

## **CHAIR REPORT – 2022-2023**

Please note that this report covers the period of 2022 and 2023 up until the sending of the report.

### **Activities – symposiums, conferences, webinars**

During 2022-2023 the following events were held – these were either DEMHIST events or collaborations in which DEMHIST was a partner:

#### **Annual Conference 2022**

##### **2022 26th ICOM Triennial: The Power of Museums (Prague)**

**August 20 – 26 2022**

**The annual DEMHIST Conference for 2022, ‘The Power of Historic House Museums,’ was held as a hybrid event during 4 days of the Triennial Conference in Prague, in collaboration with the Prague City Museum and several other committees. DEMHIST's conference comprised a casual evening pre conference reception on 21 August, held at the Manes Art Restaurant; three sessions at the conference center; and one day of offsite meetings.**

DEMHIST held two paper sessions during the conference at the Prague Conference Center: one about the conference theme of The Power of Museums, that was focused on how the theme relates to historic house museums; and the second as a follow up of our 2021 conference on Sustainability with a 2022 focus on the subjects of Disaster Risk Management and Resilience. DEMHIST was part of a joint session in collaboration with DRMC, ICMS, ICOM-CC and ICOM-JAPAN. The topic of the session was: Resilience of Historic House Museums and their Collections to Risks Posed by Climate Change, Environmental Disasters, and Conflict Zones. These sessions were very well attended (standing room only), and were all hybrid, with both physical and virtual presenters and participants. Each paper session had 60 attendees, each session had 5 presentations - a total of 10 speakers and 2 moderators. In each session, two presentations were given via hybrid attendance. The joint session had 100 attendees with 6 speakers and 2 moderators (DEMHIST and ICOM CC chairs.) One presentation was given via hybrid attendance.

**In addition, we had our DEMHIST offsite meeting and an informal pre-conference reception before we started our conference. The host institution for our offsite meeting was the Study and Documentation Center Norbertov (part of Prague City Museum). The topic of our Off-Site Meeting was Lasting Values Through Unique Architectural Spaces.**

#### **The paper sessions:**

##### **DEMHIST Paper Session 1 (22 August 2022, 16.00 – 17.30)**

*"The Power of Historic House Museums"* was chaired and moderated by DEMHIST Vice chair Timna Seligman (Israel). The session tried to highlight the unique position of Historic House

Museums, and what their special powers may be: Does the power lie in the spaces themselves – in the nexus of authenticity and memory that create the historic house museum experience of historic structure, collections, and narrative? How does this power continue to resonate and remain relevant? How does current digital innovation align with topics such as historical authenticity, visitor experience and collection care? Presenting topics as diverse as barrier free visits, restitution, historical activism and contemporary visitor involvement, we heard from Sergio Servellon (Belgium), Milja Stijovic (Serbia), Linda Norris (USA), Bo Shung Chen (Taiwan). Unfortunately, technological issues prevented us from hearing from Cristina Fiordimela, Italy, but her paper along with those of the other presenters will be available on the DEMHIST website in the near future.

#### **DEMIST Paper Session 2 (23 August 2022, 16.30 – 18.00)**

"*House Museums and Risk Management*" was chaired and moderated by DEMHIST Vice chair António Ponte (Portugal). The session focused on issues widely discussed within the museum community: considering the need to preserve cultural heritage, physical collections, and intangible contexts. The objective in risk management is to serve the museum's internal purposes and to support the surrounding communities in the preparation of risk mitigation actions. In a fully attended session, we heard five presentations by Emma Coburn (UK), Remko Jansonius and Rebecca Peterson (USA), Martin Roubicek (Czech Republic), Iveta Černá (Czech Republic) and Sing-da Huang (Taiwan) on the subject with very different scopes: climate change to the security issues of museum institutions; issues of authenticity and reuse of structures; problem solving in the event of fires; and political issues of use and appropriation of cultural heritage. This session has opened up a debate that needs to be continued on all levels and in all variables in order to find mechanisms to reduce these different types of risks for cultural heritage in general and in particular for house museums.

#### **Joint Session (23 August 2022, 14.30 – 16.00)**

##### **Resilience of historic house museums and their collections to risks.**

Together with ICOM-CC, DRMC, ICMS, ICTOP, INTERCOM and ICOM JAPAN, DEMHIST organized an inspiring expert session on *Resilience of Historic House Museums and their Collections to Risks posed by Climate Change, Environmental Disasters, and Conflict Zones*. A keynote by Takeyuki OKUBO (Japan) and five panelists (Achal Pandya (India), Yuji Kurihara (Japan), Remko Jansonius (USA), Stacy Bowe and Liz Kirby (USA) addressed every aspect of the main topic. We heard about involving the community in protection historic sites, playing disaster games to provide creative solutions to the challenges, about making historical water basins usable again, about creating a network of all stakeholders and institutions that you need if crises occur and about ways to value your collection (house and artifacts), to prevent you from choices when there is no time to weigh. Almost 100 museum and heritage professionals participated in the round table discussion.

#### **Offsite Meeting (25 August all day)**

##### **The Prague City Museum, Study and Documentation Center Norbertov**

##### **"Lasting Values Through Unique Architectural Spaces"**

The day began at the Study and Documentation Center Norbertov, with introductory comments by DEMHIST Chair Yvonne Ploum, followed by presentations by Maria Szadkowska, DEMHIST board member and Head of the Centre for Monuments of Modern

Architecture (CPMA) and Petr Krajčí, Curator of CPMA. The meeting included the screening of a documentary film about the restoration of the Villa Müller, one of the first examples of the restoration of a modernist architectural monument in Eastern Europe and the first house museum in the Czech Republic.

Ranáta Hajnová, Production and Museum Educator of CPMA, and her staff provided excellent tours of two villas: Villa Müller (1930), designed by Adolf Loos, served as a prime illustration of Loos's concept of "dwelling" and "Raumplan." Villa Rothmayer (1929), designed by Otto Rothmayer, who also oversaw the restoration of Prague Castle, provided an interesting contrast between its working-class design and interiors as compared to Villa Müller's more upper-class interiors. A sumptuous lunch buffet, accompanied by live music, was served in the garden of Villa Müller. The day concluded in the garden of Villa Rothmayer, with afternoon refreshments and an optional collage-making workshop.

### **The 2022 General Assembly was held online on October 27 2022.**

Please see the accompanying document for the minutes of the meeting.

The meeting was attended by 23 members (board and general) as well as an additional 5 guests.

### **2022 Activities: DEMHIST National Groups**

#### **Portugal**

8th Meeting of the Portuguese Association of House Museums:

On the 12th and 13th of December, the 8th Meeting of the Portuguese Association of Houses-Museum – APCM will take place. The event will be held at Chamusca with the theme "Thinking about House-Museums for the Future".

For two days, this meeting brought together several house-museum professionals to discuss models of action, security plans and ways of mediating the houses and their collections. DEMHIST was represented by António Ponte who presented DEMHIST to the participants as well as its main activities.

During 2022, several meetings were held with ICOM members from the PALOP countries (Portuguese speakers) in order to make known the mission of DEMHIST and the actions it has been developing, namely in the context of sustainability and risk management.

#### **Mexico**

The Mexican National Group held an Earthquake simulation and survival training course and took part in an educational Museum rally placing focus on House Museums.

#### **Brazil**

With the members of ICOM Brazil, we have also sought to expand DEMHIST's support base in this country. To this end, we participated in two meetings, trying to translate a set of documents into Portuguese to make them more accessible to a greater number of people. We seek to encourage the participation of workers in house museums in DEMHIST activities,

especially those that take place online.

### **Research**

Board member Dalia Gallico (Italy) was able to secure a subsidy from the Fondazione Adolfo Pini in Milan (Italy) in the amount of € 3,000. Funds were to be used for a research program related to the challenges raised by the (then) current pandemic and house museums' resilience, exploring promising new models following the COVID-19 crisis. DEMHIST contracted with a scholar, Angelica Piras, to develop and conduct a survey of historic house museums. A first version of this very ambitious survey was developed. The first payment of € 1,500 was made to the researcher. However, before the survey could be implemented, the project had to be canceled because of serious problems at the Foundation, which at this time remains closed. The remaining funds (€ 1,500) were returned to the foundation. While this was intended to be a pilot for a possibly recurring collaboration with other financing Foundations, it is not known if any of this will happen in the future.

### **Training**

DEMHIST had the lead in the proposal for a Solidarity Project for Ukrainian Museum professionals. We developed a training programme for Ukrainian museum professionals together with ICOM-CC, ICMEMO, CAMOC, ICDRMC, ICMS, ICAMT. Unfortunately, the project was not granted by SAREC. Hopefully it will be possible to implement this programme in the future.

DEMHIST put the Padlet from our 2021 conference on Sustainability in the resource section of our website. This will open up all the knowledge shared in the conference by sustainability and museum professionals with the wider museum community.

The DEMHIST Board has six active working groups to coordinate DEMHIST activities: Governance, Grants, Communications, Conference, Elections and Outreach.

### **Publications**

The digital e-book proceedings from the symposium "Hygiene and Bathrooms in the House-Museums of the Twentieth Century: Objects, Spaces, Practices," held on March 15, 2019 and supported by the Commission of ICOM Italia, in partnership with Fondazione Adolfo Pini and FAI (The National Trust for Italy) and hosted in Milano at Villa Necchi, Campiglio, Milan were published and posted on the DEMHIST website. The proceedings are in Italian and include articles from 18 contributors.

The digital proceedings from the joint DEMHIST-ICDAD conference "Decorative Arts and Interiors" (Baku, 2018) were edited and uploaded to our website.

Our 2021 online conference on Sustainability provided the platform to develop an online body of knowledge about museums and sustainability. The link to the conference Padlet which functions as the conference proceedings was uploaded to our website.

## **2023 Activities and Webinars**

### **Extraordinary General Assembly, February, 14, 2023**

Please see the accompanying document for full minutes of the meeting.

The primary reason that this Extraordinary General Assembly was called was for the DEMHIST membership to discuss and approve the amended bylaws. This was accomplished through a 100% in favor vote. Additionally, we shared that this year, 2023, is the year of the board election for DEMHIST, and invited people to consider submitting their candidacies.

### **Webinars**

We organized three webinars in 2023:

#### **March 28 'On our way to Belgrade'**

Milja Stijović, Yugoslav Film Archive presented the theme, the subthemes and the website Belgrademhist 2024. Amilcar Vargas, treasurer of the DEMHIST board presented the funding opportunities. (ca. 26 registrations)

#### **June 1 DEMHIST Elections Board 2023-2026**

In the webinar we introduced the participants to the work of the board and the five DEMHIST working groups: Governance, Communications, Outreach, Grants, Conference. We also presented the Membership Space and the Toolkit for IC's on the ICOM-website. Two previous board members: Daniela Bal and Aysen Savas shared their experiences as board members. Remko Jansonius, DEMHIST secretary presented the timeline and the steps on the way to the elections. (ca. 22 registrations)

#### **October 9 Meet the Candidates**

In the webinar the 15 candidates for the DEMHIST board 2023-2026 presented themselves and their candidacy to the DEMHIST members attending the webinar. There was a Q&A with the candidates and the participants. Remko Jansonius, DEMHIST secretary presented the timeline and rules and tips for the voting process. (ca. 25 registrations)

### **Grants**

In 2022, DEMHIST offered two funding opportunities to its members:

The Jeanne Watson Bursary, which provides support to a young professional to attend the annual conference - the ICOM triennial in Prague in this case. The grant was given to Alice Legé;

and the Special Project Grant to support initiatives from historical house museum professionals worldwide that contribute to their dissemination, conservation, restoration, and research. DEMHIST promotes these funding opportunities and the Call for Applications through email, the DEMHIST website, and social media.

In 2022 DEMHIST provided a “Special Project Grant,” ranging from 600 to 1,000 euros, in support of member activities, including: 1: “Constructive Collaboration between Palace- and Castle Museums and Academia,” a one-day hybrid workshop at the Royal Lazienki Museum in Warsaw, Poland, and online on September 22, 2022. 2: “Gian Giacomo Poldi Pezzoli between Milan and Europe. Travels, connections and patterns of taste of a mid-19th century collector,” an international study day that took place at the Poldi Pezzoli Museum in Milan, Italy, on October 11th 2022. 3: “Paikan henki” (Spirit of the Place), a two-day conference that took place in Järvenpää, Finland. The conference, which took place on November 17 and 18, 2022, included keynote speakers, presentations, and moderated panel discussions.

In 2023 we received four applications for a Special Project grant. After careful review we awarded the following three proposed projects:

- Fernanda Guimarães (Brazil) for a symposium (€ 1,000)
- Jadwiga Rodowicz-Czechowska (Poland) for a publication (€ 1,000)
- Laura Luse (Latvia) for a publication (€ 675)

### **Partnerships and collaboration**

Demhist worked closely together with ICOM-CC, DRMC, ICMS, ICTOP, INTERCOM and ICOM JAPAN in our joint session in the Triennial Conference in Prague. These connections then developed into DEMHIST taking the lead on the proposal for a SAREC solidarity project for Ukrainian museum professionals with ICOM-CC, ICMEMO, CAMOC, ICDRMC, ICMS, ICAMT and ICOM-Ukraine.

DEMHIST works together with the ErfgoedAcademie in the Netherlands. This collaboration enables professional webinars and virtual conferences.

### **Online communication**

#### **Website**

We have expanded, and have plans to continue expanding, material available through our website.

#### **Social Media**

We have undertaken concerted efforts to seek the accounts of and to “follow” both individual and institutional DEMHIST members on Twitter, in the anticipation that they will follow us back. Additionally, both on Facebook and on Twitter we have become more active by more “liking” and reposting or more retweeting relevant posts and tweets.

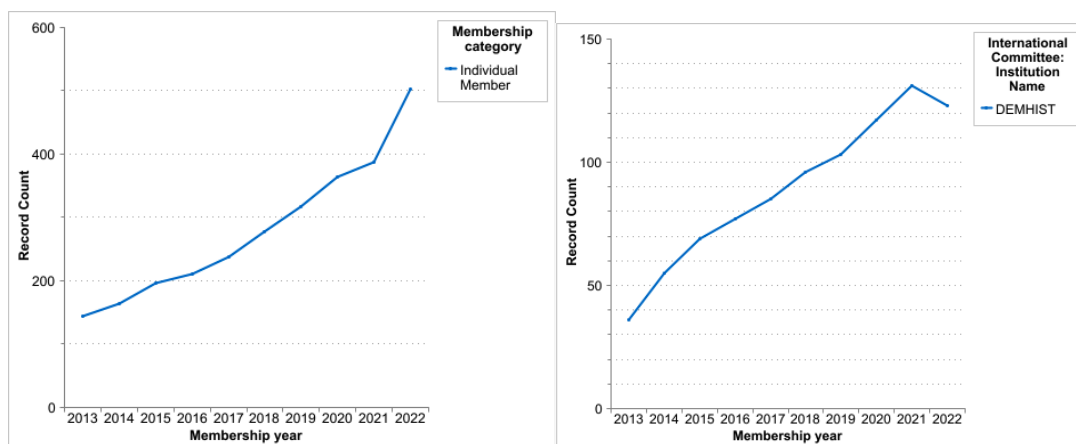
**Twitter:** Our account gained 127 new followers during 2022, and until September 2023, gained an additional 46 followers bringing the total to 832. We followed about 50-55 accounts (institutional members) during the year. We created two lists, and a new direct message group. We also helped the ICOM official account with a document of social media recommendations and started to publish #followfriday tweets to engage our institutional members community.

**Facebook:** Over the year, our account grew from 1387 to 1753 followers. The account was used extensively for promoting our webinars and the conference, and the direct messenger is a useful tool for communicating with followers.

### Newsletter

Until recently we shared information with the membership irregularly. Starting in September 2022, as a “highlights from the Prague conference,” we have started to share news, including recent and upcoming DEMHIST activities and important ICOM events in the form of a brief newsletter. This newsletter has become a quarterly mailing and was sent in January, April and August. It is one of the board’s aims to communicate in a better, more frequent, and more comprehensive manner with our members. The newsletter will include as needed information about upcoming grant opportunities, upcoming conferences, and events of DEMHIST members, etc. The newsletter is distributed to our mailing list via MailChimp and also published on the DEMHIST website and links posted in social media.

### Membership



Number of Members in 2022:

- 2022 Individual Members: 502
- 2022 Institutional Members: 123
- TOTAL: 625

Number of Members in 2021:

- 2021 Individual Members: 388
- 2021 Institutional Members: 131
- TOTAL: 519

Combined membership represents 69 countries and all 6 ICOM regions.

From 2021 to 2022 we saw an increase in Individual Members of 114 (29.3 %), an ongoing trend, which gained additional momentum from 2021 to 2022. During that same period there was a decrease in Institutional Members of 8 (6.1 %).

### Board Activities

In 2022 and 2023 the (members of the) board met several times online: full board meetings, Executive Bureau meetings and working group meetings. In 2022 the board met in August in

person in Prague and in February 2023 in Porto for a two-day board retreat. During that meeting the board set the agenda for the remaining months of its term.

The Demhist Board continued to do much of its work through its 6 working groups: Grants, Communications, Outreach, Conference and Governance.

In January 2023 we installed a new working group: Elections. The working group on elections prepared the documents, the emailings and all the necessary information for the elections taking place during the General Assembly in Belgrade, October, 26, 2023. Daniela Ball (Switzerland) has agreed to serve as “independent observer” of the election process.

The focus through 2023 for the Conference group was on preparation for the Conference in Belgrade with each group preparing programming and material in coordination with our members and the organizing team in Belgrade: Milja Stijovic from the Yugoslav Film Archive, the Scientific Team and ICOM Serbia.

After the work on the amendments to the Demhist bylaws that came up for vote at the 2022 GA October 27 the Working Group Governance supported the other working groups.

Working Group Grants updated and edited all the forms and requirements for the DEMHIST Grants.

Working Group Communications provided materials and posts across all platforms for all DEMHIST activities, in coordination with the various working groups.

### **Activities of the Board Members**

DEM HIST board members generally work with their NCs, in particular ICOM-Czechia, ICOM-Israel, ICOM-Netherlands, ICOM-Portugal, ICOM-Spain, ICOM-Japan, ICOM-US, ICOM-Israel, ICOM-France, ICOM-Italy

DEM HIST chair Yvonne Ploum has worked closely with the chairs of the ICs and was elected IC spokesperson in August 2022. Since then, she has been working with NC spokesperson Muthoni Thangwa (Kenia) in her role as elected spokesperson for the ICs.

The chair attended several meetings of the Advisory Council. In her role as IC-Spokesperson she attended monthly meetings with Emma Nardi, ICOM-president. She also participated in several EB-meetings on certain topics.

DEM HIST Chair Yvonne Ploum, addressed on October 11th 2022, (remotely) opening remarks at: “Paikan henki” (Spirit of the Place), a two-day conference that took place in Järvenpää, Finland.

DEM HIST Chair Yvonne Ploum was one of the speakers at the international symposium To Evaluate Palace Museums in the 21st century, which was held on 25-27 November at Topkapi Palace in Istanbul. At that symposium she presented the DEM HIST castles and palace museums all around the world and their effort to play an important, relevant, and sustainable role for the community.



DEMHIST Vice-Chair Antonio Ponte works closely with the House Museums National Group in Brazil, and on outreach with colleagues in Mozambique.

DEMHIST Secretary Remko Jansonius collaborates with the secretaries of the ICs. In 2020, Remko started a Google group for the secretaries of the International committees. 31 secretaries joined the group, and over the years useful discussions and sharing of information has taken place on several different topics. In 2022 the conversations slowed down, in part because of the Teams platform that had been established for this very purpose. Remko has proposed the dissolution of the google group, and, following an email exchange with Marine Walon (ICOM International Committees Coordinator), further promoted the Teams platform. He will ask, however, if there is an interest among secretaries to have a What's Group set up specifically for the IC secretaries.

Amilcar Vargas resigned from his role as Treasurer, because of other pressing demands. Following consultation with DEMHIST Board members and the ICOM Secretariat, Remko Jansonius, DEMHIST Secretary, volunteered to take on the Treasurer responsibilities until the end of this board's term.