

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

ICOM
Barbados





**RUTH
LINTON**

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

As we reflect on 2025 the final year of our executive, I feel a great sense of pride and joy of the development of ICOM BARBADOS. Beyond the ravages of COVID, we were able to make real progress and continue ICOM BARBADOS 'work. In relation to the banking situation we registered ICOM BARBADOS. We were able to organise our online banking, transfer our fees to Paris through a secure banking portal which has changed the way we do business. This was due to discussions with the President of ICOM Ms. Emma Nardi in Chile representation yet again.

In 1989 the Founding Member was Ms. Alissandra Cummins Director of the Barbados Museum and Historical society. The goal was representation, a seat at the table of the global stage and represent we did. ICOM Barbados was pleased to celebrate the historic win of the inaugural ICOM Sustainability Award by PRO Kaye Hall, for her project Shared Island Stories with the Barbados Museum & Historical Society and St. Andrew's University! To be the winner and for her to be present and accept, for us to be at that conference cheering her on, this filled me with immense pride.

As we strive to develop a professional network our board member Dr. Natalie McGuire continues her work as a member of the ICOM Working Group Decolonisation and to be the only Speaker for ICOM within the Latin American and Caribbean region at ICOM Dubai 2025 is a distinct honour! In Dubai 2025 we had 5 delegates the most attendees in my ten- year association. This is essential, and ensures our concerns, interests and activities are placed on the global stage and is transformative. In addition to those activities a publication was prepared arising from the meeting I attended last year in Chile detailing the future for ICOM-LAC.

The AI Symposium on Caribbean Arts and Heritage event on May 16th, 2025, was another impactful event with 70 in person attendees and 250 online attendees.

Our membership is increasing with the promise to include others in our association are all major achievements. We have two new institutional members the Barbados National Trust and the Cecil Cyrus Caribbean Museum of Medical History (CCMMH). As we strive to lead in global thinking around museology, culture, heritage and history this year we resumed our very popular Bus Rides featuring the Wetlands of Barbados tour. We had another successful event for International Museum Day. A walking tour through Bridgetown which was indeed educational.

ICOM Barbados continues to work on behalf of membership we represent our committee display what really unites us all. The work is not over we continue to represent the causes that really matter. As I conclude my two terms of Chair of ICOM BARBADOS I want to say it has been an absolute joy and privilege to serve and as I continue to serve in another capacity I look forward to working with you and giving a voice in the global landscape and share what unites and makes all of our goals visible and worthy of respect.

Ruth Linton
December 2025



ABOUT ICOM BARBADOS

ICOM Barbados is part of the International Council of Museums, an international organisation of museums and museum professionals which is committed to the research, conservation, continuation and communication to society of the world's natural and cultural heritage, present and future, tangible and intangible. As part of this mandate ICOM Barbados strives to lead activities which support the Museum network within Barbados, the wider Caribbean region and, as appropriate, in Latin America as well as provide international representation for its members in the diaspora.

- ICOM Barbados, like our parent organisation, is a membership association and a non-governmental organisation which establishes professional and ethical standards for museum activities.
- As forum of experts, we make recommendations on issues related to cultural heritage, promoting capacity building and advancing knowledge.
- ICOM Barbados is the voice of museum and other heritage professionals on the international stage and raises public cultural awareness through global networks and co-operation programmes

Executive Committee

In addition to the officers elected for the 2023-2026 term, in March 2025, ICOM Barbados was pleased to welcome Ms. Anisah Wood into the role of Secretary on the Executive Board, and Ms. Annastacia Bernard as joint PRO.



Membership

ICOM Barbados currently represents a number of individuals and organisations both to ICOM and to regional bodies such as the Museum Association of the Caribbean (MAC), ICOM Latin America (ICOFOM LAC), The Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM) and the Caribbean Heritage Network (CHN) and continues to do so. However, a number of other English speaking Caribbean territories lack national representative bodies for ICOM and have expressed an interest in having their representation needs met by an organisation such as ICOM Barbados. ICOM Barbados is investigating how this can be accomplished and is negotiating with ICOM in order that this can happen.

2024-2025 Membership Figures

Honourary: 1

Individual: 7

Retired: 3

Student: 2

Institutional: 5



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

WETLANDS OF BARBADOS TOUR

On Monday, April 21st 2025, ICOM Barbados hosted a tour exploring some of Barbados' lesser known wetlands, to emphasise the role of natural heritage in the cultural sector.



WETLANDS OF BARBADOS
Uncover Barbados' Untold Wetland Wonders

A wetland is an area flooded or saturated with water, impacting the habitat and the plant and animal communities found there. These ecosystems appear where the water table is at or near to the surface.

Join us as we explore some of our lesser known Wetlands and learn about this exciting aspect of our Barbadian Natural history

DATE: APRIL 21ST, 2025 (EASTER MONDAY)
TIME: 9:00 AM
BOARDING: THE BARBADOS MUSEUM

ICOM International Council of Museums Barbados
Barbados Museum & Historical Society

\$120BDS /Person
FOOD INCLUDED

BAWDENS
LONG POND
RIVER BAY

*Special terms & conditions apply



FUTURE OF MUSEUMS IMD TOUR

On May 18th, ICOM Barbados offered members and the public a free walking tour and museum crawl through Bridgetown for International Museums Day.



ICOM International Council of Museums Barbados

THE FUTURE OF MUSEUMS

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY BRIDGETOWN WALKING TOUR

Join us for an exciting tour of the spaces and places in our city which show us how communities can work with museums, artists and municipal management to create interpretive spaces for the benefit of all!

Explore and hear about existing spaces such as Golden Square Freedom Park and the Monument to the Family and much more!

SPACES ARE LIMITED, TO REGISTER: EMAIL - BARBADOSICOM@GMAIL.COM

ADMISSION IS FREE



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

AI SYMPOSIUM ON CARIBBEAN ARTS AND HERITAGE

As a part of the ICOM International Museum Day theme: The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities, ICOM Barbados partnered with UNDP Barbados & The EC as well as The Barbados Museum & Historical Society to hold an AI Symposium on Caribbean Arts and Heritage event on May 16th, 2025, focused on discussing the regional implications of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) in relation to the Orange Economy.

A.I. is considered one of the latest topics that Museums and indeed the entire Caribbean Arts and Heritage sector must consider as we move into the future.

The symposium is the first of its kind hosted by UNDP in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, spotlighting the intersections between A.I. and the Caribbean Orange Economy. Given current technological advancements, there is an urgency for discussion surrounding A.I.'s increasing influence across sectors globally.

The primary objectives of the event were to:

- 1) Generate public awareness of the current and potential uses of A.I. in the arts sector.
- 2) Create a safe space for dialogue on concerns and opportunity areas surrounding A.I. in the Caribbean arts sector.

The event was chaired by Dr. Natalie McGuire as Vice-Chairperson of ICOM Barbados and included panels with Minister Munro-Knight, Senator King, the BMHS Director, BMHS Deputy Director, Ruth Linton as ICOM Barbados Chairperson, UNDP Resident Coordinator, Kaye Hall (ICOM Barbados PRO) and distinguished speakers from across the sectors. There were approx. 70 in person attendees and 250 online attendees.



A.I. SYMPOSIUM ON CARIBBEAN ARTS & HERITAGE

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME

May 16th, 2025

9:00 AM- 4:30 PM

The Barbados Museum
& Historical Society,
Trevor Carmichael
Walled Garden Theatre



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

ICOM WORKING GROUP DECOLONISATION

In 2025, Vice Chairperson Dr. Natalie McGuire continued her work on the ICOM Working Group for Decolonisation (2023 - 2025). The purpose of this group is to advise on how ICOM, as the global voice of museum professionals and as an international NGO, can address key topics around decolonisation, and ensure exemplary institutional practice, seeking equity and social inclusion.

In June 2025, the Vice Chairperson participated in a series of meetings related to her role on the ICOM Working Group for Decolonisation, in Berlin. In addition to meeting with key stakeholders at ICOM Germany, The Agency for Museum Cooperation, Inherit and Centre Marc Bloch, the main activity for the WGD during this trip was to finalise a structure for their report. This report was submitted to the Executive Board in September 2025, and approved in November 2025.

The travel of the Working Group Decolonisation in 2025 was funded by ICOM Germany and ICOM SAREC.



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

ICOM GENERAL CONFERENCE DUBAI 2025

ICOM Barbados was pleased to have a representation of 5 members at the ICOM General Conference in Dubai from November 11th - 17th, 2025. Vice Chairperson Natalie McGuire was supported to participate by the ICOM SAREC-Getty Grant and the Division of Culture in the Prime Minister's Office. PRO Kaye Hall was supported to participate by ICOM SAREC and the Barbados Museum & Historical Society.

National & Regional Committee Business

The Chairperson attended the sessions for the National Committees and the ICOM LAC Regional Alliance meeting for Chairs, and noted the following key outcomes:

Presentations, Panels, Workshops

- ICOM Vice Chairperson Natalie McGuire spoke on a panel titled “Reframing Power: Whose Stories do Museums Tell?”, moderated by Nada Raza and with fellow panelists Farid Rakun and Sultan Sooud Al-Qassami.
- ICOM PRO Kaye Hall spoke on a panel for the ICOM Award for Sustainability, introducing the Shared Island Stories project (Barbados Museum & Historical Society and St. Andrew's University) as a finalist for the award
- ICOM Vice Chairperson Natalie McGuire spoke on a panel for the ICOM Germany Young Museum Professionals Network on how ICOM can adapt to meet the needs of emerging professionals
- ICOM PRO Kaye Hall ran a workshop for ICOFOM titled “Young People Shaping the Future of Museology through the Lens of the SDGs”



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

ICOM GENERAL CONFERENCE DUBAI 2025

General Assembly

ICOM Barbados endorsed the following two resolutions, which were passed in the General Assembly:

- Resolution 4 – Empowering Museums in Achieving the SDGs through Youth by Means of Social Inclusion and Climate Action
- Resolution 6 – Establishment of a Standing Committee on Decolonisation

Please see appendix 1 for full descriptions of these resolutions.

ICOM Award for Sustainability

ICOM Barbados was also pleased to celebrate the historic win of the inaugural ICOM Sustainability Award by PRO Kaye Hall, for her project Shared Island Stories with the Barbados Museum & Historical Society and St. Andrew's University! The ICOM Award for Sustainable Development Practice in Museums is the first global award that recognises innovative initiatives and exemplary practices that contribute meaningfully to sustainable development within the museum sector.

Following the call for applications in 2024, and with the valued support of our ICOM Bodies, the ICOM Award received 130 eligible submissions from 60 countries—a powerful demonstration of the sector's engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals.



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

ICOM GENERAL CONFERENCE DUBAI 2025

New Executive Board for ICOM

- President: Antonio Rodríguez (ICOM USA)
- Vice-Presidents: Nasir Al Darmaki (ICOM UAE), Tayeebeh Golnaz Golsabahi (ICOM Iran)
- Treasurer: Goranka Horjan (ICOM Croatia)
- Ordinary members: Muthoni Thang'wa (ICOM Kenya), Joana Sousa Monteiro (ICOM Portugal), Yuji Kurihara (ICOM Japan), Marília Bonas (ICOM Brazil), Kaja Sirok (ICOM Slovenia), Steph Scholten (ICOM UK), Feng Zhao (ICOM China), Jody Steiger (ICOM Costa Rica), Deborah Tout Smith (ICOM Australia), Catherine C. Cole (ICOM Canada), Ech-Cherki Dahmali (ICOM Morocco)
- Chairperson of the Advisory Council: Yvonne Ploum (ICOM Netherlands)
- Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council: Eunice Báez Sánchez (ICOM Costa Rica)



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

PUBLICATIONS

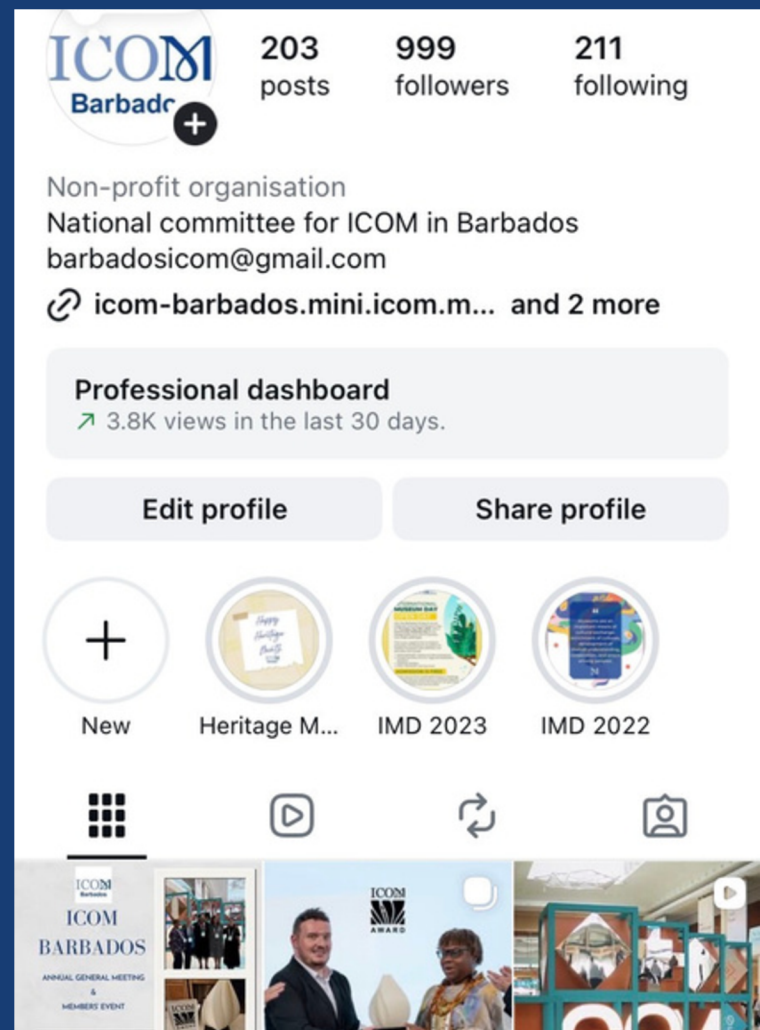
Re-connections. ICOM LAC Regional Meeting: Museums heading to Dubai 2025, held from October 21 to 24, 2024, in Santiago, Chile, brought together representatives of the National Committees of the International Council of Museums of Latin America and the Caribbean (hereinafter ICOM LAC), and experts, professionals, and key players in the museum sector, who reflected on the progress and challenges facing museums in the region. In this context, the ICOM LAC Board of Directors proposed fundamental topics that were addressed in depth together with the participants of the meeting: collaborative governance, sustainability, the link between museums and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (hereinafter, Agenda 2030), museum training, and community participation. The importance of promoting contextualized, participatory, and adaptable cultural policies to strengthen transparency in management and consolidate strategic alliances between the public, private, and community sectors was recognized. Likewise, the role of ICOM as a mediator and promoter of international standards for ethics, autonomy, and professionalization of museums was emphasized.



PUBLIC RELATIONS



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FACEBOOK

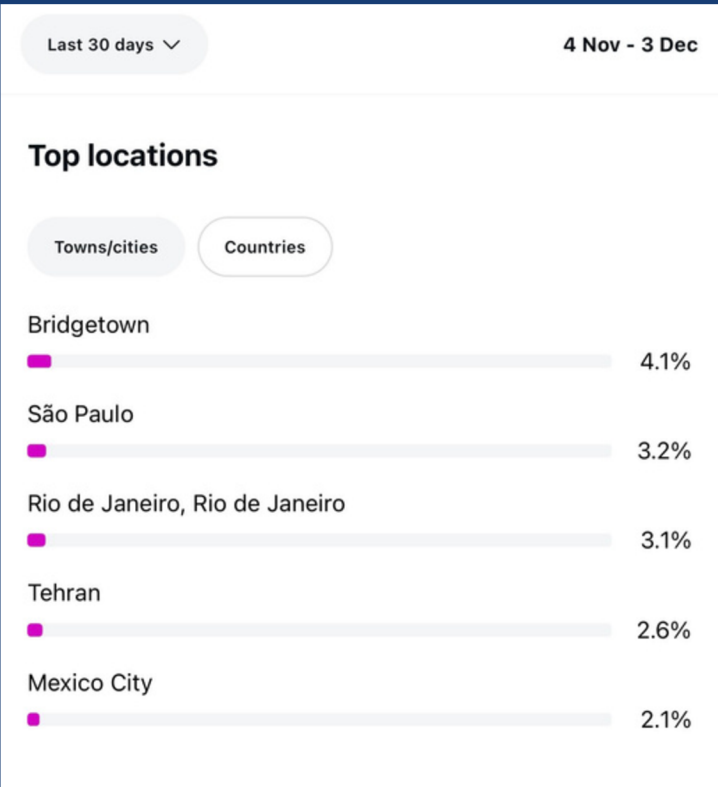
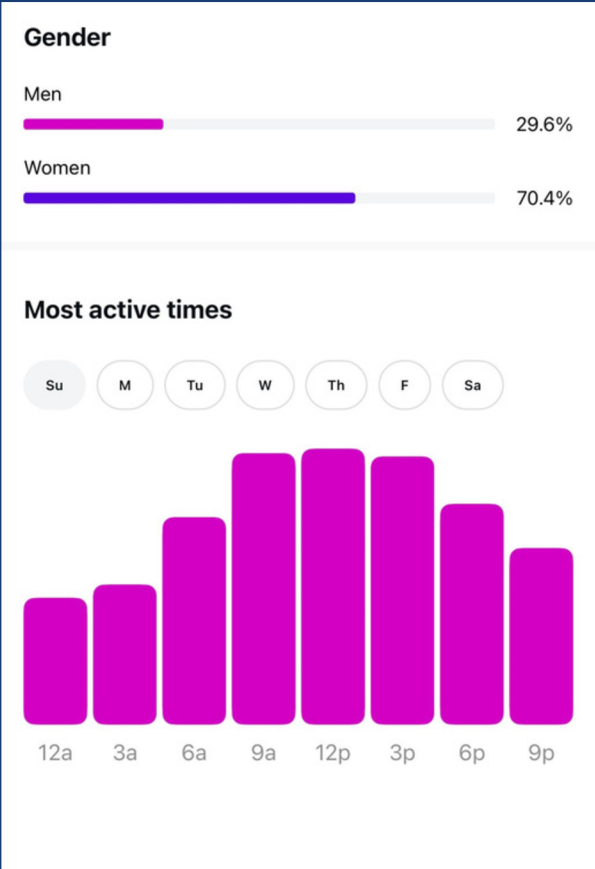
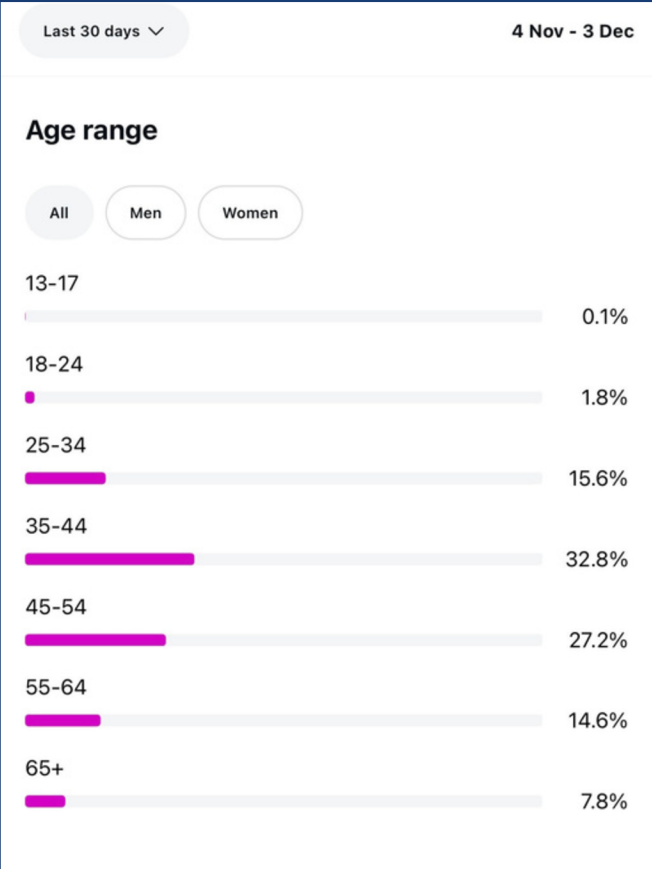


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INSTAGRAM

The Public Relations sector of the ICOM Barbados Executive Committee has continued to grow its online audiences through social media; providing platforms to highlight the activities of ICOM Barbados Members; implementing online engagement programming; and connecting the work of ICOM Barbados with other National and International ICOM Committees.

Between 2024 – 2025, the ICOM Barbados social media grew at a moderate rate. The Facebook account grew from 1087 followers in November of 2024 to 1096 followers in November 2025. The ICOM Barbados Instagram page grew from 957 followers in November of 2024 to 999 followers in November 2025.

PUBLIC RELATIONS



FINANCIAL REPORT

	Incoming	Outgoing	Total
Fees Collected	7125		7125
Fees Paid to ICOM Paris 1st		-2759.55	4365.45
2% Fee		-55.19	4310.26
Fees Paid to ICOM Paris 2nd		-740.48	3569.78
2% Fee		-14.81	3554.97
Bus ride	1740		5294.97
Coach		-900	4394.97
Meals		-660	3734.97
Tour Guides		-200	3534.97
Walking tour		-100	3434.97
<i>AI Symposium on Caribbean Arts</i>		-500	2934.97
Monthly Banking Charges		-206.5	2728.47
Closing Balance			2728.47

APPENDICES