

**DEMHIIST General Assembly  
Virtual – October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Minutes approved at the **Hybrid General Assembly (Belgrade/Zoom) – October 26th, 2023.**

**Participants:**

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

**DEMHIIST members:** Alice Legé, Carmen Jiménez Sanz, Claudia Collina, Daniel Hupko, Frans Damman, Gianluca Kannès, Johan Møhlenfeldt Jensen, José-Luis Sancho, Jurn Buisman (rep. Museum Geelvinck – Kolthoorn House & Gardens), Laura Luse, Liisa Okari, Milja Sijovic (Jelenic), Roberto Andreu, Siddha Shah, Sophie Harent, Vicky Kruckeberg

**Guests:** Prof. Ambika PATEL (Chair, ICOM India), Maria de Fatima Lambert (Polytechnic of Porto, Portugal), Monica Bietti (Case Museo, Italy), Nikola Krstovic (Chair, ICOM Serbia), Nini Sanadiradze (Tbilisi Museums Union, Georgia)

**Tech Support:** Jochem van Rijs and Anita Portanje of Erfgoed Academie

**Minutes prepared** by Remko Jansonius (Secretary)

**The meeting took place** online via ZOOM (separate from the ICOM triennial in Prague because of logistics), from the studio of the Heritage Academy (Erfgoed Academie) in Amersfoort, the Netherlands.

**The minutes follow** the order of the agenda.

**The meeting starts** at app. 15:00 CET

**1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (0'00")**

Yvonne Ploum, DEMHIST Chair, opens the meeting at 15:00 CET and welcomes everyone to the 2022 General Assembly. Yvonne asks that everyone introduce themselves in the chat, so it will be recorded who is present at the meeting; she gives a brief overview of the agenda, of what we can expect during the meeting. She asks those present if anyone wishes to add anything to the existing agenda; no comments. The agenda is approved.

**2. Authorization of Virtual 2021 GA minutes including Q&A and vote (3'30")**

Yvonne asks Remko Jansonius, DEMHIST Secretary, if he received any questions or comments about the minutes or other documents via email in advance; there were none. Yvonne then asks if there are any questions about the minutes of the 2021 GA (which took place on October 8, 2021, at the end of the virtual conference), and to put them in the chat. There is one suggestion from Jurn Buisman (Museum Geelvinck) in the chat that in the roll call the name of the institutional member is added to that of the representative present. Otherwise, there are no questions or comments. The minutes are approved with a vote of 91% yes; 0% no; 9% abstain. [These minutes have been placed on the DEMHIST website: <https://icom-demhist.org/governance/>]

**3. Chair Report 2021 Q&A, vote (9'55")**

Yvonne explains that every year in January the DEMHIST board needs to submit a report to ICOM SAREC (Strategic Allocation Review Committee) that covers the previous year. The Chair report submitted to the DEMHIST members is based on that report, with the addition of activities of the past year. Yvonne scrolls through the report, with some additional comments, and asks for questions or comments in the chat. Gianluca Kannes asks whether it is possible to have the funds that were transferred to London for the proceedings of the 2017 conference be returned, since the proceedings have not been created; and whether the Pini Foundation funds that must be returned can be used for another purpose. Yvonne states that the Pini

funds question will be addressed as part of the Treasurer report. Timna Seligman, Vice Chair, explains that Historic Royal Palaces will not proceed with the publication of the 2017 conference papers, due to ongoing staffing and budget impact of the pandemic. The DEMHIST board will work on getting the allocated funds back, as well as the documents, so DEMHIST can proceed with the publication. There are no other comments or questions. The Chair Report is voted on and approved: 22 votes for yes; 0 for no; 1 abstain. This and other chair reports can be found here: <https://icom-demhist.org/governance/>

**4. Financial Report 2021 Q&A, vote (19'00")**

Amilcar Vargas, Treasurer, presents the DEMHIST Financial Report for 2021; as well as the budget for 2022 through Oct 18; and the projected budget for 2023. Yvonne explains that the remaining 1,500 euro of the Fondazione Pini subsidy, which shows in the 2022 budget, will have to be returned; it cannot be used for other purposes. The vote is called for the approval of the 2021 budget; it passes with 24 votes yes; 0 no; 0 abstain.

**5. Budget 2022-23 Q&A, vote (26'40")**

Amilcar continues with the proposed 2023 budget, explaining that it is the goal actually to spend the available funds rather than have a large rollover to the next year. Remko further comments that the balance that we do carry over to the next year includes the restricted Jeanne Watson Bursary, of which only 1,000 euro is being spent each year, until it is depleted. Yvonne states that no questions were submitted in advance; there are no comments in the chat. The 2023 budget is approved with 100% yes; 0 no; 0 abstain. All financial documents of past years can be found here: <https://icom-demhist.org/governance/>

Before turning to the next agenda item, Yvonne points (31'30") to a question in the chat from Frans Damman about historic archives and data protection, and suggests connecting in the chat with Frans on this topic.

**6. Proposal for change of statutes, vote (32'30")**

Remko explains that review and revision of the current DEMHIST statutes is moving forward and that following the request for feedback, two members responded with questions/suggestions. However, because of growing

involvement of the ICOM Secretariat in the revisions, and their legal review and advise, the timeline to have the proposed amendments voted on during this GA was no longer viable. Remko further explains that the proposed amendments must be approved through a vote from the members in a General Assembly. For that purpose, we will hold an Extraordinary General Assembly within the next few months. Therefore, there is no vote on this topic for now.

#### **7. Presentation of the Proposals Conference 2023 (34'45")**

Yvonne states that the board is happy to have received four applications/proposals for the DEMHIST 2023 conference, in spite of the short notice to prepare such proposals. The goal is to develop a plan for conference locations for the next 3 years, but the board has not been able to accomplish that for now.

For the 2023 conference we have asked proposers to give a presentation of 5 to 7 minutes, with the intent to open the floor for questions and comments during this meeting. Yvonne states that the ultimate decision – following requests for additional information – will rest with the DEMHIST board.

Rather than providing a summary of the four presentations, which contain a lot of images and information, the basic information is given here. Timna introduces the four proposals:

- Milja Stijovic, Belgrade, Serbia: “Remembrance of Things Lost” (October 25-30, 2023) (36'40")
- Siddha Shah (Vadodara, Gujarat, India) and Prof. Prof. Ambika Patel (Chair, ICOM India): “Historic House Museums in the Making: Prospective and Prospectus” (October 3-4, 2023) (31'40")
- Maria de Fatima Lambert (Porto, Portugal): “Visibility of the (In)visible (October 15-18, 2023) (48'05")
- Nini Sanadiradze (Tbilisi Museums Union, Georgia): “Power and Prospects of House-Museums in Socio-Cultural Context” September 7-11, 2023) (53'45")

#### **BREAK**

#### **8. Discussion on the proposals, final decision by the board (first week of November) (58'00")**

Timna opens the floor and asks for questions in the chat. Monica Bietti (Case Museo, Italy) expresses particular interest in the Porto and Georgia proposals, and agrees with Gianluca Kannes' comment in the chat about security concerns for Georgia. Timna asks if the presenters will have the technological capabilities to make the conference hybrid; all four presenters confirm they can. There are no other questions or comments, and Timna turns the floor over to Yvonne, who states that presentations will be shared after the meeting, and that additional questions or comments can be submitted via email – that those will be taken into consideration as the board deliberates and makes a decision.

#### 9. **Funding Opportunities** (1.03'45")

Remko reports on the funding opportunities, including

- the ICOM Travel Grant awarded in previous years, but not during the past two years because of the pandemic;
- the Jeanne Watson Bursary, awarded annually in 4 years, including the current grant to Alice Legé, whose report is posted on the website: <https://icom-demhist.org/grants/>
- Special Project Grants, several of which are being awarded annually, depending on the budget.

One of this year's grantees, Liisa Okari of Finland gives a brief presentation on the conference "GENIUS LOCI - The Place of House Museums in the Turmoil of Change" for which DEMHIST provided support. (1.07'15")

Liisa explains that funds are specifically used to make the conference accessible by keeping the registration fee low. Remko then shares how DEMHIST funds have been used by previous grantees, and encourages people to apply for this relatively easy-money-grant.

#### 10. **Report Prague & General Conference: Implementation Items** (1.16'50")

Yvonne refers to the newsletter that was sent out after the Prague conference, and then shows a 2 ½ minute video/photo montage that the Erfgoed Academy team put together. Yvonne very briefly mentions some of the highlights of the Prague triennial conference, including discussions and votes on the new leadership, as well as museum definition, strategic plan, etc. and how DEMHIST will incorporate these in the plans and policies of the committee.

Timna thanks Maria Szadowska and her team for the organization of the DEMHIST conference during the triennial, her fellow board members, and the fellow DEMHIST members who participated in the conference. The conference was work *and* fun!

**11. Elections 2023 and Call for Board Candidates (1.23'30")**

Yvonne shares that next year we will hopefully have the GA at the conference, wherever that will be, and that there will be elections for the 2023-26 board. She asks members to start thinking about serving on the board, and asks people to reach out if they have questions.

Amilcar expresses appreciation for the leadership of Yvonne in her role as chair, and in the trust that the membership has placed in the board and their work. Dalia Gallico, board member, makes a brief statement about the importance of this network, the board, and the General Assembly. Timna again urges people to put forward their candidacies, especially from underrepresented countries. Cecilia Casas Desantes, board member, seconds the urgency of the call for candidates. Yoshihiro Nakatani, board member, expresses the hope that there will be a candidate from Asia.

**12. Any Other Business / Open Mic (1.30'30")**

Gianluca Kannes expresses his desire that DEMHIST allocate some funds for the digitization of past DEMHIST publications. Timna replies that this is on the radar of the DEMHIST board. Remko comments that it may be worth going through the DEMHIST archives to see what would be suitable for publication on the website. Similarly, Liisa Okari suggests in the chat that we place more research materials from members on the DEMHIST website.

**13. Closing (1.35'30")**

Yvonne thanks the board members for their support in preparing the GA; her technical team for making the virtual GA happen; and the members for participating in this meeting. The meeting ends at app. 16:37 CET.