

ICOM
Executive Council
President Ms. Alissandra Cummins
Maison de l'UNESCO
1 rue Miollis
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France

Copenhagen, 2010-05-25

Application: Founding of a new International Committee
WORKLABS - Labour, work and social history in the industrial period

Dear Ms. President,

In 1997 a group of rather new labour museums from England, Norway, Sweden, Germany and Denmark founded **WORKLAB – the International Association of Labour Museums** at a meeting in Copenhagen (Attachment 1: Statutes).

The original group has grown rather much through the years and Worklab now covers three continents.

Since the start of the association mutual exchange of knowledge and experience has been an important part of the association's activities.

WORKLAB is a forum for members working in, or interested in museums on labour history in all its forms, with history of workers and the history of work from the beginning of the industrial period. A forum where knowledge and experience are shared, ideas exchanged and partnerships across international boundaries are explored. It seeks to stimulate dialogue and co-operation between museums by supporting and encouraging them in the collection, preservation and presentation of original material related to the past, present and future of labour.

Activities include regular annual meetings in different countries, working groups, publication of proceedings of meetings and newsletters - now a web-site www.worklab.info etc. And over the years the cooperation has given direct results through several joint international research and exhibition projects between the members. The most successful project has been Migration, Work and Identity 2000-2004, a partnership of eight member museums which delivered conferences, publications, national exhibitions and a joint touring exhibition - funded by EU Culture 2000 programme. Over the years, a number of other institutions have been involved in WORKLAB activities – especially in the international conferences and for the time being several members are engaged in the European research and exhibition project on food, "A Taste of Europe".

The next WORKLAB member conference will be the joint conference "Reusing the Industrial Past" which is a co-operation between WORKLAB, TICCIH and ICOHTEC. The conference will be held in Tampere, Finland August 10-15, 2010.

The joint conference is a good example of the development that through the years has remarkably increased the interest for labour history and industrial social history.

At the same time the members of the association have noticed a growing trend from other museums who are interested in the social and economic history of labour and industrial work. Some industrial and scientific museums want to pursue the social, political and cultural lives of the workers who operated the machines and other objects in their technical collections. Historical and city museums are also interested in covering working lives of their inhabitants. In addition the members of WORKLAB have been approached by a number of fledging museums of working class life. Many regional museums also deal with subjects of industrial culture.

The members of WORKLAB therefore believe the time is appropriate to gather museum professionals from all over the world who deal with labour history in all its forms, with history of workers and the history of work from the beginning of the industrial period.

An International Committee of ICOM is the most appropriate body to host this international forum and network for meetings and exchange of information and existing ICOM committees (e.g. CAMOC Museums of Cities, CIMUSET Science & Technology, ICR Regional Museums, DEMHIST Historic House Museums, ICMAH Archaeology & History) would be complemented by a new committee.

We therefore propose a new ICOM committee with the name

WORKLABS - Labour, work and social history in the industrial period.

The activities of the Committee shall centre mainly on social, economic and political history - not on technology.

On behalf of the board of WORKLAB:

Peter Ludvigsen (chair)

Direktør/Director

(2003-2009 member of the board of ICOM Denmark)

Arbejdermuseet & Arbejderbevægelsens Bibliotek og Arkiv

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This proposal is signed by the following individual and institutional members of ICOM:

Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz, Austria (inst. 25842)
Udo Wiesinger, Steyr, Austria (ind. 32184)
Wolfgang Muchitsch, Graz, Austria (ind. 37377)
Peter Elsässer, Innsbruck, Austria (?)

Jolande Deckers, Antwerp, Belgium (ind. 6133)

Tomislav Sola, Zagreb, Croatia (ind. 7638)

Jytte Thorndahl, Bjerringbro, Denmark (ind. 11103)
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Peter Ludvigsen, Copenhagen, Denmark, (ind. 15184)
Ervin Nielsen, Odense, Denmark, (ind. 11618)
Vinnie Noerskov, Aarhus, Denmark (ind. 29655)
Thomas Bloch – Ravn, Aarhus, Denmark, (ind. 26816)
Frank Allan Rasmussen, Frederikswerk, Denmark (ind. 26815)
Mikkel Scharff, Copenhagen, Denmark (ind. 7304)
Joergen Selmer, Elsinore, Denmark (ind. 15685)
Brigitte Wistoft, Copenhagen, Denmark (ind. 11137)

Daniel Thorleifsen, Greenland National Museum, Nuuk, Greenland (inst. 00448)

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Sirkku Pihlman, Turku, Finland (ind. 45786)
Anja Olavinen, Helsinki, Finland (ind. 53722)
Outi Penninkangas, Media Museum Rupriikki, Tampere, (inst. 44729)
Carina Jaatinen, Espoon kaupunki, Finland, (ind. 40124)
Marja – Liisa Rönkkö, Helsinki, Finland (ind. 1409)
Minna Karhunsaaari, Tampere, Finland (ind. 45798)
Johanna Lehto – Vahtera, Turku, Finland, (ind. 41010)
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Dietmar Osses, Dortmund, Germany, (ind. 34846)
Rita Müller, Chemnitz, Germany
Achim Dresler, Chemnitz, Germany
Jürgen Böning, Museum der Arbeit, Hamburg, Germany (inst. 60506)
Dagmar Neuland – Kitzerow, Berlin, Germany (ind. 46426)
Elisabeth Tietmeyer, Berlin, Germany (ind. 20040)
Konrad Vanja, Berlin, Germany (ind. 02410)

Teti Hadjinicolaou, Athens, Greece (indiv. 2712GR)
Alexandra Bounia, Athens, Greece (ind. 23683GR)
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Peter S. Meyer, Rogaland Kunstmuseum, Stavanger, Norway (inst. 278 1335)
Tora Hultgreen, Stiftelsen Svalbard Museum, Longyearbyen, Norway, (inst. 46948)
Akershusmuseet, Strommen, Norway (inst. 18332)
Gunn Mona Ekornes, Ostfoldmuseet, Sarpsborg, Norway (inst. 32797)
Stein Adler Bernhoft, Sverresborg, Norway (ind. 34748)
Norsk Oljemuseum (Norwegian Petroleum Museum), Stavanger, Norway (inst. 7949 –NO)

Dalia Da Conceilos Paulo, Faro, Portugal (ind. 45104)
Joana Sousa Monteiro, Lisbon, Portugal (ind. 36488)
Maria Clara Frayao Camacho, Lisbon, Portugal (ind. 13423)
Maria Amelia B.L. Fernandes, Lisbon, Portugal (ind. 45108)
Maria Antonia Pinto de Matos, Lisbon, Portugal (ind. 12212-PT)

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Jaume Matamala i Cura, Barcelona, Spain (ind. 28596)
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Helena Westin, Swedish Police Museum, Stockholm, Sweden (Inst. 46625)
Jan Raihle, Dalarnas Museum, Falun, Sweden (inst.)
Kjell Ake Aronsson, Swedish Mountain and Saami Museum, Jokkmökk, Sweden, (inst. 09335)
Tomas Jönsson, Karlstad, Sweden (ind. 17754)

Tomur Atagök, Istanbul, Turkey (indiv. 43772)

Emma Anderson, Manchester City Galleries, Manchester, UK (inst. 51255)
Bridget Yates, Dereham, UK (ind. 5171)

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Michael Houlihan, Cardiff, UK (ind. 23715)
Marion Kite, London, UK (ind. 16088)
Nick Merriman, Manchester, UK (ind. 27085)
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