



COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

CAM BULLETIN

No 10, August 2010

ISSN 1026-5155

The Programmes of the Commonwealth Association of Museums, including this Bulletin, are made possible by generous grants from The Commonwealth Foundation and the financial support of CAM membership.



THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR
2008-09 AND NOTES FROM
THE ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING OF CAM HELD
ON JULY 20, 2010

Successful Completion of Group for Children in African Museums Workshop, "The Creative Museum, African Museums Using Culture for the Development of Children and Youth," at the Luthuli Museum in Stanger, South Africa, October 2009. (See the report on the workshop in this Bulletin.) CAM was pleased to welcome Andrew Firmin, Programme Manager (Culture) of the Commonwealth Foundation, to this workshop, where he had an opportunity to discuss with the delegates *Putting Culture First*, the Foundation's recent publication that recognizes the connections between culture and development, the foundational issue of the workshop.

Assist. Sec. General Barbara Winters visited museums in India and Malaysia. She also participated in the Commonwealth Consortium of Education Annual Meeting and the Stakeholders' Forum for the 17th CCEM in Kuala Lumpur, June 2009. This visit resulted in our recently very successful Mumbai CAM conference. (See Barbara Winters' preliminary report on the conference in this Bulletin.)

Significant revisions of Distance Learning Program underway including revisions and development of a proposal for an online version. Lois Irvine reported that the revisions have been completed to the end of Unit 3. Revisions will be ongoing and a review of the revised units by the Expert Advisory Committee will support changes to be made before the units are put into online format. Changes will be made for the online version to incorporate more visual and interactive materials to enhance learning. A short presentation piece has been prepared by Etraffic solutions for information, fundraising and other promotional activities.

Re-conceptualization of the Cultural Property Project as a collaborative Legal and Museum Project with legal partners. Martin Segger noted that the Cultural Property Project is also moving forward. The Centre for International Sustainable Development Law at McGill University has been engaged to do a preliminary scoping paper. The Commonwealth Lawyers Association at its recent annual conference enthusiastically approved a proposal to work with CAM on this project, with a number of individuals also stating their interest in participating.

Further expansion and enhancement of the CAM website. The CAM website will continue to be expanded and developed. Attention will be particularly paid to regularizing the system so that updates can be placed on the website at short notice and arrangements can be made to sustain the website for the longer term.

Other Notes and Activities

The last annual general meeting of CAM was held in Vancouver on August 28, 2009, for the 2007–08 year that included the CAM Triennial in Guyana.

For 2008–09, 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, Anik Glaude, was hosted by the Pacific Islands Museums Association located in Vanuatu, South Pacific.

CAM began looking more extensively at the Distance Learning Program in 2008–09. The plan is to complete some revisions with added materials, especially from our own ever-growing list of papers from programs, workshops, internships and the Distance Learning Program itself. This process was begun in 2008–09 and continues along with putting together a long-term plan for creating an online version. A Committee of Expert Advisors has been gathered for the course and will be engaged soon.

Elford Liverpool, Acting Director of the Guyana National Museum, has been appointed to the CAM Council particularly to represent young museum professionals.

The next event is a short gathering at the ICOM Triennial conference “Museums for Social Harmony” in Shanghai November 7–12, 2010. More information about a venue will follow. Martin Segger has canvassed the membership to obtain possible members to vote during ICOM.

Singapore Triennial. CAM has received an activity grant for 2010–11 for this Singapore Triennial meeting of CAM in May 2011. The working title is “Commonwealth Museums: Culture, Economy and Climate Change. Part 1: Museums and Sustainable Development; Part 2: Conserving Cultures in the Face of Climate Change.” While this program will be the Triennial, the location was chosen to make it accessible to the South Pacific where climate change is an urgent issue. We are working with the Museum of Asian Civilisations as the prospective host for the event. Catherine Cole has agreed to chair a working group to plan and coordinate the conference.

Nigeria Workshop. CAM is seeking further financial support to fund this event. Nigeria membership has increased significantly thanks to the efforts of the GCAM representatives, especially Margaret Okonkwo, Umebe Onyejekwe and Gloria Chuma-Ibe. We hope to have the workshop in 2011–12, and efforts will be made soon to finalize a proposal.

Cultural Property Law and its application in smaller states. 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. A scoping paper has been commissioned and the Commonwealth Lawyers Association has agreed to partner with us on this project. It is likely that training modules will emerge from this project as well.

Martin Segger, 2010

CAM Bulletin is published by the Commonwealth Association of Museums. It is emailed to all members as a benefit of membership. It is available by subscription to libraries and other organizations for \$20 Canadian per year (including postage). Inquiries, subscriptions, and articles should be sent to the following address:

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GCAM WORKSHOP 4

THE CREATIVE MUSEUM: AFRICAN MUSEUMS USING CULTURE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The 2009 Group for Children in African Museums (GCAM) workshop was hosted by the Chief Albert Luthuli Museum in the town of Groutville, near Stanger, South Africa from Oct. 24-29, 2009. Eighteen (18) delegates from Canada, the United Kingdom, and Africa, and twenty (20) delegates from South Africa attended the workshop. Six sessions were devoted to presentations and discussions about museum programs for youth under the subthemes: "Outreach/Inclusion," Outreach/Partnerships with Educators," "Creative Arts and Culture in Development," "Strengthening Shared Culture and Individual Culture," "Community Values Based Programs & Contemporary Development." In an additional session, youth from local schools were invited to present their views on how museums and culture can contribute to development. We were delighted to have Andrew Firmin, Programme Manager, Culture, for the Commonwealth Foundation, attend the conference and participate in a special session that looked at *Putting Culture First*, the Commonwealth Foundation publication, which examines the relationship between culture and development.

Ms. Vivienne Carelse, Deputy Director General, Department of Basic Education, South Africa, and Dr. Albertina Luthuli, daughter of Chief Albert Luthuli and Member of Parliament, opened the conference with inspirational messages that affirmed the importance of the social role of museums, particularly with regard to programming and educational activities for youth. The first session featured a presentation by three members of the staff of the Luthuli Museum: Paul Tichmann, Curator, Winile Cele, Education Officer, Thulani Tusi, Heritage Education. The presentation, "Promoting the Luthuli Legacy through Culture: A Case Study of the Luthuli Museum's Educational Programs," described programs and activities for youth that the museum has developed to promote the ideals and legacy of Chief Luthuli: leadership, non-violence, non-racialism, democracy and human rights. This session generated an enthusiastic response and vigorous discussion that set the stage well for the sessions that followed.

Because of the workshop format, sessions were limited to two or three presentations of twenty minutes each to allow ample time for discussion and the exchange of ideas. The fourteen presentations covered a wide range of case studies, such as, for example, utilizing radio in Zambia or mobile units in Cape Town to deliver museum programs to children and communities, development programs for youth in difficulty in Kenya, the role of museums in engendering tolerance amongst tribal groups in Nigeria, and using culture for the development of youth in Malawi. Through discussions that followed delegates critiqued the projects, probed for details, added ideas for improving, expanding and evaluating programs, and looked at ways to apply them in their own museums and in different circumstances. Funding for projects and programs is always an issue and museums in Africa carry out their work with limited resources.



GCAM Workshop at Stanger, S.A.

Gloria Chuma-Ibe from Nigeria initiated a conversation about funding opportunities, and she encouraged delegates to build partnerships between museums and corporations (such as IT companies) and other potential sponsors, in which the donors are prompted to see the benefit of their involvement. In all sessions the practical aspects of the projects were framed within the larger context of the theme of the conference: developing programs that use culture for the development of youth.

The issue of culture and development was further addressed in session seven. Martin Segger presented

a paper prepared by the Secretary General and added comments to introduce participants to the Foundation publication *Putting Culture First* from a museum perspective. Andrew Firmin provided delegates with an overview of the publication and its development. A breakout session followed in which groups of delegates were tasked to assess and comment on specific sections of the document, particularly with regard to museums. This generated a lively discussion and provided Andrew Firmin with feedback to take to the Foundation. It also offered delegates an opportunity to think about how the contents of document can be applied in their own work.

In the final session of the workshop, the delegates were treated to thoughts on culture and development from an extremely articulate group of youth who had been invited to present their ideas on what culture means to them. The variety of their innovative ideas on the definitions of culture and how museums can use contemporary youth culture (including rap and social networking) to engage young people were revelatory and thought provoking. Youth panels have been a staple of GCAM conferences, and they are a recognition that museums must work collaboratively with their communities and target audiences in order to serve and maintain their relevance to those audiences.

The last day of the workshop included a field trip to uLindi to visit the oNdini Heritage Site, the partially recreated village of King Cetshwayo, which is close to the site of his battle with the British in 1879 that ended the independence of the Zulu kingdom. Adjacent to the heritage village is the KwaZulu Cultural Museum, with its impressive exhibits of the history and arts of the Zulu people.

Laura Gibson, a CAM intern from Canada who is a museum studies graduate student at the University of Toronto, with grace and efficiency helped the Luthuli Museum staff prepare for the workshop. At the conclusion of the event, she compiled a report based on the feedback delegates gave on their evaluation forms. In general, the workshop was deemed an overwhelming success, with all delegates stating that it met or exceeded their expectations. They not only found it beneficial in terms of learning opportunities but also because of the networking it offered with old

and new colleagues. Delegates stated they would like CAM to continue the GCAM workshops, at least every two years. Individual comments offered suggestions as to ways to enhance the workshops and those ideas will be taken into consideration during planning for future events.

CAM is very grateful to the Luthuli Museum in Stanger, South Africa and to Rooksana Omar and her staff for hosting this wonderful GCAM workshop.

The museum was a superb host and, as the former home of Chief Albert Luthuli, South Africa's first Nobel Peace Prize recipient, was the most appropriate of settings for this event. Doreen Nteta, Mike Gondwe, and others involved in the organizing and proceedings of the workshop are to be congratulated for their terrific support.

It was a large undertaking that was successfully achieved and enjoyed by all the delegates. CAM's intern Laura Gibson was also instrumental in assisting both the museum and CAM in activities running up to the workshop and resulting from it



Zulu youth dancers at GCAM Stanger, S.A.

GROUP FOR CHILDREN IN AFRICAN MUSEUMS STANGER DECLARATION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2009

Meeting Resolutions

1. Whereas museums recognize the importance of fundamental cultural rights—the right to live within one’s own culture; the right to hear different cultural voices; the right to an environment that supports creativity — and the inextricable link between these rights and human economic and social development.
2. Whereas museums recognize that they have in role to play in the realization of these rights.
3. Whereas African museums recognize that conflicts, pandemics, and poverty on the continent disrupt and hinder development.
4. Whereas museums recognize that due to changes in the cultural, social, and economic environment there is a breakdown in the traditional transference of cultural values from community (elders and parents) to children.
5. Whereas museums recognize that culture is not in the mainstream of formal educational curriculum.
6. Whereas museums in the Commonwealth, but particularly in Africa, are aware that more resources are required to reach their capacity to deliver cultural education.

Recommendations

1. That museums advocate for the mainstreaming of cultural education in school curriculum and for representation in the development and delivery of cultural components of the curriculum.
2. That museums develop teamwork and ensure that their staff are fully trained in order to provide cultural programs for youth.
3. That museums as neutral spaces and agents of change provide opportunities for youth to dialogue, with a view to engendering tolerance and intercultural understanding.
4. That museums give youth opportunities for creative self-expression.
5. That museums explore as many innovative channels as possible, such as radio and new media, to reach out to youth and their families.
6. That museums develop cultural programming to support out-of-school children and youth in crisis.
7. That museums advocate for resources and find creative ways for raising funds to support programming for youth.
8. That having reviewed *Putting Culture First: Commonwealth perspectives on culture and development* GCAM recommends that (through CAM) museums work closely with the Commonwealth Foundation to develop the direction and goals put forth in this report.

RETHINKING MUSEUMS

JUNE 1–5, 2010, MUMBAI, INDIA

PRELIMINARY REPORT BY BARBARA WINTERS,
CONFERENCE COORDINATOR

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) in Mumbai, India, was the host museum and coordinating partner for *Rethinking Museums*, CAM's very successful 2010 international conference. Over one hundred delegates representing museums and other cultural organizations in India and ten Commonwealth countries participated in a series of presentations, panel discussions, and working sessions which focused on the social role of museums and making them more relevant to their various communities. Sessions and site visits were held at CSMVS, the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, and the Nehru Science Centre.

From the inaugural session, with addresses by Sri H.E. K. Sankaranarayanan, The Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, Sri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary Culture, Govt of India, and keynote speaker Prof. Saroj Ghose, a past President of ICOM and former Director General, National Council of Science Museums, to the final CAM session and the drafting of the Mumbai Resolutions, participants readily contributed to continuous and very productive discussions. The mix of national and international delegates added to the dynamic exchange of concerns and new ideas. The conference will be covered in greater detail in the next Bulletin and the results of the conference and the presentations will be

published shortly on the CAM website. As a result of the conference CAM has welcomed over eighty new members, with more to follow.

We are deeply grateful to Mr. Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Director of CSMVS, the CSMVS staff, and in particular to Mr. Anupam Sah, the conference coordinator, for their exceptional efforts which resulted in such a successful event, including stunning cultural events featuring performances by two of India's leading dancers and their companies. We also appreciate the major contributions of Mr. Ganga Singh Rautela, Director of the National Council of Science Museums, Mrs. Tasneem Zakaria Mehta, Managing Trustee and Honorary Director of the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, and the museum staff, and Mr. Anil Manekar, Director of the Nehru Science Centre, and Science Centre staff.

We were honoured to have Dr. Sitharamam Kakarala, Director of the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society in Bangalore and Member of the Commonwealth Group on Culture and Development, as CAM's guest speaker and we thank him for his contribution.

It was also a great pleasure to present the Cowrie Circle pin to Dr. Sadashiv Gorakshkar, Past President of CAM and former Director of the Prince of Wales Museum (now Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya). He supported this workshop of CAM and worked hard towards its successful achievement. It is wonderful to involve old friends once again and we will hope to see him in the future.



Mumbai Conference Delegates, June 2010

THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS MUMBAI DECLARATION

ON THE LARGER ROLE OF MUSEUMS IN SOCIETY

JUNE 5, 2010. MUMBAI, INDIA

One hundred and seven delegates from fifteen Commonwealth countries met at Mumbai on June 1-5, 2010, at the Commonwealth Association of Museums Conference to exchange ideas and experiences on the theme “Rethinking Museums,” and this group

1. Acknowledges that Museums play an important role in the cultural, social and economic development of society, and that Museums are making sincere efforts to fulfill this function.
2. Recognises that today Museums need to be creative and innovative to remain relevant in a changing world. There is also a shortage of trained professionals in certain parts of the Commonwealth to carry out these functions.

Recommends

1. That CAM further develop sustainable mechanisms for sharing relevant successful projects and new practice models.
2. That Governments and stakeholders enable and empower museums to deliver more effectively their obligations to the community.
3. That CAM members initiate and share with each other quality capacity building programs for the heritage sector.
4. That museums’ governing authorities should strengthen frameworks for human resource development to attract, develop and retain staff.
5. That museums explore new and imaginative avenues of building partnerships and mobilizing resources.



International Delegates to Mumbai Conference 2010



Mrinalini Venkateswaran, Elizabeth Ouma, Tarisi Vunidilo, Patricia Allan at the Mumbai Conference



Norbert Kayombo at the Mumbai Conference

NEWS AND NOTES

Distance Learning Program

There are now over 20 students in the Distance Learning Program. We welcome students Leigh Robinson of Canada and Cynthia Hughes of Nevis. Interest in the course was generated in South Africa and we have four participants from there: Vivienne Garside and Susan Zama Mbatha from the Vukani Museum and Nola Duggan and Zano Mkhize from the Zululand Historical Museum.

Because of the administrative load for the course, it is necessary to hold enrollments until January 2011. As you will read elsewhere, CAM is preparing for a major project in transforming the course to an online format. It will likely be available in current format with some changes for those who cannot access the Internet regularly.

Membership

Membership has increased significantly from the workshop in India. Over 80 new members were registered. CAM is reviewing the membership process and will be making it more efficient. We also expect to send out membership cards by email to each member with a distinct number. For those of you who have been long time members, it may not correspond to your original number but will be yours alone from this time.

This influx of members along with the plans for the Distance Learning course means that the resources that CAM has in terms of staff and volunteer time (and money) are too limited to carry out all of our plans without making further changes. Both the time and postal expense of mail-outs has become very high and our correspondence and communication will be largely by telephone, email and website. The Secretariat will be working to both involve members more actively in CAM and find more resources to support our activities.

Internships

Once again this year, CAM has received approval for an internship in Guyana with Jennifer Wishart at the Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology. This is a Canadian Government program to support new graduates in entering their chosen field. We wish that CAM had an exchange program but this internship is only open to Canadian young people. However, they are placed with host museums in any location that wishes an intern if they have the necessary infrastructure to be able to provide a rewarding and safe internship experience. For further information on the internship program contact Lois Irvine.