



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

WFFM General Assembly Naples-Caserta, 15th – 18th May 2025

The WFFM General Assembly took place over four days, with an Academic Session, Council meetings, and the General Assembly where fourteen countries met or joined forces. The event was taking place at several beautiful places in Naples, with the General Assembly at Caserta, followed by a nice lunch with produce from the region. Several guided visits to the town, but very special was the visit to Pompeii.

Federations and associations gave a presentation of their 2024 activities. WFFM President would like to thank the director of the National Library, Silvia Scipioni, the President of Naples Friends of Museums, Rita Punzo and the President of the Friends of Caserta, Fabrizio Fusco for their warm welcome. Thank you also to Alberto Garlandini, President of the ICOM Foundation and Valeria Arrabito, Secretary General of ICOM Italy, for their strong involvement in our discussions, following the resumption of the relationship between ICOM and the WFFM; all for a successful General Assembly hosted by Naples and Caserta.



Italo Scaietta, Silvia Scipioni, Rita Punzo and Fabrizio Fusco



The discussion at the two-day council meetings was structured over the **five areas in the action plan**: Membership, Partnership, Exchange of Experience, Visibility, and Restructuration. Several working groups were established to support both the council and the Executive Committee in areas we find important, such as updating the Code of Ethics, identifying and contacting previous and new members. WFFM also wants to explore what the individual membership can bring to WFFM, and what WFFM can offer.

The Executive Committee has made a series of decisions during this year, and they needed to be accepted by the council. The Council agreed to open a WFFM office in France, housed at the Fédération Française des Associations d'Amis de Musées in Paris. The General Assembly validated the proposal of including Africa under the VP of Europe, now to be named VP of Europe-Mediterranean-Africa region. The General Assembly also validated the creation of the Young Council. René Faure, current Vice President Europe, is named 1st Vice President of WFFM.

Through the voice of René Faure, Nohad Schoucair, President of the Society of the Friends of the Archaeological Museum of the American University of Beirut, announces that its association is joining the WFFM, marking a significant step towards building close ties with Friends of Museums around the Mediterranean.

Treasurers' report

The treasurer assured that WFFM is in a healthy financial position but still needs other sources of revenue, such as memberships, increased participation in conferences, and special gifts.

Certificate of Merit

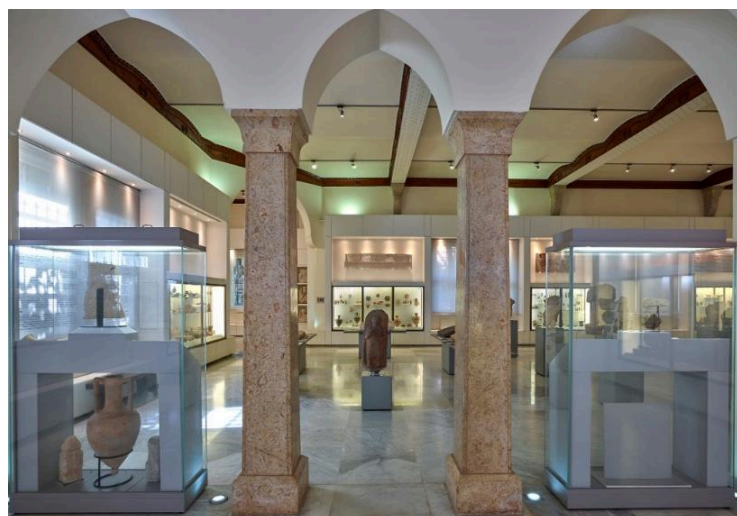
The World Federation of Friends of Museums is pleased to award Carolyn Forster the Certificate of Merit for her leadership through her two periods as President and as Vice President, Africa-Asia-Pacific. She has been a constant and determined supporter of the World Federation for decades and represents so well the commitment of volunteers to promote the arts and pass on culture. In the picture, Carolyn is presenting a catalogue from the recent Pompeii exhibition in Australia to WFFM president Italo Scaietta. The framework is the National Library of Naples.



Italo Scaietta and Carolyn Foster

The Archaeological Museum of the American University of Beirut (AUB)

The Archaeological Museum of the American University of Beirut (AUB), established in 1868, is the third oldest museum in the Near East. Its origins lie in a donation of Cypriot pottery from General Luigi Palma di Cesnola. Today, the Museum preserves artifacts spanning the Early Stone Age to the Islamic period. Its rich collections, encompassing Lebanon, Syria, Cyprus, Palestine, Egypt, Iraq, and Iran, feature pottery, glassware, sculpture, jewelry, coins, and more, offering an unparalleled window into the region's history.



The Society of the Friends of the AUB Museum, founded in 1980, has been vital in advancing the Museum's mission. Its signature achievement was the complete renovation of the Museum in 2006. Through monthly lectures, special exhibitions, cultural excursions, and children's programming, the Society fosters public engagement and a love of archaeology.

Members enjoy exclusive events, expert-led tours, and a dedicated newsletter. Since its inception, the Society has led archaeological tours throughout Lebanon and around the world, immersing participants in the historical and cultural wealth of each destination and deepening understanding of our shared ancient past.



Nadine Panayot, Curator, Archaeological Museum, AUB

WFFM office in Paris

To join us: info@thewffm.org

WFFM office in Paris has reopened at the premises of the French Federation in the 19th arrondissement: A place to meet, exchange views, when WFFM members travelling in Europe make a stopover in Paris and wish it, and to delve into the history of WFFM. And that is what Rosemarie Wagner, Vice President North America, did in March as we enter the year of the World Federation's 50th anniversary. As a welcome gift, we offer members who visit us the WFFM art donation book published for the 30th anniversary of the World Federation.

Our Paris welcome team, Annie Combelles and Marie Mangeot, met with Sofia Weil de Speroni, a former WFFM Secretary General and now an Individual Member, in June for an exchange of views and a visit to the Museum of Modern Art in Paris. During the Covid pandemic, Sofia created "ArtBreak", <https://www.theartbreak.net/> a website on the cultural art being that was already the theme she chose for the World Federation General Assembly in Montreal in 2019.



Rosemary Wagner and René Faure



Sofia Weil de Speroni and Marie Mangeot



Sofia Weil de Speroni and Annie Combelles

"I recommend a visit to the WFFM Paris office. It was a pleasure to Paris to conduct research on the history of the 50 years of WFFM earlier this year.

Thank you to René for his hospitality and for presenting me with the 30th Anniversary WFFM History Book!

To anyone visiting Montreal, Canada, please feel free to contact me, and I would be very happy to meet with you during your travels here.

- Si vous visitez Montréal, Canada, n'hésitez pas à me contacter et je serai ravie de vous rencontrer lors de vos déplacements.

- Wenn Sie Montreal, Kanada, besuchen, nehmen Sie bitte Kontakt mit mir auf und ich würde mich freuen, Sie während Ihrer Reise hier zu treffen."

Rosemarie Wagner, WFFM Vice President, North America, WhatsApp: 514-526-2579

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