



World Federation of Friends of Museums  
Federación Mundial de Amigos de los Museos  
Fédération Mondiale des Amis des Musées

## Newsletter September 2024



*Past president Carolyn Forster with Italo Scaietta*

### Greetings, WFFM members and supporters,

I am honoured to address you as the newly elected president of WFFM. I succeed Carolyn Foster, whom I would like to thank for her constant and generous commitment to the World Federation over the decades.

I have served the museum community in Mantua in Italy, founding 1997 the Friends of Palazzo Te and Mantua Museums and being Curator of the Museum of Palazzo d'Arco. At the national level, I encouraged the creation of a National Day of Friends of museums.

Encouraging membership through our projects, renewing international partnerships, sharing experiences between Friends of the world, seeking visibility for the outstanding cultural role of Friends will be the goals I'll pursue with WFFM members. I welcome your feedback and encourage your engagement. Thank you for reading and thank you for your commitment to the preservation of our global heritage.

Italo Sciatta

President, WFFM

### WFFM executive committee 2024-2027 from the website [thewffm.org](http://thewffm.org)



**ITALO SCAIETTA**

President

"My vision for WFFM is art, culture and history for everyone, in every corner of the planet, as a sign of peace and brotherhood between people."



**ANNE ASSERSON**

Secretary General

"My goal is to raise the profile of - and participation in - activities concerning associations of friends of museums"



**SUNJUNG PARK**

Vice-President

Africa Asia Pacific

"We think back to the past, dream of the future and look at the present"



**RENE FAURE**

Vice-President

Europe

"Les Amis de Musées, passeurs de culture ensemble, en Europe et dans le monde."



ROSEMARY WAGNER  
Vice-President  
North America



MARTA ALVAREZ  
MOLINDI  
Vice-President

South America  
“As vice president of South America, I know that I face a great challenge since the associations of the different countries have not had the habit of uniting institutionally to work together. FADAM has been leading this space for 42 years and also from my place as president of this federation I will work from experience and example.”



BRUCE BOLTON  
Treasurer  
“The WFFM is so important to bring together Museum volunteers world-wide. My aim is to support every effort to develop its effectiveness – worldwide.”

## 2. Executive Committee's Guidelines for the elected period.

Under the impulse of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), WFFM signed the establishment of the organisation 50 years ago.

The statutes are clear and a sound basis for the federation today. They will continue to be the guidelines for our work for the elected period. Our present members are our first concern. But we are also working to reconnect with previous members. There may be different reasons for them to have left WFFM, but we are already in contact with some and can already welcome the return of former members.

We shall work on raising the profile of WFFM and make it more visible. Also to strengthen our relationship with external organisations in the same area and, not least, to widen the WFFM family by increasing the memberships on all levels.

## 3. Strategy.

The Executive Committee is working on a strategy for the three years we are elected and will make it available as soon as it is ready.

### 3. WFFM today

For 2023/2024 we have 11 active members, that is, countries with a federal organisation. There are 18 national federations known to WFFM, and we aim to include them in the WFFM family progressively. Countries that do not have a national federation can apply to be Associated members. In 2023 we have 3 associated members. We also have 10 individual members and one Donor member.

In the last few years there has been a steady decline in membership, and the executive committee is making it our priority and working hard to reverse this trend. We can already welcome earlier members as Ireland, Romania, Hungary, Czech Republic and Greece who are re-joining WFFM.

As one of them said: *'We would very much like to be an active member again, as we truly believe that Friends of Museums worldwide is a community to which we clearly belong and to which we want to contribute with our work and local experience.'*

To make us attractive and facilitate new and old members we are both planning and working on projects that we hope will be interesting both for our present and new members. One example is European Day which we hope can be an inspiration to other continents.

We also would like to improve other practicalities, for example, the treasurer is working on direct payment through the website. We are gearing/speeding up our work in the executive committee and have meetings once a month to improve cooperative actions and to move our work forward.

#### **4. ICOM WFFM partnership**

At the occasion of the ICOM annual General Assembly held in June at the Mucem in Marseilles, WFFM has restored the link with ICOM, meeting the ICOM president Emma Nardi and all top executives. Everyone expressed their appreciation of WFFM's renewed contact with ICOM management after years of silence and of the prospect of resuming joint actions as in the past.

The next meeting in Rome in September between ICOM and WFFM Presidents is to shape the rebuilding of the partnership.

**Declaration of Funchal** The Portuguese federation updates the Funchal Declaration, signed between ICOM Europe and WFFM at our 2018 General Assembly in Madeira, for presentation in Lisbon on the European Day of Friends of Museum, 13 October



*2024 ICOM's Executive Board, Mucem in Marseilles*

#### **5. Young Friends.**

We also need young friends. WFFM aims to have a Young Friend voluntary representative from each continent. The Young Friends coordinator, Nailma Sagna, had a one-year contract that expired in August 2024. WFFM was happy with her work and thanked her for the activity. We are now looking for a new Young Friends voluntary coordination team.



## 6. Website <https://www.thewffm.org/>

Our website thewffm.org is presently administered by Jill Carey. The website was renewed a few years ago and gives a nice overview of WFFM and includes the Young Friends blog. Not least, it provides a history overview. We are planning to use the website to present and make the Executive Committee's work visible. Work in progress.

## 7. European Day 2024.

The European Day aims to celebrate Friends of Museum groups throughout Europe and to give the Friends of Museums visibility and more recognition in an event that is specific to them, and not to be confused with those organized by museums.

The purpose is to raise the profile of Friends of Museums in Europe on a single day when each association highlights the actions it carries out throughout the year and raises the profile of their museum.

On the **2nd European Friends of Museums Day, Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, we shall emphasize that museums are a heritage to be enjoyed by all and that we have a shared responsibility for their preservation and promotion. For more information contact René Faure at [info@thewffm.org](mailto:info@thewffm.org)



**“Your museum, our passion “**

## 8. WFFM General Assembly 2025 in Napoli / Caserta, 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

The presidents of the Royal Palace of Caserta and the Friends of the Museums of Naples confirmed that the General Assembly could be hosted in Naples and at Caserta. It will be presented at the WFFM General Assembly in 'Naples and Caserta'.

Time table for four days, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May will follow later.

Information on hotels etc. will also come later. Transport will be arranged between Napoli and Caserta. Programs will also be prepared for WFFM Members, for accompanying persons, and for Young Friends.



*The Park and the Royal Palace of Caserta*



*WFFM Europe, Capodeimonte, Naples 2023*