



# Newsletter June 2026

Athens on April 23.-26. April 2026.



Eighteen countries gathered or were represented at the General Assembly of the World Federation of Friends of Museums —WFFM—which was warmly hosted in Athens from April 23 to 26, 2026, by the Hellenic Federation of

Friends of Museums (ΕΟΣΦΙΜ), for the third time in its history following 1986 and 2004.



It was also an opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the WFFM as well as the 40th anniversary of ΕΟΣΦΙΜ. The creation of the World Federation in the 1970s, initiated by the International Council of Museums (ICOM), led to the establishment of national federations of friends of museums as

we know them today. Fifty-one Friends, including seventeen young people, representatives from ICOM, and numerous Greek museum and heritage institutions participated in this event, which opened with a symposium on the theme **“Museums and Their Friends: Challenges and perspectives in an ever-changing world”** organized by ΕΟΣΦΙΜ. Numerous presentations, ranging from general reflections to local experiences, addressed issues of sustainability, the economy, climate change, accessibility for people with disabilities, and the growing threats facing museums—both from illicit trafficking and the risks of war.

Throughout the symposium, museums emerged as “places of trust” by nature; they are becoming vibrant spaces, essential venues for social interaction in a democracy, where Friends can fully bring them to life as the museums’ primary audience and an integral part of tomorrow’s social fabric.

### **Council and General Assembly, 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> April 2027**

The Argentinian Association is welcoming WFFM for the General Assembly in 2027. Alberto Corti from the Argentinian association gave a welcome presentation. It is planned to travel to Buenos Aires on Wednesday and stay for one night. Then travel to Cordoba, which will host the General Assembly.

*Picture shows the Vice President of WFFM, René Faure, and Alberto Corti from FADAM*





## Association des Amis du Musée National du Burkina Faso - AMNBF

515 følgere • Følger 172

L'Association a pour but :

- d'apporter tout soutien et toute assistance au Musée National du Burkina Faso ;
- de contribuer, en collaboration avec les responsables du Musée National, à la promotion et à la valorisation des biens et services culturels.

WhatsApp

Melding

Følg

### New members

The WFFM has accepted four new associate members: the Friends of the Museum of Fine Arts in Budapest, Hungary; the Friends of the American University of Beirut Museum in Lebanon; the Club of Cultures of the Museum of Cultures (MUSEC) in Lugano, Switzerland; and the Association of Friends of the National Museum of Burkina Faso in Ouagadougou.

### World Day on Sunday, October 11th, 2026

The preparation for the World Day has started, and guidance for your participation is on the WFFM website

at <https://thewffm.org/world-day-of-friends-of-museums-2026/>. Here you will find the World Day logo in the three official languages. The logo can be downloaded and used on your website. WFFM encourages all federations and associations to use the logo to make this World Day known, even if you may not have planned any special activity this year. A preparation guide to help every association set up one or more actions in their museum and participate locally in this event is attached.

**Digital presence:** WFFM acknowledges that there is an increasing demand to be visible in digital areas. Together with the WFFM communication manager, we have proposed a logo for members that we encourage all our federations and associations to use. Download it from the WFFM homepage <https://thewffm.org> with the guidelines for use.

Questions? [communication@thewffm.org](mailto:communication@thewffm.org). The logo is available in English, Spanish and French for all our national, regional and local friends. If you want to edit it in your own



language, this is also possible. Follow the guidelines on the website <https://thewffm.org/communications/> at the end of this page.

**YOU ARE A**

**MEMBER OF THE**

**WFFM**  
WORLD FEDERATION OF FRIENDS OF MUSEUMS

**Who can use this logo?**

- Federations
- Associations: including local and regional associations that are part of federations
- Young Friends

**Where?**

**Use it everywhere:**

- On your website
- On social media
- On posters and flyers
- On newsletters
- All communication materials related to the World Friends of Museums Day

### **International Council of Museums, ICOM, Paris, 24-25 June 2026**

WFFM was established through ICOM's initiative in 1975, bridging the professionals and public. The partnership fosters cooperation between paid museum professionals and the voluntary citizen advocates. Friends of Museums act as the ultimate public audience/civil society and advocate for these institutions. WFFM became an affiliated member of ICOM in 2025.

At the 2026 annual meeting, Vice President René Faure and Secretary General Anne Asserson participated from WFFM. The ICOM meeting took place at the UNESCO House in Paris, and of the 139 countries and territories ICOM spans across, most of them were represented. The purpose of our participation was to establish new contacts with organisations and encourage possible Friends of Museums to become members of WFFM.



*From left: Anne Asserson, Said Harib Al Obeidani, Director General of Museums, Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, Oman, and René Faure.*

ICOM has several regional alliances, and ICOM Arab is one of them. WFFM was invited to meet the ICOM Arab board to inform on WFFM and the activities it wishes to develop with Arab countries and their Friends of Museums. The meeting was facilitated by Dr Fatema Al Sulaiti, the Director of International Cooperation at Qatar Museums. We met the newly elected chair of ICOM Arab, Mr. Mohammed Saad Al Rumaihi. He is also CEO of Qatar Museums.

### **National Museum of Qatar**



The Qatar Museums Authority (QMA), led by HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. Sheikha Amna bint Abdulaziz bin Jassim al-Thani is director of the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ). <https://www.gulf-times.com/story/372893>

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