

**DEMHIST General Assembly
Virtual – October 8th, 2021**

Participants:

DEMHIST board: Amilcar Vargas (Treasurer), Antonio Ponte (Vice Chair), Cecilia Casas Santes, Dalia Gallico, Denis Verdier-Magneau, Maria Szadowska, Remko Jansonius (Secretary), Timna Seligman (Vice Chair), Yoshihiro Nakatani, Yvonne Ploum (Chair)

DEMHIST members: Carl Nold, Debra Reid, Elena Alliaudi, **Eigenaar (?)**, Francesca Baldry, Frank Louhenapessy, Gianluca Kannès, Hélène Legrand, Jurn Buisman, Liisa Okari, Lourdes Monges, Véronique Fehmers, Vicky Kruckeberg, Ximena Jordán,

Guests: Alžběta Horáčková, Martina Lehmannová (both from ICOM Prague)

Tech Support: Anita Portanje (Erfgoed Academie)

Minutes prepared by Remko Jansonius (Secretary)

The meeting took place online via ZOOM, as part of the 2021 DEMHIST conference, from the studio of the Heritage Academy (Erfgoed Academie) in Amersfoort, the Netherlands.

The minutes follow the order of the agenda.

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (5'30")

Yvonne Ploum, DEMHIST Chair, opens the meeting at 14:00 CET and welcomes everyone to the 2021 General Assembly. Yvonne gives a brief overview of what we can expect during the meeting. She asks those present if anyone wishes to add anything to the existing agenda; no comments.

Yvonne then extends the invitation for (self-)nominations to be the host country for the DEMHIST conference in 2023.

2. Authorization of 2020 GA minutes including Q&A and vote (9'45")

Yvonne asks if there are any comments or questions about the minutes of the 2020 General Assembly, which took place online November 19. No comments. Minutes are approved.

One topic worth highlighting here, is that the board decided to apply some of the DEMHIST budget to provide complimentary registration to ICOM/DEMHIST members of ICOM Category 3 and 4 countries and students, in order to invite broader participation from countries which are often underrepresented in DEMHIST activities and meetings. This is also reflected in the budget report which is presented next.

3. Chair Report 2020-21 Q&A, vote (11'20")

Yvonne presents the chair report, which among other things, reports on various online activities – for the first time - because of the pandemic. Her comments follow the Chair Report that had been distributed prior to the General Assembly. You can find the entire report on the DEMHIST website at https://icom-demhist.org/governance/?id=3&c_id=3

There were no questions following Yvonne's report. The vote to approve the Chair Report was 100% in favor (total votes 16).

4. Financial Report 2020 Q&A, vote (20'40")

Amilcar Vargas, DEMHIST Treasurer, presents the DEMHIST Financial Report, which can be found on pages 2-6 of the document that was shared prior to the meeting, and can be found here: <https://icom-demhist.org/governance/>

Yvonne asks for any questions on last year's financial report (there aren't any), and calls for a vote for approval of the report. 89% vote in favor and 11% abstain (total votes 19), so the Financial Report 2020 has been approved.

5. Updated Budget 2020-21 Q&A, vote (26'45")

Amilcar continues with the Updated Budget for 2021, which can be found in the same document (pages 7-8): <https://icom-demhist.org/governance/>

Yvonne invites questions from the members (there aren't any), and call for a vote. This results in 94% in favor, and 6% abstain (total votes 18); the Updated Budget 2021 has been approved.

6. Budget 2021-22 Q&A, vote (31'20")

Amilcar continues with the proposed budget for 2022, which can be found in the same document (pages 9-11): <https://icom-demhist.org/governance/> Yvonne provides some additional comments about Prague-related expenses, and asks the members for comments or questions. There aren't any. Yvonne calls for a vote, which results in 89% in favor, and 11% abstain (19 total votes.) Thus, the Proposed Budget for 2022 is approved. Yvonne thanks Amilcar for preparing the budgets, and both she and Amilcar acknowledge and thank Frank Louhenapessy, DEMHIST treasurer prior to Amilcar, for his support and guidance.

7. Committee (Working Group) Activities 2020-21 (37'50")

Yvonne introduced the various Working Groups that exist within the DEMHIST board: Outreach, Grants, Communications, Conference, Governance.

Outreach Working Group

Antonio Ponte (Vice Chair) reports on this Working Group's activities. The goal is the work with different regions in the world, and Antonio has been working specifically with (Portuguese-speaking) Brazil and Mozambique. He has met with ICOM-Brazil and ICOM-Mozambique. Antonio brings up the issue that all committee documents are in English, and (sometimes) in French and Spanish. There are therefore efforts underway to translate some materials in Portuguese, as well as Japanese with the support of board member Yoshihiro Nakatani.

Governance Working Group

Remko Jansonius (Secretary) reports on the three areas of activities of this Working Group. First, the ICOM and DEMHIST Strategic Plans. In April 2021, the International Committees Working Group (ICWG) held a webinar on strategic planning for international committees. In September, a survey was sent out to the international committees, and forwarded to all DEMHIST members to provide feedback on the objectives and strategies that ICOM

should focus on for 2022-25. This has resulted in the presentation of the new ICOM Strategic Plan in Prague, and its approval by the members. Based on this plan, DEMHIST will develop its new strategic plan in 2022-23

Second, ICOM has been working on an updated Code of Ethics. Considering the large number of requests from ICOM for input and feedback, Yvonne has provided feedback on the draft code on behalf of DEMHIST. The new Code of Ethics was also approved in Prague in October.

Third, the development process of a new Museum Definition, led by the new working ICOM Define, has seen a lot of activity, with several opportunities for DEMHIST members to provide feedback on various keywords, concepts, drafts and versions. Requesting initial input from DEMHIST members in the form of keywords to be included in the new definition, resulted in the relatively large number of 87 responses! Remko provides some additional details on the rest of the process, which eventually resulted in the adoption of the new definition during the ICOM General Assembly in Prague.

Finally, Remko refers to the ICOM member space, which provides a lot of information on this as well as other topics relevant to ICOM and its members. He furthermore asks everyone to go into their online ICOM profile to make sure that information is corrected and updated.

Communications Working Group (18-30)

Timna Seligman (Vice Chair) reports on the three main areas of activities for this Working Group. First, to support email communications with the DEMHIST membership.

Second, prepare and publish proceedings of previous conferences. Because of the prolonged pandemic furlough of Royal Places staff, proceedings of the 2017 London conference are backed up; it is the plan to pick this up this year. Development of the 2018 Baku and 2019 Kyoto conferences is in progress. Big thank you to DEMHIST member Vicky Kruckeberg for helping edit these documents. The board has not yet decided how to create proceedings of the 2021 Virtual Conference.

The third area of activities is social media. Efforts are being made to grow the audiences for DEMHIST through Facebook and Twitter. Timna acknowledges and thanks fellow board member Cecilia Casas Desantes for working on this. And a big thank you to Kerron Lewis who has provided support for successful promotion of the virtual conference.

Since the DEMHIST 2021 conference website was presented as a separate platform, activities on the DEMHIST website itself have been minimal for a while. With the conference over, the Working Group will resume posting information on the main website.

Additionally, Yvonne acknowledges Timna as the only native English speaking board member, and thanks her for the editing of all materials that is being produced.

Grants Working Group (50'15")

Remko reports on the activities of this Working Group. First, the Jeanne Watson Bursary for a young professional to attend the annual conference is on hold until the next real-time conference in Prague. The ICOM Young Professional Travel Grant was not available during this pandemic year either. The Special Projects Grant is still pending pay out to two grantees of the previous year. For this year, funds were allocated to DEMHIST members of Category 3 and 4 countries, as previously reported. This resulted in 22 individuals being able to attend the virtual conference.

Finally, Fondazione Adolfo Pini has provided a 3,000 euro grant for a research project, as reported in the Chair Report. It is the hope to expand the pool of grantee candidates next year. Stay tuned for the report from the researcher, Angelica Piras.

Conference Working Group (51'00")

Yvonne reports on this Working Group's activities, which have focused primarily on the organization of the virtual conference which just took place. Planning for the Prague conference has also begun, which will be addressed in the next agenda item.

8. National Groups (54'40")

Mexico National Group (55'00")

Lourdes Monges reports on this National Group, stating that a strong group exists of 14 museums who have been working together for almost 15 years. Their working together has been important during this difficult time of the pandemic. On November 10 they will have a small conference to discuss small museums' experiences during the pandemic.

Italy National Group (57'10")

Gianluca Kannès reports that the new chair of the group is Monica Bietti. The proceedings of their Bathroom conference (which DEMHIST provided a grant for) are about to be published. A next project may address the bedroom in the house museum.

Remko acknowledges and thanks DEMHIST board member Dalia Gallico, through whose work the research project funded by the Fondazione Adolfo Pini came about.

Portugal National Group (1.00'30")

Antonio reports that the group's annual meeting did not happen last year because of the pandemic. However, their book on 10 years of house museums and conferences was published (and is available on the DEMHIST website) in Portuguese. They will work on an English translation. A joint meeting between ICOM Portugal and ICOM Mozambique took place to discuss house museums in Mozambique.

Yvonne thanks every one of the national groups, acknowledging the good work that continues in spite of the pandemic hardships. Timna briefly reports that while an Israel National Group was in the making, the pandemic put all of that on hold.

BREAK

9. Prague 2022 (1.03'30")

Yvonne welcomes our guests Alžběta Horáčková and Martina Lehmannová of ICOM Prague. Martina, chair of ICOM Czech, shares a Powerpoint presentation with information about everything related to the upcoming ICOM triennial in Prague, 20-28 August 2022, including design of the ICOM Prague visuals, the conference center, public transportation, accommodations, the schedule and program, social/evening events, excursions and post-conference tours, etc. She speaks of the conference's theme, "The Power of Museums," and the four subthemes (Purpose, Sustainability, Vision, and Delivery), and of the hybrid format of the conference.

(1.17'40") Alžběta Horáčková, responsible for communications with international committees, offsite meetings and social programs, continues with the presentation. She introduces The Prague City Museum and the

Norbertov Study Center where the DEMHIST offsite meeting will start, with visits to the Villa Müller and Villa Rothmayer.

(1.22'00") In response to a question from Yvonne, Martina explains that it is not yet clear whether the General Assemblies of international committees will occur as part of the ICOM Prague conference. Considering the need for multiple spaces with virtual presentation capabilities this may not be possible.

(1.28'00") Yvonne continues by talking about the conference's theme, "The Power of Museum" and how DEMHIST will use the three timeslots that are available in the ICOM conference schedule. She suggests two 90" timeslots for paper sessions (on Risk Management and on the Power of Museums) and one session jointly with other committees. Yvonne asks for feedback from the members. Carl Nold, DEMHIST member, responds by wondering whether security is a big issue for house museums. Timna Seligman responds that security needs to be approached from a broader perspective, beyond theft. Antonio Ponte comments that there is a need to address the topic from the perspective of risk management.

(1.37'10") Maria Szadkowska, DEMHIST board member, Head of the Centre for Monuments of Modern Architecture in Prague, and curator of the two modernistic villas in Prague (Villa Müller and Villa Rothmayer) gives a preview of the offsite meeting that will take place as part of the conference. She proposes the two topics (Learning to Dwell, and Sustainability vs. Authenticity) and invites DEMHIST to reflect on these topics at the offsite meeting in Prague.

10. Activities 2022, Prague run-up (1.44'20")

Yvonne shares that the DEMHIST board is planning to have at least two webinars, working towards the Prague conference, and asks members for specific topics they would like to see addressed during these webinars. Jur Buisman suggests music in house museums, with connected themes of inclusion and decolonization, and shares this link in the chat:

www.beethovenisblack.nl. Ximena Jordán states in the chat that archives are an urgent matter for house museums. Yvonne states that a Call for Papers for Prague will be sent out soon.

11. Call for host country DEMHIST conference 2023 (1.49'30")

Yvonne introduces the invitation for proposals to host the DEMHIST 2023 conference. Amilcar mentions the possibility to host the 2023 or a future conference in Barcelona, Spain. Mozambique is being mentioned. A call for proposals will be sent out soon.

12. Any Other Business open microphone (1.52'00")

Yvonne opens the floor to any comments or questions. Carl Nold takes to the mic to congratulate the board and thank them for the very good work over the past two difficult years. Francesca Baldry comments on the format of the conference, being international and online, and on the topic, being sustainability, and thanks the board and everyone involved, expressing the hope that the conference will lead to an online publication.

13. Closing (1.56'20")

Yvonne thanks her team at Erfgoed Academie for making this online conference possible, and everyone for attending. She closes the 2021 DEMHIST conference at 16:00 CET.

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