

President's Report

Period: September 2021 to August 2022

To be presented at the 22nd UMAC Annual General Meeting, 19 September 2022



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It is my great pleasure to report to the UMAC membership our activities since the last annual general meeting, which took place online (3 September 2021) and can be accessed [here](#).
Except when clearly indicated, all numbers below refer to 15 August 2022.

GOVERNANCE

Board Meetings

The UMAC Board held two meetings (7 September 2021, 22 December 2021). Minutes are available to members upon request.

Finances

A detailed list of expenses will be presented at the 22nd UMAC AGM, 19 September 2022.

Participation in ICOM Life

Apart from participation in the online ICOM Advisory Council meetings (5-6 May, 19-20 May 2022) and in several 'forum' of international committees, UMAC has participated in three ICOM consultations: the revision of ICOM Code of Ethics, the revision of the ICOM Strategic Plan and the new museum definition (ICOM Define).

UMAC has also participated – via Vice-President Andrew Simpson – in ICOM SAREC, chaired by Emma Nardi. See also more collaborations with ICOM national and international committees below.

UMAC Board Elections

In 2022 there will be a new UMAC Board. According to our bylaws, the elections to the Board 2022-2025 will take place at the 22nd annual general meeting, to happen online, 19 September 2022.

The election procedure was initiated 1 February 2022 by the Election Committee – Kirsten Vincenz (TU Dresden) and Sofia Talas (University of Padua) – and the candidates were announced 31 May:

- Position of Chair (1): Andrew Simpson (Australia)
- Positions of Vice-Chair (2): Fatemeh Ahmadi (Iran) and Giovanna Vitelli (UK)
- Position of Secretary (1): Gina Hammond (Australia)
- Position of Treasurer (1): Dominick Verschelde (Belgium)
- Positions of Ordinary Board Member (3): Ana Isabel Diaz (Spain), Margarita Guzmán (Colombia), Paul Donnelly (Australia), Sian Tiley-Nel (South Africa), Wenjia Qiu (China), Zhao Ke (China).

Increase UMAC's and ICOM's Global Visibility

UMAC Members

In 31 December 2021, UMAC had 403 members (326 Individual Members and 77 Institutional Members), represented in 47 countries and territories.

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

UMAC Annual Conferences



UMAC 2021

UMAC 2021 was a joint conference with Universeum, the European Academic Heritage Network and it happened online between 1 and 3 September 2021. The number of registered participants was 393 from 46 countries, which was an absolute record for both UMAC and Universeum.

The conference included 36 oral presentations, 2 keynote speakers – Henry McGhie and Silke Ackermann – 7 workshops and 2 video clubs. Three roundtables were also organized for the conference: one about ICOM 2022 in Prague, another about Ethics and another entitled University Museums without Walls. The Program and organizational details can be accessed [here](#) and the whole conference is [accessible](#) in UMAC YouTube channel.

UMAC 2022



UMAC 2022 will be integrated in the 26th ICOM Triennial General Conference, Prague. For the first time, it will be jointly organized with three other ICOM committees – NATHIST (natural history museums), ICME (ethnography museums) and ICR (regional museums). The conference will also include a separate day of paper sessions and visits to museums and collections of Charles University. At the time of this report, 120 remote and in presence participants from 34 countries are expected, of which 82 are UMAC members. The program includes 34 oral papers, 44 posters and one debate; it can be accessed [here](#).

After several years without awarding grants due to the pandemic, UMAC is awarding five grants to Prague: Ana Isabel Diaz (Spain), Manuela Garcia Lirio (Spain), Maurício Cândido da Silva (Brazil), Sian Tiley-Nel (South Africa) and Mohamadou Moustapha Dieye (Senegal).

UMAC Webinars

UMAC Origins

This series aims at promoting conversations with people involved in the creation of UMAC in 2001. One episode was released this year:

- Penelope Theologi-Gouti (Greece), 26 October 2020

The whole series can be accessed [here](#).

Zoom In: New Projects

This series is aimed at giving visibility to new university museums or new projects in already existing university museums. Two episodes were released:

- The Chau Chak Wing Museum, University of Sydney, Australia, 15 September 2021.
- The Art Museum, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 26 June 2022.

The whole Zoom In series can be accessed [here](#).

IMAGINATIONS

IMAGINATIONS is a new project from UMAC FUTURES, UMAC's program aimed at connecting young university museums professionals and support their professional and personal growth.

Initiated in 2021, IMAGINATIONS comprises a series of online conversations with young professionals from all over the world, sharing their experiences in university museums, their expectations and hopes and their views about the world in general. It is coordinated by Zhao Ke, Co-Chair of UMAC Futures and Director of the Museum of Electronic Science, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Chengdu, China.

In 2021 and 2022, 11 episodes were already transmitted:

- Eva Gartnerová, Czechia
- Mariana Santamaría, Argentina
- Federica Gigante, UK
- Sladjana Savic, Serbia
- Ayumi Terada, Japan
- Holly Millward, Australia
- Mohamadou Moustapha Dieye, Senegal
- Rebeca Bombonsato, Brazil
- Manuela Garcia Lirio, Spain
- Michelle de la Harpe, South Africa
- Kelsey McMorrow, Australia

The Imagination series can be accessed [here](#).

Support and Advocacy

UMAC Guidance for Restitution and Return of Items from University Museums and Collections (2022)

UMAC's project 'Ethics of Repatriation and Restitution' (2020-2021), coordinated by Vice-Chair Steph Scholten, aimed at examining collections and objects in universities and their museums from the perspective of

'decolonisation'. The project, involving ICOM's Committee for Professional Ethics (ETHCOM), ICOM's Committee for Museums of Ethnography (ICME), ICOM Australia and Universeum, resulted in Guidelines that were released in March 2022 after extensive public consultation. The PDF can be accessed [here](#).

Support to Ukraine Museums

UMAC supported the [Statement](#) by ICOM (8 March 2022) about the protection of museums and cultural heritage in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. UMAC also supported the initiative of ICOM Poland to appeal for donations to Ukraine museum professionals, later embraced by ICOM as a whole.

Social Media Presence

Facebook (created 2012)	Twitter (created 2016)	Instagram (created 2016)	WeChat (created 2017)	You Tube NEW (created 2020)
Total 73 posts Likes: 365 (total 2638) Post reach: 29,105 Editor: Andrew Simpson	Total 114 tweets Followers: 2,151 (new followers 269) Twitter impressions: 46,346 Editor: Andrew Simpson	Total 29 posts Followers: 1,139 (new followers 160) Likes: 2,501 Editor: Marta C. Lourenço	Total: 10 posts Followers: 385 (new followers 40) Editor: Wenjia Qiu	Total: 57 videos Subscribers: 271 (new subscribers 49) Editor: Marta C. Lourenço

Data from August 2021 to July 2022.

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 3,909 entries from all over the world.

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 3,681 (179 more subscribers than last year). UMAC-ML is regularly used to circulate news, communicate with members and consulting.

Increase Recognition in Higher Education

UMACJ – University Museums and Collections Journal

ISSN: 2071-7229

At the end of 2021 (after the last reporting period) we saw the first publication of a thematic issue of the journal. Pedagogy Hub was a selection of essays about the use of university museums in teaching that were part of UMAC's funded project entitled "Professionalising museum work in higher education: A global approach (P-MUS)." This issue (volume 13 number 2) consisted of seven essays from around the world with a foreword and an afterword by the two editors Alistair Kwan and Andrew Simpson. The success of this issue has inspired us to plan out future thematic issues. In 2022 we published issue 14 number 1 as an un-themed issue with five case studies that capture interesting examples of museological creativity and experimentation in higher education. Volume 14 (number 2) is very close to completion as this is written. This issue will consist of the abstracts for the joint meeting in Prague of UMAC, NATHIST, ICME and ICR, the first time we have partnered with three other of ICOM's International Committees.

Currently we are planning a thematic issue of the journal based on the UMAC project on "The Ethics of Restitution and Repatriation". A call for case studies was made earlier in the year and we received a number of interesting proposals. Authors are close to finalising fully developed articles for review. 2022 saw the publication of two issues from 2020 (volume 12 numbers 1 & 2) translated into Chinese through our partnership with Shanghai University. Again, we are grateful for the work of Professor Guo Ji in facilitating

this partnership. In this reporting period we have expanded the Editorial Board to 14 members and will look to expand this further in the coming year.

UMAC Award 2021

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 occur between September and December every year.



The winner of the UMAC Award 2021 was announced 3 September 2021, during the UMAC annual conference. It's Aarhus University Science Museums (Denmark), with the exhibition 'Profession and Passion: A life in science'. Harvard University Art Museums (USA) and Tel Aviv University Genia Schreiber Art Gallery (Israel) were second place.

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

In 2022, the same model will be followed: individual presentations of the shortlisted nominations during the last week of August and announcement of the UMAC AWARD 2022 winner in early September.

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 (TU Dresden), Sofia Talas (University of Padua)
- the Boards of NATHIST, ICME, ICR, ICTOP, ETHCOM, ICOM South Africa and ICOM Australia
- the LOC and Program Committee of UMAC-NATHIST-ICME-ICR 2022: Andrew Simpson (Australia, UMAC), Christel Schollaardt (The Netherlands, NATHIST), Dorit Wolenitz (Israel, NATHIST), Fiona R. Cameron (Australia, ICME), Huang Lei (China, ICR), Irena Žmuc (Slovenia, ICR), Marta Lourenço (Portugal, UMAC), Martina Galetová (Hrdliček Museum, Charles University of Prague), Peter Ride (UK, ICME), Phaedra Fang (Taiwan, NATHIST), Ralf Čeplak Mencin (Slovenia, ICME).
- the participants in the UMAC Origins Series, UMAC Zoom In series and Imaginations series.
- 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
- Charles University, Prague
- the University of Strasbourg
- the University of Lisbon
- the Shanghai University Museum

- 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, 15 August 2022

Appendix – Chronological Summary

2021

- 20 August: Public discussion opens for the UMAC Guidelines on Restitution and Return
- 25 August: Release of UMACJ vol. 13, No. 1
- 3 September: Announcement of the 2021 UMAC Award: Aarhus University, Science Museums, Denmark
- 14 November: Release of the IMAGINATIONS Project, UMAC Futures (five episodes on YouTube)

2022

- 19 January: Open of call for Papers UMAC-NATHIST-ICME-ICR in Prague 2022
- 21 January: Call for grants Prague 2022
- 8 March: UMAC support to the ICOM Statement concerning the Russian invasion of Ukraine
- 8 March: Release of *UMAC Guidance for Restitution and Return of Items from University Museums and Collections*
- 30 March: Three new videos of IMAGINATIONS, UMAC Futures are released.
- 5 April: UMAC support to the ICOM Call for Donations to Support Museums and Museum Professionals in Ukraine
- 19 April: Release of UMACJ 12 (Chinese)
- 23 May: Release of UMACJ 13(2), Pedagogy Hub
- 26 May: Release of UMACJ 14(1)
- 31 May: Announcement of the candidates for the UMAC Board 2022-2025
- 12 August: Three new videos of IMAGINATIONS, UMAC Futures are released.

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/>