep: UMAC AWARD Announcement of the winner (online)
- 1 Oct: UMAC Origins #4, Panu Nykänen (Finland) (online)
- 9 Oct: UMAC Origins #5, Peter B. Tirrell (USA) (online)
- 16 Oct: UMAC Origins #6, Dominick Vershelde (Belgium) (online)
- 23 Oct: UMAC Origins #7, Ing-Marie Munktell (Sweden) (online)
- 4 Dec: ZOOM IN: NEW PROJECTS #1: Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art (YSMA), Plan-Atlantic University, Lagos, Nigeria (online)
- 29 Dec: UMAC Origins #8, Steven de Clercq (The Netherlands) (online)

2021

- 24 Jan: Release of *UMACJ* 12 (1-2)

28 Jan: Joint message by UMAC and Universeum Presidents informing the annual conference will happen online.

4 February: BEIRUT SERIES: 6 Months After the Explosion (Online)

26 Feb: Invitation to members: consultation museum definition (ICOM Define)

1 Apr: ZOOM IN: NEW PROJECTS #2: GUM, Ghent University Museum, Belgium

2 Jun: ZOOM IN: NEW PROJECTS #3: CONTAGION, Science Gallery Bangaluru, India

7 Jun: CAUMAC-UMAC-ICOM Australia webinar Polyphonic Perspectives (online)

22 Jul: Release of UMAC-Universeum Annual Conference Program

12 Jul: Announcement of the shortlist for the UMAC Award 2021 (online)

31 July: Release of UMACJ 11 (Chinese)

ABOUT UMAC

UMAC is the international committee for university museums and collections of the **International Council of Museums**. Created in 2001, it is the largest international forum of higher education museums and collections, stimulating exchanges among professionals and supporting the development of university museums and collections as essential resources for research, education and culture.

Website: <http://umac.icom.museum/>