

COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS
ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2009
University of British Columbia, Museum of Anthropology
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
3:00 P.M.

Present:

Members

Martin Segger, Canada, President
Lois Irvine, Canada, Secretary General
Barbara Winters, Canada, Assistant Secretary General
Carol Mayer, Canada
Lynn Maranda, Canada
Sanya Pleshakov, Canada

Regrets:

Doreen Nteta, Botsana
Amareswar Galla, Australia
Ali A. Ali, Zanzibar
Kim Outten Stubbs, The Bahamas
Dr. B. Venugopal, India
Joy Davis, Canada
Rooksana Omar, South Africa
Umebe Onyejekwe, Nigeria

1. Call to Order, Regrets
 - 1.1 Martin Segger called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
 - 1.2 The minutes were recorded by Barbara Winters, Assistant Secretary General
2. Adoption of the agenda
A motion to adopt the agenda was moved by Carol Mayer, seconded by Lynn Maranda, and carried.
3. President's Report:
Martin Segger read from the report to the Commonwealth Foundation on the activities of CAM for the years 2007–08.

Phase 2 of the Developing Educational Programming in Caribbean Museums workshops was held in Nassau, Bahamas, from September 10–15, 2007. In honour of the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade the theme of the workshop was Slavery, Abolition and Emancipation: Resources, Research and Education in Caribbean Museums. The notes from this conference were lost when Lois Irvine's computer crashed and will take some time to reconstruct along with a summary report.

The last annual general meeting of CAM, a triennial meeting, was held in Georgetown, Guyana, at the conclusion of a CAM conference on the theme Museums and Diversity, held April 18–22, 2008. The conference was comprised of two sessions: Museums in Pluralistic Societies and World Watch One: Biodiversity & Conservation. Following the conference,

several delegates travelled to the internationally governed eco-reserve Iwokrama in the Guyana rainforest.

For 2007–08, CAM was successful in obtaining a grant of \$13,500 from the Internship Program, Department of Canadian Heritage, administered through the Canadian Museums Association. The intern selected was hosted by St. Christopher Heritage Society, which operates the National Museum in Basseterre, St. Kitts.

The CAM website, now hosted on the University of Victoria server, has been updated and expanded. Conference papers have been published on the site and a list serve established.

The CAM children's art exhibit "What Peace Means to Me" has been refurbished and a lesson plan created by Dr. Robert Dalton from the Faculty of Education at the University of Victoria. The lesson plan is available on the CAM website. If feasible, the exhibit will be sent to the People's Forum to be held in Trinidad in November 2009 in conjunction with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

The next annual general meeting is scheduled to be held at the time of the GCAM workshop, "The Creative Museum" in Stanger, South Africa, October 29, 2009.

4. Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the annual general assembly held in Georgetown Guyana on April 22, 2008, were circulated and reviewed. A motion by Barbara Winters to approve the minutes was seconded by Lois Irvine and carried.
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
None.
6. Financial Report and Approval of the Audited Statements of June 30, 2008
Martin Segger read details from the audited report prepared by D.S. Rutherford Professional Corporation. A motion by Carol Mayer, seconded by Lynn Maranda, to adopt the Financial Report was carried.
7. A motion by Lois Irvine seconded by Sanya Pleshakov, to reappoint the auditor, D.S. Rutherford Professional Corporation, was carried.
Action: Reappointment of the auditor, Mr. Don Rutherford
8. Review of Signing Officers and Council Members
The signing officers for CAM are Wendy Aitkens, a member in Lethbridge, Secretary General Lois Irvine and President Martin Segger. Two signing officers are required to sign CAM cheques.
9. Officers and Council
CAM Executive Council for 2008 – 2011:
President – Martin Segger (Canada)
1st VP – Michael Gondwe (Malawi)
2nd VP – Rooksana Omar (South Africa)
Treasurer – Tim Mason (UK), Council Member, agreed to accept the position of Treasurer at the request of Council

Council Members:
Umebe Onyejekwe (Nigeria)

Fredrick Karanja Mirara (Kenya)
Vikas Harish (India)
Kim Outten Stubbs (Bahamas)
Tamika Botswain (Guyana)

Appointed:

Sadashiv Gorakshkar (India) – Past President
Lois Irvine (Canada) – Secretary General
Wendy Aitkens (Canada) – signing authority
Barbara Winters – Assistant Secretary General

Lois Irvine stated that there are currently 2 vacancies on Council, as there is room for 12 on the Executive Council, which does not include the Past President. It was suggested that the council should be expanded to include members from the South Pacific and South East Asia regions. There are actually 3 vacancies because Lois Irvine stepped down as elected Council Member and became as ex Officio member as Secretary General.

Action: Add additional Council members.

10. CAM Update on all other Activities and Questions

10.1 India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore visits

Barbara Winters gave an summary of her trip to visit museums in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Singapore and her participation in the international Commonwealth conferences in Kuala Lumpur: Learning to Live Together: Education for Social Cohesion, hosted by the Commonwealth Consortium for Education and the Universiti Kebansaan Malaysia; and the Stakeholders' Forum at the Commonwealth Education Ministers' Conference. During her visits to museums she discussed the concerns and issues facing museums, the CAM distance learning program in museology, building the CAM network in South East Asia and plans for a 2010 conference in India.

Action: Continue dialogue with museum personnel in the region.

10.2 India conference for 2010

Mumbai has been selected as the host city for the 2010 India conference/workshops. The hosting institutions will be Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya and the Nehru Science Centre. The working title for the conference is Rethinking, Redefining and Re-evaluating the Role of Museums in India and South East Asia. The conference will be held in the fall of 2010, exact dates to be determined.

Lynn Maranda mentioned that ICOM is holding a conference Museums for Social Harmony, in Shanghai November 7–12, 2010, which should be taken into consideration when deciding dates for the CAM conference. Will the ICOM conference draw people away from the CAM conference, or would people decide to attend both conferences? It was noted during the discussion that Dr. Amareswar Galla has been appointed Honorary Scientific Advisor to the Chinese Government for ICOM 2010 with the Executive Council endorsement and has asked if CAM would like a meeting during ICOM.

Action: Develop plans for the 2010 conference in India.

** The meeting adjourned for 45 minutes while Carol Mayor kindly led members on a tour of the new building and planned galleries of the Museum of Anthropology.*

10.3 CAM website

An online journal was launched in February 2009. The contents include conference

papers, articles published by CAM members, and research papers that relate to the interests of CAM. An online discussion board has recently been added.

10.4 Distance Learning Program

Discussions are underway with Etraffic Solutions, a Victoria-based company with considerable expertise in developing online learning programs. The company will help raise funds for this project in partnership with CAM. CAM needs advisors and collaborators to help develop the project. In the meantime, Lois Irvine continues to revise the current distance program. Barbara Winters reported that there was considerable interest in the program in India. Some museums have offered to become regional centres for delivery of the course. India-specific material was offered and there will be an ongoing effort to find pertinent material to supplement the course for specific geographic regions.

Action: Continue talks with Etraffic Solutions and strike an advisory committee.

10.5 Cultural Property project

Martin Segger reported that his daughter, Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger, who is a lawyer and director of the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law at McGill University, has offered assistance with this project. The multi-year project will encompass several stages, from a survey of literature and legal frameworks in Commonwealth countries, to legislation and implementation, and recommendations to strengthen cultural property rights. Discussion followed on the PIMA report on cultural property rights, the concept of cultural property in the Pacific and the opportunity to involve ICOM and UNESCO in the project. It was decided that CAM will seek members to serve on an advisory committee for this project.

Action: Establish an advisory committee for the Cultural Property project.

10.6 GCAM workshop

The GCAM workshops, based on the theme The Creative Museum: Museums Using Culture for the Development of Children and Youth, will be held in Stanger, South Africa, October 24–29, 2009. The Chief Albert Luthuli Museum is the host institution. Carol Mayer mentioned the HIV/AIDS Body Mapping Project, which began at the University of Cape Town, and suggested that it might be of interest to those attending the workshops.

11. Other Business

11.1 Support for CAM member training and possible exchanges

Barbara Winters reported that Dr. Jonathan Jenkins, Assistant Secretary, Commonwealth Scholarships, informed her that the Commonwealth fellowships for mid-career professionals are available to CAM museum members. These fellowships provide funding for professionals from developing countries to train for up to six months at UK institutions. Links to the Commonwealth Scholarship website and other funding opportunities will be added to the CAM websites. CAM members are also interested in exchanges for professional development and possible funding sources to help support exchanges should be investigated. Carol Mayer mentioned that Australia sends experts to assist museums with conservation issues.

Action: Look into the Commonwealth fellowship program and other funding sources for training and exchange opportunities for CAM members.

11.2 Martin Segger proposed a motion of thanks to Carol Mayer

and the Museum of Anthropology for hosting the meeting. Lynn Maranda seconded the motion, which was carried.

12. Adjournment

A motion by Sanya Pleshakov, seconded by Lynn Maranda, to end the meeting was carried at 5:35 pm.

Minutes recorded by Barbara Winters, CAM, Assistant Secretary General

President

Secretary General

*The Museum of Anthropology is near completion of a new building integrated with the impressive current structure. This facility will enable the museum to provide excellent storage for part of the collections (not previously available) and to redesign “visible storage” for a considerable segment of the collection in greater collaboration with the communities from which the collections have been gathered. Visible Storage is a technique that gives exhibit space to a larger portion of the collections than is usually the case in museums and, in this case, to assist cultural communities to organize the material in ways which have meaning to them.

Within the visible storage area are laboratory working areas close to the collections and the new building also adds additional space for more sophisticated archaeological laboratories and for research areas meant to help in doing community research with and by various cultural communities through such methods as oral interviews, recordings and use of collections materials. The museum is able to promote research not only by academics but by those who can give voice and meaning to their innate culture, thus producing knowledge and interaction that will lead to greater understanding and respect.

Thank you Carol.