



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

Newsletter October 2025

WFFM General Assembly 23th – 26th April 2026 in Athens



Keep your agenda open for the next WFFM General Assembly. In the heart of our old civilisation and culture, we invite you to participate in Athens. The city and its environs have wonderful old and new museums supported by friends through the Hellenic Federation of Friends of Museums, ESOFM.

Athen, A beautiful city without high buildings



Some of the places we are planning to visit: The Parliament Room at the National History Museum of Athens, the Garden at the Numismatic Museum, and the Cafe at the Acropolis Museum. Here with Lila de Chaves, president of the Greek Federation of Friends of Museums and Rene Faure, VP WFFM. Rooms at the Amalia Hotel, close to Syntagma, have been

reserved. Invitations and the program will go out at the end of October.



The local group for arranging the upcoming WFFM General Assembly in Athens is Architect Prof. emerita Sofia Avgerinou, from the Technical University of Athens and the President of the Hellenic Federation of Friends of Museums and conservator at the Benaki Museum, and specialist on Coptic art, Lila de Chaves. From WFFM executive

Committee, Vice President for Europe and Mediterranean/ Africa, Rene Faure and Secretary General Anne Asserson participated.



European Day October 12th 2025

“Your museum,
our passion !”

‘Wonderful start on
the press kit.

Congratulations, in less than one working day, we
reached a record of more than 1500 views with our
first post on Instagram!’ from WFFM

Communication Manager. And after this jump start,
the interest has continued.

The European Day is becoming an international
event this year with the participation of Argentina,
Canada, and Lebanon.



European Mediterranean Meeting in Paris, 23-26. October. To evaluate the European Day
and plan how we will roll out the International Day. What is important for Europe and the
Mediterranean during the upcoming year?

New member



MUSEC MUSEC – Museum of Cultures Lugano opened its doors to
the public in 1989 thanks to the donation of an important collection
of ethnic art by Swiss artist Serge Brignoni to the city of Lugano.

Located on the lakefront, in a beautiful period villa, MUSEC offers a rich programme of
exhibitions and events dedicated to ethnic and oriental arts, photography, modern and



contemporary art, and children's
art. It preserves and promotes
numerous collections, including the
world's most important collection of
hand-painted Japanese
photographs from the late 19th
century from the Yokohama School.

Every year, MUSEC offers numerous
temporary exhibitions that invite
visitors to reflect on human
creativity and the constant

transformations of our society through an anthropological interpretation of works of art.

For more information: <https://www.musec.ch/en/> MUSEC – Museo delle Culture Lugano
Villa Malpensata, V. G. Mazzini 5 / Riva Caccia 5, 6900 Lugano, Switzerland



CLUB delle CULTURE The CLUB delle CULTURE is an initiative launched in 2020 to support the conservation, research and promotion of the extraordinary art collections at MUSEC. The CLUB delle CULTURE brings together people who share a passion for art and culture, and throughout the year offers activities such as guided tours, meetings with artists and collectors, and special events designed to provide a more personal and participatory experience of the museum. Thanks to an annual membership, Friends of the CLUB delle CULTURE also enjoy many exclusive benefits.

<https://www.musec.ch/en/membership/> CLUB delle

CULTURE Manager: Maddalena Pais / club@musec.ch /

Updating on the 4 WFFM Working groups



WFFM working group WG3 on Individual members

Introduction

At the WFFM General Assembly, May 2025, an agreement was reached to establish various working groups to support the executive committee in evolving WFFM.

The Mandate

The mandate of the working group of Individual Members is formulated in the following questions:

- Will we have and promote individual membership?
- If yes, what can WFFM offer?
- What could the individual members bring to WFFM?
- Do we have the capacity to handle individual members?

Structure

Members of the WG3 Individual Members are:

- Bruce Bolton
- Marta Alvarez Molindi
- Annie Combettes
- Veronica Savanciuc
- Rosemarie Wagner
- Sofia Weil de Speroni
- Kjersti Sissener
- Gunter Gromke

Actions

The group will present an intermediary report of their recommendation to the executive committee 1st December 2025 to allow for any changes before presentation at the next General Assembly in Athens, April 2026.

The group will work independently but is welcome to consult René and Anne if necessary.

Working document shall be stored under the WFFM Member page, Work Groups, Code of Ethics folder.

August, 2025

Italo Scialoja
President WFFM

At the WFFM General Assembly in May 2025, the WFFM executive committee was encouraged to establish working groups to support its evolution. Four working groups were proposed and are now established. Still room for more members' participation.

On behalf of the executive committee, first VP René Faure and Anne Asserson, Secretary General, had a kick-off Zoom meeting and have started the groups.

Each group has a relevant mandate with an action plan. This has been formed and agreed upon after the first meeting. WFFM wants the group to work individually and present their recommendations in an interim report towards the end of the year. The final report, with recommendations, will be presented at the GA in Athens.

22 persons representing 12 countries are participating in the four different groups.

Update on Young Council

I Feedback from different national Young Friends groups

France: Eugénie will step down from her position as national coordinator of the Young Friends at the end of September but will remain active as a volunteer. She will be replaced by Romane, who will also take part in the upcoming meetings in Athens.

Portugal: Their General Assembly will be held this month, with around ten young friends expected to attend. Travel costs remain a challenge, which limits broader participation.

Canada: Several meetings and workshops are being organized, particularly as a follow-up to the work launched in Naples. A new coordinator has recently taken office.

Germany: Young friends will meet in November. Mannheim (Germany): The Young Friends will celebrate their 12th anniversary.

England: The GA will take place in October in Bristol, one of their main priorities is to develop the Young Friends.

II- Interactive map project



Following the decision in Naples, Eugénie and Sixtine have been in contact with the person managing the World Federation's website. They reviewed several tools (both free and paid) and decided, for now, to use uMap (OpenStreetMap), which is simple and user-friendly. Links to other possible platforms were also shared for feedback.

Sixtine presented a first draft of the map with examples already filled in for France and Portugal.

Picture of Young Friends in Naples 2025

The map will include, for each country, the following elements (each representative is free to provide the information they wish): - A short description of how the Young Friends group operates (structure, specific features, local engagement, etc.) - A contact email address (personal, general, or created for this purpose, as long as it is checked regularly) - Links to social media accounts or websites - One or more photos representing the group or its activities (optional) - Languages spoken by the contact person(s) - The age range of members in sections - The year the section was created

Representatives are encouraged to send their contributions as soon as possible, to move forward with the map project. Once the map is set up, each country will be able to update its own information to ensure it stays current.

Voices from the past with still interesting and relevant ideas



ICOM's president, Alissandra Cummins (middle), President of Norwegian Friends of Museums, Mariane Andresen (left), and WFFM president Carla Bossi-Comelli. The picture is from the WFFM congress, Sevilla 2005.

Dedicated area for Friends of Museums. At the congress in Sevilla 2005, the then president of ICOM, Alexandra Cummins, underlined in her speech to the 350 participants, that ICOM wished that all new museum buildings allocate space for the Friends of the Museums. She stressed the importance of friends being close to the visitors. Also, museums to give the Friends high exposure in a prominent place in the museum.

*Editor & responsible: Anne Asserson, Secretary General
With contributions from René Faure.*

communication@thewffm.org