

Board Elections



UMAC BOARD 2022-2025 List of Candidates

Elections will take place at the 22nd UMAC Annual General Meeting,
September 19, 2022, online.

CHAIR



Andrew Simpson

Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia
ICOM No. 38944

Nominators:

Marta C. Lourenço, Portugal
Dominick Verschelde, Belgium

Biographical note

1984-1999 Museum Curator, University of Queensland
1995 PhD University of Queensland
1999-2005 Museum Education Officer, Macquarie University
2005-2014 Museum Studies program, Macquarie University
2014-present Professional, academic and consultancy work
2016-present Editor University Museums and Collections Journal
2016-2019 Ordinary member, UMAC Board
2019-2022 Vice Chair, UMAC Board
2022 Research Affiliate, Chau Chak Wing Museum, The University of Sydney. [Link to CV.](#)

Qualifications for the position

One of my earliest jobs after gaining science qualifications was in a small university science museum. The relationship between a museum and its host university is always a vexed one, but I experienced a transformative moment when, in attempting to design an exhibition, I was faced with the dilemma of selecting a small number of specimens to represent the full sweep of 4.6 billion years of Earth history. This awakened new interests in how people communicate in spaces with objects, what it means for different audiences and how collecting organisations can play a broader societal role.

This was the start of a long career in higher education in both professional and academic staff positions with university museums in four different Australian universities. The work has been highly varied, as is the nature of the sector. It has involved exhibitions, public programs, strategic planning, policy development and curriculum design. In two different appointments, I was successful in securing research funding to develop projects on policies and standards for university museums. I have also undertaken specific research projects on university museums and collections through consultation services.

During my earlier working career I was a member of CAUMAC (Council of Australian University Museums and Collections) and served in various capacities on their committee. This included a period as president that involved revitalizing the group through attracting new members with a series of seminars in different Australian cities. I have

also been the President of the NSW branch of Museums Australia and chaired the national conference planning committee of that organization in 2015 co-edited a volume of essays from that conference.

I have an association with UMAC from 2002 and have been a part of the UMAC Board on a number of occasions, most recently as one of the two Vice Presidents from 2019 to 2022. In the previous mandate I took responsibility for the *UMAC Journal* and have transitioned it from being a series of conference proceedings to being a journal about museology in higher education. I was also worked to support UMAC's two most recent projects on restitution and return of items from university museums and a project on the pedagogy of the university museum. I have made previous contributions to the development of University Museums Training Week at Shanghai Jiao Tong University and been involved with the organization of recent conferences such as our 2021 joint enterprise with Universeum and our 2018 joint enterprise with AAMG. I have spoken with many groups around the world on the subject of university museums and believe I have a sound understanding of the value they bring to the enterprise of higher education tempered with an understanding of both the history and contemporary dynamism of the sector.

These experiences mean I have a great enthusiasm for the work of museums and collections in higher education and some ability to articulate positive arguments in support of our work.

Main goals of candidacy

I believe the unique institutional setting of the university museum is central to academic – civic discourse and an essential component of higher education's social contract. The nature of collecting in the academy, like the academy itself, is highly variable across the globe. Nevertheless, no matter where you are located, the creative use of collections in higher education can play a positive role in society. I therefore seek, through my candidacy, to support and advocate on behalf of those engaged in such work. While the strategic plan of the next Board will be shaped by the membership, I believe it would be worthwhile for UMAC to work towards the following eight goals:

- Stabilizing and growing membership with a focus on young professionals.
- Continuing to deliver a vibrant, engaging and professionally valuable annual conference.
- Facilitating and supporting the development of regional networks. This should include areas such as Africa and Asia where UMAC currently has few members.
- Improving the quality, reach and recognition of the *University Museums and Collections Journal*.
- Developing a global object-based learning community of practice.
- Promoting and building on the outcomes of previous UMAC projects on restitution and pedagogy.
- Engaging in new projects through creative partnerships with other groups (international committees, national committees and/or groups external to ICOM).
- Building the number of entries in the UMAC database and exploring new functionality for UMAC's online presence.

VICE-CHAIR



Fatemeh Ahmadi

Medical University Museum, Tehran
University, Iran
ICOM No. 54232

Nominators:

Tayeebeh Golsabahi (Iran), Damon Monzavi
Amroubadi (Iran)

Biographical note

- Bachelor in Museology 2002 (Heritage Organization University of Iran)
- Working as a Curator at the Iran National Museum of Medical Science History since 2003
- Master of Art Research in Tehran University 2019
- ICOM member since 2008 up to now (International Council of Museums)
- UMAC member since 2010 (University Museums and Collections Committee)
- UMAC Ordinary Board Member since 2016 up to now. [Link to CV.](#)

Qualifications for the position

I am founding Board Member of AIME (Association of Iranian Museums Experts). I have good connections with all of museologists in Iran. With achieving this Position (vice-President) I can find good connection with museologist in Arab countries and Persian languages countries in Middle East.

Currently, we have high quality in some Arab countries. But they can't find UMAC database and they don't have good connection with our committee.

It seems that having an active member with a strong and powerful position in this area (middle east and north of Iran) can greatly contribute to the growth and expansion of UMAC committee.

Main goals of candidacy

I am UMAC Ordinary board member since 2016 up to now and I could develop and add 25 university museums from IRAN in UMAC database in Iran since 2011 up to now.

My first aim to join UMAC 2022-2025 to know more about university museums around the world and them to know about museums in middle east and our culture too. This is a chance to do this aim more directly. It is a great help to continue the relationship with the group of UMAC. I have enjoyed working this especial committee.

I would like to learn about this wonderful activity between powerful theorists and international UMAC members with helping BOARD of UMAC.

I always use my potential with the other museums (visiting, holding workshop with them, exchange exhibitions). I have good connections to many curators in my country.

I should added Arab UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS in UMAC database in 6 years ago, but I couldn't connect to Arab Countries. It was my weakness point. But I know they have high quality museums and sometimes university museums. Also I am Member of the founding board of AIME (Association Iranian Museums Experts) since 2012 up to now. I am active in social media also (Instagram and Telegram with 2 pages more than 10K followers: @fatemeh.ahmadi.museum, @farhange.muze).

I share all the time my information about ICOM and UMAC with followers in Instagram and Telegram and also I am lessening their problems in various museums. If I get the chance to be selected for again in board member as a VICE-President.

I look forward hearing from you and stay your disposal for further information.

VICE-CHAIR



Giovanna Vitelli

The Hunterian, Glasgow University, UK
ICOM No. 152267

Nominators:

Steph Scholten, UK
Silke Ackermann, UK

Biographical note

Archaeologist, anthropologist, museum specialist

Italian: born in Serbia, lived and worked in Europe, North America, and North Africa.

- AB: Harvard University, USA
- Postgraduate study: Magdalen College, Oxford/Architectural Association, London
- PhD: University of Reading, UK

Recent employment:

2009-2011 Research Fellow (*Chercheure*), Université Laval, Québec Canada

2011-12 Assistant Visiting Professor, Anthropology, University of Maryland USA

2012-2018 Director, University Engagement Programme, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford UK

2019- Head of Collections and Curatorial, The Hunterian, University of Glasgow UK

Recent Service:

2014-2016 Chair, Collections & Curation Committee, Society for Historical Archaeology

2015-2016 Co-Founder/Co-Chair, North American Collections Consortium

2017-2020 Council, Book Reviews Editor, Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology

[Link to CV.](#)

Qualifications for the position

My museum perspective comes from having had many different career roles, both in heritage and in the private sector. I offer a range of skills and experience that is drawn from finance, project management, start-ups, museums and academia, all of which I use in the course of my work.

I trained as a field archaeologist in Europe and North Africa, excavating and publishing data on prehistoric, medieval, Islamic, post-medieval and 19th century sites.

When based in Tunisia, I worked for the National Museums service to study and publish the Islamic period archaeology of classical sites, working with the collections of a range of regional museums across Tunisia and Libya, both small and large. I learned about the perils and politics of nationalist agendas, as they obscured or silenced local interests, and how community and local museums could counteract that force.

I then had a career change into the financial sector, becoming interested in setting up new enterprises and developing the skills needed to help shape and manage start-ups. The people-intensive nature of this sector influenced how I work with and support others to realize their potential, a skill which is becoming essential in the museum sector in this period of change.

When I returned to the heritage sector, I obtained a Masters in Historic Landscape Conservation and a PhD in colonial-Indigenous archaeology, working on sites and collections in both Canada and the US that had lain 'dormant' for generations, and were of increasing importance to affected Indigenous groups. I had an entire second education working with Indigenous knowledge holders, one that has stayed with me as I have deepened my commitment to developing better access to university museum collections that bear witness to the events of the past.

To improve the quality of that access, I focused on making knowledge co-production in the collections more systematic and usable as a methodology, whether with university colleagues and students, Indigenous makers and users, or with interested members of the public. From 2012-2018 I progressed this vision as Director of a major programme of university engagement at the Ashmolean Museum (Oxford). The programme aimed to make collections study a part of the mainstream university curriculum, advocating for the use of museums as powerful intellectual resources – _on a par with libraries and archives – _by providing evidence of successful academic adoption and excellent student results. I shared our work at international conferences and workshops, and was enriched by learning about local perspectives and priorities all over the world.

As Head of Collections and Curatorial at The Hunterian, University of Glasgow, I now have a great opportunity to understand the common collecting histories of a full disciplinary spectrum of museum collections, working with both science and humanities curators. I am more than ever convinced of the power of university museums to make their collections address the societal issues facing our universities, the desires of our many stakeholders, and those whose voices remain under-represented in our collections.

Main goals of candidacy

I am applying for the position of Vice President on the UMAC Board because I believe I can make a significant contribution to widening the impact of UMAC's work in the university museum sector. I firmly believe that any investment we make in widening access to good practice must be shared with our community, working together to clearly communicate our value to both university and to society. It is this combination of action and advocacy that I wish to bring to UMAC as it continues to focus on the quality and reach of its programming.

UMAC is in a unique position to influence how university museums can participate in conversations about knowledge creation, control, sharing and access. The university museum is aligned with its parent organisation's identity and aims, but it also can push beyond, to positively expand the university's reach, and to act as a bridge that connects knowledge production in the university with a wider set of stakeholders and affected communities.

I see my UMAC goals as follows.

- Changing the perception of university museums from a storehouse for treasures, to a dynamic partner in mobilizing intellectual and societal change. This has been my professional mission in senior museum roles at both Oxford and Glasgow. I have built strategic experience at Board level to successfully communicate the special role that university museums play in being the creative, experimental, and intellectually rigorous face of a traditional institution. UMAC should be playing a leading role in marshalling global evidence to broadcast the value and reach of the sector.
- Contributing to the development of new museum methodologies and theoretical frameworks for collections use, especially in the area of cross-disciplinary research and teaching. In our sector, there numerous success stories of collections teaching programmes, each special and unique: however, in order to make this work truly sustainable, we need to offer our collaborators a set of common principles and approaches to knowledge co-production, so that the museum is also understood on academic terms. My professional interest in this area is long-standing, having published and taught collections practice and

theory. I have also worked with community stakeholders to develop theoretical approaches to re-
interpreting and revitalizing collections of under-represented groups.

- Commitment to establishing open and equitable ways of working across UMAC regions, to encourage the creation, sharing, and 'return' of knowledge about the past. The 'decolonizing' mission is perhaps the most challenging that museums in both the Global North and South now face, and one which UMAC can play an important supporting role. UMAC should open itself further to scrutiny and power-sharing, and act as a model for decolonial practice for the university museum sector. To de-center its practice, for example, it can lead with changing the editorial power structure of the *UMAC Journal* to welcome topical thematic issues created and produced by regional members, for example in Africa and Asia.

SECRETARY



Gina Hammond

Macquarie University, Sydney, AUSTRALIA
ICOM No. 38944

Nominators:

Andrew Simpson, Australia
Paul Donnelly, Australia

Biographical note

I have attached a brief CV detailing my work history and highlighting my interest in university museums and collections. For about 18 years, I have loved working in the university sector as both a professional and academic staff member, specifically focused on university research and teaching. [Link to CV.](#)

Qualifications for the position

I am passionate about the potential of University Museums and Collections (history / research / teaching/ museums / galleries / the potential of all those objects) and have over 18 years' experience in university museums, teaching and research collections, art galleries and sector committees and would very much like to extend that experience internationally. Over this time, I have been fortunate to develop a far-reaching network with the industry locally, nationally and internationally.

Committees and experience of relevance here include:

- 1) **AMaGA NSW** – previous state secretary (Australian Museums and Galleries Association)
- 2) **CAUMAC** – current national secretary (Council of Australian Museums and Collections)
- 3) **MUMAC** – current chair for the Macquarie University museums and collections group
- 4) I am currently on the planning committee for the 2023 UMAC Conference at the University of Sydney's Chau Chak Wing Museum in Australia
- 5) I have worked in and for various types of university museums and collections. This includes modern Australian social history; ancient cultures – predominantly Egyptian, classical Greek and roman; ancient numismatics; sport; psychology; contemporary art; libraries and archives. So, I have exposure to a variety of types of collections and museums and the issues often faced in the university context.
- 6) Academically, I have taught into museum studies programs at Macquarie University and Sydney University in units as diverse as artefact studies, collection management, and museology of natural history; as well as AU-based and international internship programs. The mentorship I was able to provide for these enthusiastic people at the start of their careers was, and continues to be, very satisfying. Grant and research projects I have been involved in have mainly focused on object-based pedagogies and lifelong learning in the museum context. A current research project is focused on the value of art and social history objects for people living with dementia, we are currently running a pilot where we visit the nursing homes with a selection of objects and artwork (previously patients would visit the art gallery at the university gallery).

7) My education at undergraduate (BSc with BA) level was focused on museum studies, paleontology, Indigenous studies and history. My Honors research focused on the impact of a specific museum policy targeting Indigenous issues which was conducted in the Department of Indigenous Studies. My PhD expanded on issues of representation in the museum setting, this was with the discipline of Museum Studies, which was in the then Department of Environment and Geography.

Main goals of candidacy

I see the role of secretary in this instance as a bridge for information, communication and advice between the board and members UMAC represents in the university sector internationally. I see this role as more than just the practical support I can provide, to ensure all board meetings are managed effectively for the benefit of all members represented by UMAC.

My goals for the role would include working to ensure a clear understanding of how UMAC creates value for its members and how that is expressed; and to further understand and explore the organisation's needs both now and into the future, to ensure its continued relevance to those working and collaborating in this sector. To do this I am aware that I will need to keep up to date with how university museums and collections operate within the university sector on an international scale.

My first time presenting at an international conference was a UMAC Conference, in 2012 in Lisbon. UMAC is the people, and those people there were passionate about museology in the university sector and so very willing to share their expertise. I would be very happy to be able to serve UMAC members and continue the tradition of knowledge sharing and support.

TREASURER



Dominick Verschelde

Gent University Museum

BELGIUM

ICOM No. 70330 (Ghent University Museum)

Nominators:

Andrew Simpson, Australia

Panu Nykänen, Finland

Biographical note

Dominick Verschelde gives object-based practical courses and lessons to students. Writes out and supervises bachelor and masters dissertations on science communication and research on collection objects. He has given and promoted object-based teaching his whole career. He is convinced that the use of collection objects is not something of the past, but is very contemporary.

- 1997- present: curator/scientist of the Zoology Collections, Ghent University

- 2018-present: Sciences Research and Educations Coordinator of the Ghent University Museum, Ghent University

- 2000- present: UMAC member. He is a co-founder of UMAC: 1998, Paris conference on University Museums. [Link to CV](#).

Qualifications for the position

As co-founder, I have been involved in UMAC from its early footsteps made in Paris (OECD Meeting) on the aspirations of Peter Stanbury, and have contributed actively in UMAC conferences on many occasions over the last 20 years. I have been the Zoology Collections Manager for over 25 years, and since five years I am also the Sciences Research and Educations Coordinator of the newly erected Ghent University Museum. For the first 20 years of my career I was responsible for the budget, and all budget affaires, of the, than called, Zoology Museum. After that, we established the Ghent University Museum, of which the Zoology Collections are now part off. I have always been convinced that however much we need to protect our collections and objects for future generations, they only have a reason of being when they are used in object-based teaching and learning, and for research. Objects shouldn't be interred in cupboards, but should live to serve the public, students, and science.

Main goals of candidacy

My reasons and goals of my candidacy are twofold:

- I would like to play an active role in UMAC and its Board. I know that the Treasurer needs to work closely and regularly with the Chair and the board in the planning of and reporting about the budget towards UMAC and ICOM. As long standing and co-founding member of UMAC, I feel it is time to step up, and take this active role.

- Having implementing object-based teaching on-campus and online my whole career, and presently being a partner in an European Erasmus+ project on Teaching with Objects Online (six partners), I would very much like to go global and make this idea and exercise a worldwide topic through UMAC.

BOARD MEMBER



Ana Isabel Díaz-Plaza Varón

Museo de Artes y Tradiciones Populares,
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

SPAIN

ICOM No. 77015

Nominators:

Isabel García Fernández, Spain

Francisca Hernández Hernández, Spain

Nota biográfica

Licenciada en Historia del Arte por la Universidad Complutense (2006), completé mi formación con el Magíster en Museografía y Exposiciones en la misma Universidad (2008), años después realicé un Máster en Métodos y técnicas avanzadas de investigación histórica, artística y geográfica (2012) en la UNED. Desde 2010 formo parte del Museo de Artes y Tradiciones Populares, un museo etnográfico de la Universidad Autónoma de Madrid en la que ocupo el cargo de Técnico Superior en Etnografía (conservador de museos). Responsable de la conservación y gestión de la colección y de las actividades culturales realizadas en el centro. [Link to CV.](#)

Calificaciones para el cargo

Desde hace más de 12 años trabajo en un museo universitario donde he podido trabajar en las distintas áreas del museo, conociendo sus dificultades y oportunidades.

A lo largo de los años he completado mi formación académica con numerosos cursos en el ámbito de los museos y la etnografía, poniendo especial atención a la participación en los congresos de Museos Universitarios que se han realizado a nivel nacional e internacional.

Mi participación en la Directiva de UAM pretende ayudar a trabajar en una dirección común con el Comité, ayudando a la valorización, consolidación y difusión de los museos universitarios.

Compartiré mi experiencia en el ámbito de los museos universitarios y me comprometo a velar por la integridad, democratización y difusión de los valores consensuados desde el Comité.

Ofrezco mi trabajo, ayuda y atención a todo aquello en lo que mi experiencia y conocimientos puedan ser útiles, trabajando con ilusión y rigor en cada tarea requerida.

Principales metas de candidatura

Presento mi candidatura a vocal de la junta directiva para aportar mi experiencia y conocimientos en el ámbito de los museos universitarios. Trabajar en un museo de pequeñas dimensiones me ha permitido conocer en profundidad las diferentes áreas de trabajo: desde la conservación preventiva a la gestión de exposiciones, pasando por las labores propias de inventario, catalogación y documentación, así como la elaboración y liquidación de presupuestos, diseño de programas didácticos para público adulto e infantil y gestión y programación de las actividades culturales que se llevan a cabo en el centro con carácter anual.

Esta formación interdisciplinar me ha permitido tener una visión de conjunto de las actividades y necesidades de un museo universitario y colaborar en un amplio abanico de tareas.

Mi interés por los museos universitarios y su avance e incursión en la sociedad son el motor de mi candidatura. Ofrezco mi colaboración en aquellas áreas en las que sea necesaria, abordando cada cometido desde el sentido crítico y ético que comporta nuestra profesión, ayudando no solo a los profesionales de los museos sino también a las audiencias y sectores implicados.

BOARD MEMBER



Margarita Guzmán

Museo de la Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá
COLOMBIA
ICOM No. 56546

Nominators:

Gustavo Ortiz, Colombia
Ingrid Frederick, Colombia

Nota biográfica

Artista y museóloga, curadora y directora del Museo de la Universidad del Rosario en Bogotá Colombia. He trabajado en los últimos años en la creación y desarrollo del Museo universitario de una institución que existe desde la época colonial, con el fin de salvaguardar un patrimonio nacional colombiano representación de la identidad, la memoria y la historia de mi país. He consolidado el Museo como parte del plan estratégico de la Universidad y he apoyado la proyección del campo museal como territorio para un cambio social necesario en una sociedad incluyente, justa y coherente en el siglo XXI. [Link to CV.](#)

Calificaciones para el cargo

Soy la directora del Museo de la Universidad del Rosario en Bogotá Colombia institución que hace parte también de UMAC. Durante el periodo 2019-2022 participé en la junta de UMAC como miembro ordinario. Aunque tuvimos restricciones en todas nuestras actividades por la pandemia y los planes que tenía se vieron truncados, he apoyado a UMAC desde mi posición de Colombia en las actividades desarrolladas. Pretendo poder continuar en la Junta para lograr consolidar mi interés por una participación más activa en UMAC como representante en Latinoamérica para lograr que seamos parte importante en este comité que reúne expertos en Museos universitarios y colecciones.

Me he desempeñado en la dirección del Museo desde su creación y las actividades que se promueven se enfocan siempre en el desarrollo del sector de los museos universitarios con profesionalismo como ejemplo de buenas prácticas museales con el fin de tener una representatividad en el país e internacionalmente.

La integración de los museos universitarios alrededor de discusiones sobre temas de la decolonización de las colecciones, así como la importancia de la conservación y difusión de las colecciones universitarias es mi principal interés. Igualmente, con la convicción del impacto en la sociedad que tenemos al integrarnos a la academia, el acervo universitario es sin duda un campo estratégico para pensar los museos con una perspectiva social de inclusión y participación única.

Par mí, es importante promover la unión de nuevos museos universitarios a nuestro comité de UMAC para tener una mayor actividad y reconocimiento en el mundo.

Finalmente tengo todo el interés y apoyo de la institución con la que trabajo para desarrollar mi participación en la junta de UMAC, la Universidad del Rosario de Bogotá Colombia, que desde el siglo XVII ha existido en mi país en

forma continua, viene consolidando la actividad del museo universitario como parte de su plan estratégico, lo que considero un aporte a mis aportes futuros a UMAC.

Principales metas de candidatura

- Representar a Latinoamérica entre los museos universitarios del mundo
- Consolidar la red de museos universitarios en Colombia
- Integrar los museos universitarios de Colombia a UMAC
- Desarrollar actividades que integren a los museos universitarios como agentes de cambio desde los espacios académicos.
- Incentivar la valoración de los museos universitarios
- Apoyar el desarrollo de los museos universitarios en mi país con al menos un evento nacional
- Implementar actividades y eventos que sigan consolidando el sector de los museos universitarios.
- Promover el interés de otras instituciones universitarias para optimizar el manejo y salvaguarda de sus colecciones.

BOARD MEMBER



Paul Donnelly

Chau Chak Wing Museum, University of
Sydney
AUSTRALIA
ICOM No. 81452

Nominators:

Gina Hammond, Australia
David Ellis, Australia

Biographical note

Dr Paul Donnelly is Deputy Director of the Chau Chak Wing Museum in charge of curatorial and exhibitions. He had many curatorial roles for over 20 years at the Powerhouse Museum (MAAS) in Sydney. Paul has a B.A. (Hons) from the University of Sydney, and an MA in Applied History from the University of Technology, Sydney. His PhD from the University of Sydney focused on ancient ceramics of Western Asia and has published widely in archaeology and design. He is an active archaeologist working in Jordan and Greece. In 2017 he attended the Getty Museum Leadership Program in Los Angeles. [Link to CV.](#)

Qualifications for the position

I started at the University of Sydney nearly 7 years ago specifically to play a leading role in the preparation and execution of the new Chau Chak Wing Museum building, and its diverse exhibition program within. In 2020 the Chau Chak Wing Museum opened as the new purpose-built home for collections previously housed separately in the Macleay Museum, Nicholson Museum and University Art Gallery. The 8000sqm A\$66.2M landmark building is a significant addition to Sydney's cultural life, providing state-of-the-art facilities for the enjoyment, teaching, and research of objects spanning art, antiquity, humanity, natural history, and science. More than 120,000 people visited the Museum in the first year. In 2021, more than 17,000 students and staff participated in object-led teaching, including many disciplines which had never used museum objects for teaching.

As the Associate (from 2019 Deputy) Director I oversaw the exhibition program and lead the curators in the development of what became 18 exhibitions and a further number of future changeovers scheduled for 2021 to 2024. My participation in the building of the Chau Chak Wing Museum involved detailed interrogation of the building design, the designs of its exhibitions, and all their budgets.

Strategically I advocated for the employ of four different design firms that enabled closer interrogation of allocated budgets, ensured the quality involvement of the principals of each of the firms, while eventuating in a variety of tempos, styles, and moods to the benefit of audiences. The project came in under the original budget of A\$66.2M set in 2015 – a rarely seen occurrence at the University. In my work I have ensured I remain up to date with museological developments and the social changes of the past few years. I curated 'Object / Art / Specimen', the

introductory exhibition at the Chau Chak Wing Museum, through thematic groupings of diverse objects that avoids hierarchy and the privileging of Western art.

I bring to the UMAC Board over 30 years in museums of diverse collections. The University of Sydney's cultural and scientific collections include: the largest and best quality antiquity collection in Australia with strengths in ancient Egypt and Greece; the earliest known Aboriginal bark paintings; an historic entomology collection dating to the 1790s; Pacific cultural material; historic photographs; Australian post-impressionist painting, and modern and contemporary art. The range of objects impressively encompasses a diversity of natural phenomena and human achievement spanning millennia and the globe. Prior to my role at the University of Sydney is more than 20 years' experience at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (Powerhouse) in Sydney where I worked in curatorial roles interpreting collections spanning decorative arts and design, science, engineering, fashion, architecture, and social history.

This long experience with diverse collections precludes me from privileging one collection over another which as a UMAC Board Member provides me with objectivity and respect for collections of all types. I revel in the often-surprising interconnectedness and relevance of diverse collections and the tangible, frequently profound and emotive, connections they provide to people, places, and events.

Main goals of candidacy

I would like to instigate an international program I am calling 'Collective Collections' constituting a formalised structure promoting collaborative sharing of collection items between Universities.

I am dedicated to, and believe in, the value and mission of university collections and their strengths in inspiring and instructing students, staff, and the broader public. University museums are unique resources of superb quality and diversity able to raise the profile of their institutions while substantially adding to the student experience and adding to the well-being of the community. The broadening horizons of the modern world have never been more in tune with these University collections and their powerful role in interdisciplinary teaching and learning. Concomitantly, there has never been a better time for university collections to leverage their strengths and diversity to the benefit of their own relevance and their multiple audiences.

University collections are in an increasing position of relevance and accessibility. Imagine, however, these University collections supplementing their holdings through access to objects, art, and specimens not otherwise represented in their collections? Through strategic and supportive collaborations under 'Collective Collections', university museums and galleries could maximise their opportunities and impact through the sharing and lending of short and long-term loans. Through such a program, university museums will be able to strengthen their relevance and democratise their relevance and democratise their collections by reducing privilege and increasing accessibility. 'Collective Collections' can be a decolonising tool that subverts the notion of ownership and promotes Universities as truly universal.

'Collective Collections' at its fullest potential can place university museums and galleries at the forefront of a different paradigm that changes our idea of what constitutes a museum.

BOARD MEMBER



Sian Tiley-Nel

University of Pretoria Museums
SOUTH AFRICA
ICOM No. 63121

Nominators:

Andrew Simpson, Australia
Marta C. Lourenço, Portugal

Biographical note

Sian Tiley-Nel holds the position as Head of the University of Pretoria (UP) Museums under the Office of the Registrar under the UP Executive. She continues to serve for 22 years, as Curator of the Mapungubwe Collection and Head of the Mapungubwe Archive, a UNESCO declared heritage as Curator of the Mapungubwe Gold Collection under the stewardship of the University of Pretoria. She is widely recognised in the museum university domain and remains professional defined by core curatorial competencies and leadership skills in the arts, culture and arts sector in South Africa. [Link to CV.](#)

Qualifications for the position

Sian holds a PhD in History, a MA in Archaeology (ceramic technology) and graduated as a Laureatus conservator mid-career from the SA Institute of Heritage Science and Conservation, and completed a post graduate diploma in Museum Science. She was recognised as one of the youngest in South African museologists to hold a curatorship position at 23 years old and has served the museum and heritage industry for 22 years focusing on the advocacy of conservation, preservation, curation, repatriation and leadership of university museums Sian has curated over 20 exhibitions, published widely in both the academic and creative domain and holds archaeological and anthropological fieldwork experience as a qualified archaeologist as a member of the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists, a member of good standing with the South African Museums Association and serves on the ICOM-SA Board.

She holds several chair and board positions within the University. She is currently an Oxford Cultural Leader (OCL) Alumnus and a UP Alumnus. In the past two years she founded UMAC-SA, initiated the GLAM project the first of its kind in South Africa in partnership with UP Alumni Relations.

Academically, she has obtained the following qualifications:

2019 DPhil (Thesis in History) Department of Historical & Heritage Studies, University of Pretoria

2015 Historiography (GES701) with distinction; Theory and methodology (GES713)

2014 MA Degree Archaeology (University of Pretoria) Tiley-Nel, S. 2014. A technological study and manufacture of ceramic vessels from K2 and Mapungubwe Hill, South Africa. MA dissertation. University of Pretoria: Pretoria. DOI: 10.13140/rg.2.2.32588.72326.

2011 Laureatus conservator (Honoratus) under the tutelage of the SA Institute for Heritage Science and Conservation

2003 Postgraduate Diploma (MHCS) in Heritage Studies and Museum Studies (*cum laude*) Department of Historical and Heritage Studies, University of Pretoria

1998 BA (Hons) Degree (*cum laude*): Archaeology subjects: Cultural Resource Management: research and education, Archaeo-Anthropology of Africa, Archaeology Case Studies, Essay Archaeology (pass with distinction), (University of Pretoria)

1997 BA Degree, majoring in Anthropology & Archaeology (*cum laude*) - University of Pretoria

1996 BA undergraduate subjects: Archaeology, Anthropology (*cum laude*), Applied Anthropology, History of Art and Information Science (University of Pretoria)

1995 BA undergraduate studies subjects: Archaeology, Anthropology, History of Art, Applied Anthropology/Developmental Science (*cum laude*) University of Pretoria.

Main goals of candidacy

It is an honour to be identified as a suitable candidate to serve on the UMAC Board. I first joined UMAC in Kyoto in 2019, but have been a long-standing member of ICOM and currently serve on the ICOM-SA Board with the portfolio of academic liaison. My goals for candidacy as an ordinary board member position is based on the firm resolve that the UMAC can benefit from a representative from the African continent and the University of Pretoria is one of Africa's top universities and the largest contact university in South Africa. The University produces socially impactful research to find solutions for the world's most pressing issues. More importantly, university museums in South Africa have not played a global role in advancing museum collections, despite the African continent being a worldwide focus on current issues inter alia repatriation, decolonisation, redress, transformation, social and political impact- UMAC can benefit, learn and advance African university contributions.

In recent years, I have invested in being a partner for the growth of UMAC in Africa and during the pandemic, launched UMA-SA, yet still in its infancy. I have served as Regional Chairperson of the South African Museums Association (SAMA) and as sub-Editor of the SA Museum Journal. My 22- year experience and professional background is diverse and is as much academic, as it is theoretical and practical. One of the main goals is to place UMAC Africa onto the ICOM radar in coming years, particularly from South Africa and the candidacy as the potential to elevate African university museums into a future-focused trajectory. I will be honoured to be able to contribute what is possible representing the University of Pretoria, its museums and those UMAC-SA members to globally network and make meaningful and impactful contributions representing South African university museums.

BOARD MEMBER



Wenjia Qiu

Qian Xuesen Library and Museum, Shanghai
Jiao Tong University
CHINA
ICOM No. 131901

Nominators:

Andrew Simpson, Australia
Kai Zhang, China

Biographical note

Wenjia Qiu is currently the international collaboration coordinator and the assistant to museum director at Qian Xuesen Library & Museum, Shanghai Jiao Tong University. She was in the UMAC Board (2019-2022) as secretary. She had an education background in English Literature and Social Policy. As an emerging museum professional, she has worked extensively in the university museum sector, within China and in the globe. [Link to CV.](#)

Qualifications for the position

I have worked as secretary in UMAC Board (2019-2022). In the past mandate, I supported all goals and activities to the Board, especially the President. During the mandate as UMAC Secretary, I think my achievements are two-fold:

- Internally I'm responsible for the maintenance of UMAC's daily operation. That includes duties to keep constant connection with ICOM Secretariat about UMAC membership, to answer queries of new members and to confirm membership for members-only activities. I also take charge of the updated mailing list UMAC-ML and meeting minutes within the Board, and to keep an archive of activities of this mandate. A Chinese social platform, UMAC WeChat, was also under my supervision to update with the latest UMAC news activities and research. All these jobs are to expand UMAC as a global community under ICOM and to increase the communication between UMAC members.
- Externally I supported the Board to expand collaboration with university museum associations around the world and to empower university museum professionals through training, collaborations and webinars. To cite specific projects, I coordinated UMAC's first online annual conference with Universeum in September 2021, and UMAC Post-Lockdown Series webinar in June-July, 2020.

As a young professional, I'm very fortunate to get engaged with UMAC Board and was selected as UMAC Secretary to make my contributions. If UMAC teaches me how to engage and collaborate with university museums in the global context, my daily job in Shanghai has enabled me to observe and build connections in a local and regional perspective. It is situated in China, and more broadly in Asia. I have worked nearly nine years in one of the best university museums in China as a museum educator and the assistant to the museum director. As my University is the secretary organization of the National Educational Alliance of University and College Museums in China, as well as the co-founder institution of Shanghai Educational Alliance of University and College Museums, I have coordinated series of activities and research projects about China's university museums. Since 2019, more attention has been given to the regional collaboration. I have undertaken student programs with university museums in Hong

Kong, and have initiated connection with University Museums Association of Kyoto and the Taiwan Association of University Museums.

I have also established a partnership between my museum with UMAC to develop the flagship project University Museums Training Week Shanghai (UMTWS), which takes place every April since 2017. UMTWS is the only regular international training program targeting university museum professionals and researchers. Nearly one hundred participants from mainland China, Hong Kong and Japan have benefited from the training. It also directly yields to an evident increase of Chinese university museum members in UMAC and more collaborative projects between UMAC and other university museums in China.

Main goals of candidacy

My first mandate in UMAC board is mainly to support the entire Board and the UMAC community as a whole. That entails a lot of coordination and practical daily routines. Several objectives, however, were not successful during my last mandate. These are:

- to increase more members from China, or more broadly from Asia
- to explore more research possibilities about university museums

Therefore, if I'm elected to the next mandate, I will focus on: 1) first mandate unsuccessful objectives 2) support the new Board and the new Chair to achieve UMAC's robustness and sustainability.

Develop the objectives for the next mandate:

- to expand membership with a focus on younger professionals in China
- to facilitate and support the new Board to increase UMAC visibility in regions like Asia and Africa, where members are few.
- to continue the UMTWS and explore the possibility of establishing an online platform to open all the past UMTWS teaching resources to researchers and the public.
- adapt UMAC project P-MUS into the context of China. Project P-MUS: Professionalising Museum Work in Higher Education: A Global Approach (2017-2019) is a UMAC research project taken years ago. Data about Chinese university museums were not collected sufficiently back then. A further study into this is needed.
- to explore more research possibilities about the theme of university museums' third mission.

To accomplish the above goals, it's extremely important for me to align with the new Board and new Chair's mandate, to support them with concrete and detailed implementation.

BOARD MEMBER



Zhao Ke

Electronic Science and Technology Museum,
University of Electronic Science and
Technology of China

CHINA

ICOM No. 90022

Nominators:

Andrew Simpson, Australia

Wenjia Qiu, China

Biographical note

Ke Zhao is the director of the Electronic Science and Technology Museum (ESTM), University of Electronic Science and Technology of China. He led a team to complete the preparation and construction of the ESTM, the first museum about electronics in China.

He is also an associate professor and teaches the History of Electronic Science and Technology course. He received Ph.D. in Microelectronics and Solid-state Electronics. His field of interest includes university museums and history of science and technology. He is the vice-president of the Chinese Committee on History of Scientific Instruments. [Link to CV.](#)

Qualifications for the position

- Demonstrated strong leadership and managerial skills

In 2015, he led a team at the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China to prepare and complete the Electronic Science and Technology Museum. It is the first electronic museum in China and has now been selected as a National Science Education Base in China. In cooperation with UMAC, he led a group to develop the U Museum app for the university museum database based on UMAC's Worldwide Database.

- Interdisciplinary educational background and work experience

He earned his B.S. in Biomedical Engineering, his M.S. and Ph.D. in Microelectronics and Solid-State Electronics, and has worked in the university museum field for almost ten years. He exercises a fusion of thinking from disciplinary backgrounds, which fits that university museums are the best platform for interdisciplinary learning and practicing. He organized the "MUSEUM + CLASS" project in our museum. Thirteen courses of four categories, including discipline history courses, introduction courses, engineering technology courses, and engineering ethics courses, join the project. All the courses are taught in the museum or in the storage room, with collections and research results of ESTM. They provide a new way of thinking about the history of science and technology for students from different majors.

- Experienced in UMAC working groups

Since 2019, he has worked as the co-chair of UMAC FUTURES, a group of young scholars in the university museum community. He started and moderated the IMAGINATIONS project, a series of online conversations with young

professionals. There have been eight episodes from the Czech Republic, UK, Serbia, Argentina, Japan, Australia, Senegal, and Brazil. Videos of the project are available on the UMAC YouTube channel. It is a project that makes young professionals' voices heard.

- Ability to coordinate regional and network cooperation

He organized the Western University Museums Seminar in Chengdu, China, building a regional micro-network with nine university museums. UMAC President Marta attended the seminar to introduce UMAC and the development of university museums. He hosts the seminar annually. He is elected the vice-president of the Chinese Committee on History of Scientific Instruments, being able to coordinate cooperation from scientific and industrial museums in China.

- Global perspective of university museums

He has conducted field research and interviewed directors and professionals in university museums, including Portugal, Spain, the UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, the Czech Republic, and China. He has also traveled to Canada, the USA, Japan, Cuba, and other countries to learn about the development of university museums in depth.

Main goals of candidacy

- To better develop the UMAC FUTURES and get more young professionals involved

I will spread the IMAGINATIONS project more widely and interview more young professionals to share their work and research. A long-term mechanism will be established for young professionals to communicate with each other online and in person. I will organize a seminar annually for young professionals, providing the opportunity to participate in at least one academic or work event. I will use social media, websites, and other media to post young professionals' achievements. It will help interest more to join the construction of our global university museum community.

- To enhance network connection with digital technology and upgrade the mobile database UMuseum app

I will improve and upgrade the UMuseum app to make it easier to access. The new version will provide a section to display brief introductions and links to new exhibitions from the university museum community. Also, some sections to stimulate online communication among members within UMAC will be designed. More UMAC resources section will be added to the app for easy access.

- To expand the impact of UMAC

I will host regular seminars based on the already formed network of the Western China University Museums Network. It will expand the UMAC's impact in China. In addition, I will try to promote more collaboration between UMAC and science and industrial museums in China if needed.