

CHAIR REPORT – 2023-2024

Please note that this report covers the period of 2023 and 2024 up until the sending of the report.

Activities – symposiums, conferences, webinars

During 2023-2024 the following events were held – these were either DEMHIST events or collaborations in which DEMHIST was a partner:

Annual Conference 2023

Remembrances of Things Lost: Triggering the memory of the historic house through loss (and regain), 22-27 October 2023, Yugoslav Film Archive

*The full overview of the conference was sent via email in the DEMHIST Newsletter of 9 December 2023

The annual DEMHIST conference **Remembrances of Things Lost: Triggering the memory of the historic house through loss (and regain)** was held in Belgrade, Serbia on October 22-27 2023. Hosted by the Yugoslav Film Archive, the sessions were held at various museums and sites around the city, creating a dynamic and varied program.

The conference title "Remembrances of Things Lost: Triggering the memory of the historic house through loss (and regain)" encapsulates its theme. The focus of the conference was the involvement of the private (family-held) or state (public) sector house museum in restoring and safeguarding the memory that has been lost for a variety of reasons including war, state confiscation, colonialist actions, and more. The main focus of discussion was on how managing difficult heritage and having challenges with heritage protection (risk management due to natural or human-made disasters) can lead to the same concerns of lost memory. These issues need to be addressed not only in the context of European mid-20th century history, but also across the globe. The conference sub-themes were: Remembrances lost and regained; Historic houses as triggers for community engagement; Changing values.

Sunday, October 22

For participants who arrived early, there was the chance to visit some historic house museums and museums in Belgrade. In the evening, the DEMHIST Meet and Greet was held at the Museum of Science and Technology where participants were hosted and greeted by the director Zoran Lević.

Day 1: Monday, October 23

Morning Sessions

After the Official Opening and introductory speeches by DEMHIST chair Yvonne Ploum, ICOM Serbia Chair Nikola Krstović, and conference organizer Milja Stijović, participants were transferred to the Royal Compound - a complex of residences built by King Alexander I for the Karađorđević royal family between 1924 and 1937.

Afternoon Sessions

Held at the Museum of African Art. The museum's interesting history is rooted in the collections of journalist and diplomat Dr. Zdravko Pečar and his wife Veda Zagorac who donated much of their private collection to the Assembly of the City of Belgrade. It opened to the public in 1977. The Zagorac/Pečar collection forms the basis of the museum's permanent exhibition. The museum curator Milica Pešić Naumov gave a talk about the history and importance of the Museum of African Art in Belgrade.

Keynote speaker: Arc. David Kojo Derban (Ghana), "Survivors of a Forgotten Past – Reviving the Ashanti Traditional Building" spoke about the Ashanti sacred spaces or temples as the only survivors of the unique traditional architecture of the Ashanti after the destruction of the Kingdom's capital city of Kumasi by the British in 1874. This ushered in the age of colonialism and modernism which completely suppressed the artistic Ashanti building traditions and aesthetics to this day. He also prescribed two ways to revive its memory and significance to world architectural cultural heritage. The talk was followed by an interesting discussion moderated by Maria Szadkowska, Head of the Center of the Monuments of the Modern Architecture City of Prague Museum Czech Republic.

The evening reception was held at the House of Jevrem Grujić where participants were greeted by the owner Mr Lazar Šećerović. The house was the first heritage building designated by the Cultural Heritage Protection Institute of the City of Belgrade in 1961.

Day 2: Tuesday, October 24

The second full conference day began with the keynote presentation "Beirut's Afterlife/Afterlives: Heritage, Remembrance and Amnesia by Nelly P. Abboud from Lebanon," and was moderated by Yvonne Ploum. She spoke about Beirut, comparing it to a phoenix that rises from the ashes after being ravaged multiple times. As the capital of Lebanon, Beirut is a city full of contradictions. It has endured various demolitions throughout its ancient and contemporary histories. The city still has problems recovering despite continued efforts to remediate the damage. However, are reconstruction and rehabilitation sufficient to nurture healing, or are remembrance and mourning vital to new beginnings? What steps must be taken to ensure a more stable and healthy revival? Is it possible to rebuild and resist without acknowledging our historical foundations? Finally, why do we hold on to certain memories and forget others?

Morning paper session:

The session "Community Engagement and Changing Values" was moderated by Demhist vice-chair, Antonio Ponte with papers given by Iman Afify (Egypt), Luz Frias-Hernandez and Dr. Stephen Cannon-Brookes (UK), Maria Riadova (Russia), Lingun Li (UK), and Timna Seligman and Meydad Eliyahu (Israel) that explored the way in which memories connected to historic houses and sites are used to build community narrative and action.

Afternoon paper session:

The session "Remembrance Lost & Regained" was moderated by Yvonne Ploum who stepped in for Milja Stijović. The session explored the use of objects to trigger and

support narrative. The session began with a report from the XVI Brazilian Meeting on Palaces and Historic House Museums "The Power of Memory and the Strength of Oblivion" by Paolo Costas and proceeded to presentations by Denise Maior-Barron (UK and Romania, Gabriel de Santa Ana Aguiar (Spain), Yoshihiro Nakatani (Japan), and Nirit Shalev Khalifa (Israel).

Day 3: Wednesday, October 25

The day began with the choice of one of two organized guided walking tours: Sephardic Belgrade (tour initially organized by Instituto Cervantes and Jewish municipality in Belgrade), led by Čedomila Marinković and Belgrade Art Nouveau Architecture led by Vladana Putnik Prica, who initially developed the tour.

Morning session:

Paper session: Experts from Serbia.

Technical issues at the Film Archive required a change of venue for the sessions and the conference was welcomed by the Ethnographic Museum who hosted us for the day. The morning session gave us the opportunity to learn more about the current process of protection of historic houses in Serbia. The experts were from following institutions: Belgrade City Museum (Angelina Bankovic, PhD Museum Advisor), Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia (Ana Radovanac Živanov, Conservator Researcher, Senior Consultant), The Heritage House Belgrade (Dina Debeljak, Curator) and University in Belgrade – Faculty of Philosophy, Art History Department (Vladana Putnik Prica, PhD. Senior Research Associate). Milja Stijović moderated the session and discussion.

Afternoon session:

Paper session: general conference theme

The afternoon paper session on the general conference theme was moderated by Vladana Putnik Prica and included papers by Lidija Cvetić Vučković (Serbia), Vasily Pankratov (Russia), Suzanne Bravery (Australia), Vera Gonçalves (Portugal) and instead of Elizaveta Fokina (Russia), Olga Papadina (Russia) and Alexandra Gerasimova (Russia) presented the paper.

Evening:

The day ended with everyone boarding the Sirena boat cruise along the Danube for the Gala dinner and dance.

Day 4: Thursday October 26

The last day of the conference was held at the Princess Ljubica. Princess Ljubica's Residence is a palace located in Belgrade, designated a Monument of Culture of Exceptional Importance. The residence is one of the most remarkable buildings among the preserved examples of civil architecture in the first half of 19th century Belgrade. Constructed in 1829-30, Prince Miloš planned that the residence would have a twofold purpose – to be a home for his family, Princess Ljubica and his sons Milan and Mihailo, later rulers of Serbia, and also a residential palace.

The General Assembly was for DEMHIST members only, other conference participants were able to enjoy a tour of The Cathedral Church of St. Michael the Archangel and

visit the Serbian Orthodox Church Museum.

Details of the General Assembly are in the minutes of that meeting.

Day 5: Friday October 27

Post Conference Tour

25 participants joined the post-conference tour. The first stop was Krusedol monastery, founded in the early 16th century by members of Serbian medieval dynasty Brankovic. From there, they drove to the close-by baroque town of Sremski Karlovci. They then enjoyed a tour and honey and wine tasting at the Zivanovic family museum of Beekeeping and Winemaking. Next stop was a visit of the magnificent Petrovarad Fortress and exploration of the town of Novi Sad.

In conclusion

A quick summary of the conference shows we had 61 participants from 24 countries, including 10 remote attendees and 7 student volunteers. There were 2 keynote sessions and 4 paper sessions in which 17 papers were presented and 4 lecturers from Serbia. There were also 4 poster presentations which were available for viewing during the conference. The conference changed location 7 times and the tech team, Anita Portanje and Jochem van Rijs from the ErfgoedAcademie in the Netherlands were able to make the remote attendance of the conference possible. They donated their skills to the realization of the conference, which including packing and unpacking their equipment 10 times.

Conference 2024

Following presentation proposals to host the DEMSHIST 2024 conference by India and Georgia, the incoming DEMHIST board selected the proposal made by the Georgian team led by the Tbilisi Museum Union and supported by ICOM-Georgia. ICOM-MPR expressed interest in collaborating in the conference, and together the theme was built for "House Museums at the Crossroads: How Do We Empower Social Change?" combining points of interest for both international committees. The conference was scheduled for 25-29 September 2024.

Throughout the working process, the Georgian team was having to deal with political upheaval and protests on the issue of the "foreign agent law" that would directly affect the ICOM committees in Georgia as well as many of the cultural and museum institutions. In addition to this, elections scheduled for October, just after the conference have made it unclear whether it will be safe or enjoyable to hold a conference in Tbilisi at this time. This issue, in addition to unbridgeable differences of opinion led to the dissolution of the collaboration on the conference.

The DEMHIST conference working group has since worked to create the alternative "Open Talks" event planned for 25-27 November on the topic of "Historic House Museums and Their Communities" which will provide a dynamic platform for the presentation of papers proposed for the original conference as well as additional interactive activities and discussions.

The 2023 hybrid General Assembly was held during the conference on October 26 2023.

Please see the accompanying document for the minutes of the meeting. The meeting was attended by 50 members in person, 18 online (68 total).

Elections for 2023-26 Board

During the General Assembly the results of the election for the new board were announced: The DEMHIST 2023-26 board is made up of Timna Seligman (Israel) as Chair and ten board members: Vice Chairs: Milja Stijović (Serbia) and Roberto Andreu Quevedo (Guatemala); Secretary: Cecilia Casas Desantes (Spain); Treasurer: Frank Louhenapessy (Netherlands); Councilors: António Ponte (Portugal), Caroline Gaillard (France), Gianluca Kannès (Italy), Ximena Jordán (Mexico), Yvonne Ploum (Netherlands), and Zhanna Manukyan (Armenia).

The announcement was an opportunity to thank the parting board, some of whom continue with us, and some who would be leaving official positions within the committee. We truly hope that departing board members Remko Jansonius, Yoshihiro Nakatani, Amilcar Vargas, Dalia Gallico, Denis Verdier-Magneau, and Maria Szadkowska will continue to be involved and active DEMHIST members.

2023 Activities: DEMHIST National Groups

1. The Mexican national group held its annual meeting on 27 November 2023 at The Frida Kahlo Museum, Coyoacán, Mexico City. The subject of the meeting was House Museums and sustainability and included presentations onsite and via zoom and roundtable discussions, as well as a presentation dedicated to the importance of DEMHIST within the local and international house museum network. The meeting was attended by representatives of 11 house museums.

2. The Brazilian national group held its annual conference on June 28-29.23 at the Ema Klabin House Museum in Sao Paolo. The "XVI Brazilian Meeting on Palaces and Historic House Museums: The power of memory and the strength of oblivion" took the new ICOM museum definition as a starting point for broad discussions on memory and the tangible and intangible heritage preserved by the various types of house museums. The main purpose of the event was to reassess the narratives and forms of communication with the public, as well as the memories and forgetfulness that are in the very definition of heritage. Although it focused on specific issues of the situation of Brazilian museums, the meeting was also in line with DEMHIST's conference "Remembrances of Things Lost". In total, 25 people participated of the 3 lectures and 5 roundtables during the two-day event. 31 people from the Ema Klabin House Museum team or hired specifically for the event participated of the production. The symposium received 335 registrations, 212 for online and 123 for in-person participations.

DEMHIST National Groups peer group

On October 9 there was a meeting of representatives of existing DEMHIST affiliated national groups (Mexico, Brazil, Portugal, Italy) to meet with DEMHIST members who had expressed interest in forming or recreating national groups on their own countries (Turkey, Belgium, Finland). The meeting was informal and consisted of short presentations and open discussion. During the meeting, it was decided to meet again with representatives of the 2023-26 board. This meeting was held on June 25 2024. The meeting included the members for the October meeting as well as representatives from Denmark and members of the current Board Outreach WG. We discussed the role of national groups and how they are associated to DEMHIST as each country has a different model and many have independent active house museum associations. Asyen Savas of Turkey and Ximena Jordan of Mexico volunteered to work on guidelines for national groups, the document is still in draft stage.

2023 Webinars

Extraordinary General Assembly, February 14, 2023

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)

In 2024 we organized 2 webinars:

March 26 "Time to change?"

This webinar was an opportunity to learn more about the **Acronym change survey** (see separate topic below) and process from Luis Marcelo Mendes, expert on branding and communication and board member of ICOM MPR.

DEM HIST board member Ximena Jordan also presented the **ICOM Award for Sustainable Development Practice in Museums** and the call for applicants that will go active shortly.

April 3 "On the Road to Tbilisi"

The preparatory webinar for the planned annual conference "House Museums at the Crossroads: How Do We Empower Social Change?" (see report on conference cancelation below). The webinar was an opportunity to learn more about all the conference and Tbilisi has to offer: the theme and sub-themes, the program and the off-site visits. The conference was planned as a collaboration between DEM HIST, MPR, the Tbilisi Museum Union and ICOM Georgia, and during the webinar we heard from all the partners, expanding on their contribution to the event.

Training

DEM HIST joined an initiative led by ICOM-CC to create a consortium of National and International committees as well as regional Alliances and supporting partners (ICOM-Africa, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, France, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles, Spain, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, CIDOC, COSTUME, DEM HIST, DRMC, ICR, ICDAD; and partners, including representatives from: ApoyOnline, ErfgoedAcademie (Netherlands), Moto-Moto Museum (Zambia), National Commission for Museums and Monuments (Nigeria), Stichting ICOM-CC Fund, and University of Pretoria (South Africa)) in proposing a SAREC Solidarity Grant project for 2024:

The award was granted and we are now active partners in the project "**2024 ICOM Solidarity Project: Community-Led Training: Establishing a Foundation for Heritage Conservation in Africa**". This six-month initiative aims to enhance the management of collections in Africa by focusing on three key topics: **Conservation, Risk Assessment, and Documentation**. The program brings together a large consortium of ICOM Committees and members to provide an African perspective on these crucial areas through interviews and round table discussions. The goal is to strengthen the network between African and global museum professionals. Sessions are interactive and participants are asked to complete assignments relating to the discussion topic. The completed assignments will be discussed at subsequent meetings and outcomes will be used to create toolkit guides and videos on each of the three topics.

As of this report, we have finished the first topic "Conservation". This section included a talk by Arc. Kojo Derban on "Inspiring the voice of advocacy in the conservation of cultural heritage". The sessions for the second topic "Risk Management and Agents of Deterioration" will be held in September and October, the material will include an

interview with me as DEMHIST Chair on the topic "Risk Assessment and Management for Historic Building Managers and Curators"

Student placement

DEMHIST was approached by a student, Giusy Guerriero from Italy regarding an internship with us. However, for legislative reasons, ICOM is unable to provide internships. Guisy did not give up – she became a student ICOM member with DEMHIST as her primary committee, and is now working on a volunteer basis with board member Caroline Guillard on the "DEMHIST Houses" section of the website. Thank you Guisy.

Publications

2023: 1. 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.

2. The digital proceedings from the joint DEMHIST-ICDAD conference "Decorative Arts and Interiors" (Baku, 2018) were edited and uploaded to our website. The proceedings are in English and include abstracts from 21 contributors.

3. 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 in English to our website.

2024 the Padlet digital proceedings for the Belgrade conference were added to our website

Grants

In 2023, DEMHIST offered two funding opportunities to its members:

- The Jeanne Watson Bursary supports young professionals of Historic House Museums to attend DEMHIST Conferences and Courses. It is limited to a maximum of €1.000 per applicant annually. This year it was awarded to Luz Frias Hernandez so she could present a paper and attend the DEMHIST annual conference in Belgrade.
- The ICOM Young Member Travel Grant of € 1,200 for 2023 was awarded to Jose Ignacio Camillo Martinez so he could present a paper and attend the DEMHIST annual conference in Belgrade.

Every year, we offer **Special Project Grants** to DEMHIST members, we are usually able to offer 3-5 grants of up to € 1,000 each. In 2023 we awarded 3 grants:

1. Fernanda Guimarães (Brazil) of the Ema Klabin House Museum towards the XVI Brazilian Meeting on Palaces and Historic House Museums: The power of memory and the strength of oblivion" (€ 1,000).
2. Jadwiga Rodowicz-Czechowska (Poland) for a contribution to a publication a trilingual (Polish/English/Japanese) 200 page illustrated book "Different - but still Forefathers' Eve. How Mickiewicz traveled to the Ainu." The book documents an artistic project realized in 2022 in collaboration with Polish and Ainu women activist-artists. The project was hosted at the Józef Piłsudski Museum in Sulejówek. It lasted 10 months and finished with a public recitation in Hokkaido Japan. The project re-interpreted the ethnographical heritage of Bronislaw Pilsudski (1866-1918) within the context of the present Ainu cultural and societal situation (€ 1,000).
3. Laura Luse, Rundale Palace Museum, Latvia for the publication of a series of promotional postcards. To promote the publication "Stoves of Rundale Palace" The postcards were used invitations and souvenirs for events connected to the book launch (€ 675).

In **2024** we received four applications for a Special Project grant. After careful review we awarded the following three proposed projects:

1. Walaa Eldin Badawy, Director of Zafaran Palace Museum, Ain Sham University, Egypt. Virtual tour of Zafaran museum and an archival documentary film about the Zafaran Palace (€ 400)
2. Ruggero Ranieri, Fondazione Ranieri di Sorbello, Italy. Contribution to conference costs on "The bedroom and Its History as an Essential living space". To be held in Venice in November 2024. (€ 800)
3. Rodolfo M. Dela Cruz, De la Cruz Ancestral House Museum, Cavite City, Philippines. Contribution to symposium "Museum Matters Matter: Discussion on Museum Practices in Research and Education". To be held in November 2024 (€ 450)

Partnerships and collaboration

(Proposed in 2023, active in 2024)

As mentioned in the "Training" section, DEMHIST is part of a consortium of committees and alliance working on "2024 ICOM Solidarity Project: Community-Led Training: Establishing a Foundation for Heritage Conservation in Africa"

Acronym change survey

Following an initiative and request of the ICOM Executive Board for all International Committees to consider the practicality and benefits of replacing International Committee acronyms with names reflecting their core area of focus and activity, DEMHIST, as with all other ICs has worked this year on discussing such a change with our members. To this end, we held the webinar "Time to Change?" on March 26 and sent out explanations of the options and process via our email newsletters. The process included an initial in-depth survey that gave an unclear indication of the will of

DEMHIST members and a second, shorter survey that gave a clear result showing that despite the name perhaps not having a clear meaning, the membership is attached to the history behind it and feels it best represents the committee. Therefore, according to the membership's wishes, DEMHIST will remain DEMHIST.

Online communication

Website

As discussed and agreed upon in the 2023 GA, we decided to terminate our contract with an outside website service provider and move the DEMHIST website back to the main ICOM website platform. There we have a "minisite" in line with the other ICs. This move was made since the minisite system has proved reliable, and we will save the annual service provider charge of € 750 per annum. Through the first half of 2024, the material was move across and reformatted by DEMHIST board member Caroline Guillard. The website is located at <https://demhist.mini.icom.museum/> . We are still working on moving some of the resources to the new site and adapting the "DEMHIST Houses" section to a new platform.

Newsletter

During 2023 we published our quarterly newsletter in January, May, August, and December - special summary of Belgrade conference. In it we share news, including recent and upcoming DEMHIST activities and important ICOM events. During 2024, the newsletter has been mailed with more frequency with communications being sent to all members almost monthly – some as newsletters with a number of items and some as reminders on specific topics. It is one of the board's aims to communicate in a better, more frequent, and more comprehensive manner with our members. The newsletter includes 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.

The opening rate of our mailings through the MailChimp platform have increased from 25% to 50% of the recipients since April 2024.

Instagram

The Instagram account @icom.demhist was created on November 30, 2023 when we obviously started from 0. As of August 12, 2024 we have 328 followers and we follow 90 accounts, mainly IC and NC, House Museums and Persons of Interest. The social media team, led by Vice Chair Roberto Andreu actively posts and re-posts stories and items from ICOM and affiliate accounts as well as posts from DEMHIST members.

FaceBook

Icom-Demhist account up to the end of October 2023 had 1820 followers and 269 followed pages. As of August 12, 2024 we have 2006 followers and 287 followed pages. This is an increase of 186 followers and 18 followed pages.

Membership

Number of Members in 2022:

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

Number of Members in 2023:

- 2023 Individual Members: 574
- 2023 Institutional Members: 149
- TOTAL: 723

Number of Members in 2024 (as of August 1):

- 2024 Individual Members: 788
- 2023 Institutional Members: 188
- **TOTAL: 976**

Combined membership represents 75 countries and all 6 ICOM regions, an increase of 7 countries since the last report.

From 2022 to 2023 we saw an increase in Individual Members of 72, an ongoing trend. During the same period from 2022 to 2023 Institutional members experienced an increase of 26 new members, a new trend.

Total increase of members, both Individual and Institutional, was 98.

Board Activities

In 2023 and 2024 the (members of the) board met several times online: full board meetings, Executive Bureau meetings and working group meetings. In February 2023 the board met in Porto for a two-day board retreat. During that meeting the board set the agenda for the remaining months of its term (until GA October 2023). The board again met during the Belgrade conference in October 2023 in a hybrid manner as some members were unable to attend the conference in person.

The Demhist Board continued to do much of its work through its 5 permanent 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 that took place during the General Assembly in Belgrade, October, 26, 2023. Daniela Ball (Switzerland) agreed to serve as “independent observer” of the election process.

The focus through 2023 for the Working Group 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.

The focus for 2024 was initially the Georgia conference, and that has now pivoted to the Open Talks event.

Through 2023, The Working Group Governance supported the other working groups, and in 2024 has been working on the new Strategic Plan.

Working Group Grants updated and edited all the forms and requirements for the DEMHIST Grants as well as selecting and maintaining contact with grantees for special projects and travel grants.

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

Working Group Outreach maintains contact with the various DEMHIST national groups and works to extend our network, with an emphasis in increasing our presence in the Latin American countries.

Activities of the Board Members

DEMHIST 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, ICOM-Mexico, ICOM-Guatemala

Previous DEMHIST chair Yvonne Ploum worked closely with the chairs of the ICs and was elected IC spokesperson in August 2022. Throughout 2023 she worked as both DEMHIST Chair and IC spokesperson, working with NC spokesperson Muthoni Thangwa (Kenya) in her role as elected spokesperson for the ICs, and continues now as Board member and IC Spokesperson.

Timna Seligman, DEMHIST Chair since October 2023 has been working to maintain DEMHIST contacts and collaborations with other ICs. She attended in person the 39th ICOM Ordinary General Assembly and 96th session of the Advisory Council in Marseilles on June 11-12 2024.

Board member Ximena Jordan has taken lead on the ICOM Award for Sustainable Development Practices in Museums for DEMHIST, promoting the award with our member institutions and provided resources for those who wish to apply for the award.

Vice chair Roberto Andreu attended as our official representative a number of meetings and symposia of the Mexican National Group and ICOM-Guatemala.