

Call for members of the ICOMOS Indigenous Heritage Working Group (2024-2026)

Background

Following the unanimous approval of a resolution to develop practices to better understand and conserve indigenous cultural heritage by the ICOMOS General Assembly in Delhi in December 2017, an ad hoc committee of members from various ICOMOS National Committees and International Scientific Committees initiated the steps leading to the creation of the ICOMOS Indigenous Heritage Working Group (IHWG).

The overall aim of the Indigenous Heritage Working Group (IHWG) is to serve as an ICOMOS international platform for indigenous heritage leaders together with non-indigenous practitioners to identify and develop the knowledge, understanding and conservation of indigenous cultural heritage. The mandate of the working group is specifically about delivering outcomes for Indigenous heritage and is not about managing or speaking on behalf of Indigenous people. The work of the IHWG is a critical aspect of ICOMOS' ability to meet its mandate of providing guidance on the conservation of cultural heritage and on supporting the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

While the initial work focuses on Indigenous heritage in the context of World Heritage, the need to understand and provide guidance on indigenous cultural heritage is much broader and as such requires strong partnerships with other organizations and the support of numerous institutions.

Requirements for membership

This call for membership of the IHWG is open to ICOMOS members from a variety of disciplines with experience in indigenous heritage who wish to contribute to the mission and objectives of the Working Group. While we understand there may be many members with experience in working with Indigenous heritage in a range of ways, please note that in this first call, preference will be given to Indigenous members with knowledge, responsibility or experience in identifying, managing, caring for or interpreting Indigenous Heritage.

The IHWG has adopted the understanding of Indigenous people as articulated by the United Nations. Specifically this is based on:

Self-identification as indigenous peoples at the individual level and accepted by the community as their member.

- *Historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies*
- *Strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources*
- *Distinct social, economic or political systems*
- *Distinct language, culture and beliefs*
- *Form non-dominant groups of society*
- *Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities*

With this in mind, Expressions of Interest are now called for Indigenous members of ICOMOS who would like to join the IHWG and non-indigenous members for are highly skilled and /or experienced in working in the field of Indigenous heritage (noting the caveat above that preference will be given to Indigenous members).

- Up to 2 Member(s) nominated by National or Scientific Committees.
 - where possible these nominated members should be indigenous people
 - NCs and ISCs are encouraged to nominate one emerging Indigenous professional where possible.
- International members of ICOMOS (i.e. where no National Committee exists) who identify as Indigenous (see IHWG Guidelines) may nominate themselves.

Once the IHWG is established, additional membership may be invited from ICOMOS Members and members-at-large from the following groups who may be able to provide valuable input not otherwise available from within ICOMOS:

- Indigenous cultural carriers and leaders;
- Multidisciplinary indigenous heritage professionals; and
- Non-indigenous ICOMOS members working in indigenous heritage.
- The period of appointment shall be 2024-26 (3 years).
- Membership is on a volunteer basis and all members are expected to contribute to the work of the IHWG.
- Membership of the working group may be discontinued if members are non-contributing or dormant for more than 4 months.

Support for the work of the IHWG

The IHWG will establish a Secretariat from a National Committee (not necessarily the board of a NC) who will be proposed by the Working Group once established and confirmed by the ICOMOS Board. The term of the secretariat will be three years and renewable for up to three terms. The ICOMOS Board will appoint a Focal Point to drive the delivering of the various projects, build relationships with other relevant ISCs and working groups and raise the profile and standards for Indigenous heritage.

The Work of the IHWG

The IHWG will, in consultation with its Focal Point (to be appointed), and the board liaison develop a triennial work plan which includes proposed tasks, timelines and deliverables as appropriate.

The IHWG will

- With the Focal Point and in liaison with the Board of ICOMOS, review the IHWG guidelines after 12 months to ensure they facilitate the smooth running of the IHWG and where necessary simplify or improve them.
- Work with other ICOMOS bodies i.e., the Board, International Secretariat, Advisory Committee and its Scientific Council, other Working Groups, National and International Scientific Committees to ensure coherence across ICOMOS with regards to indigenous heritage related activities.
- Initiate, support and engage with various indigenous heritage related projects being undertaken by ICOMOS, as outlined in the triennial work plan and /or as requested by the Director General or by the Board.
- Provide technical advice to the Board of ICOMOS if needed on relevant issues.
- Support and engage the ICOMOS network.
- Monitor progress and support ICOMOS members/bodies in engaging with the framework established in the IHWG guidelines.
- Complete an annual report of activities and achievements in the template provided by the Advisory Committee of ICOMOS.

How to apply to be part of the IHWG

Nominations for membership should be sent via your National Committee or International Scientific Committee to secretariat@icomos.org by 3rd April 2024.

Your application must include:

- Name of nominee/applicant; name of nominating National Committee or ISC; ICOMOS Membership Number (in the case of Individual International Members please provide Name, Country of citizenship and ICOMOS Number)
- a short bio (400-word max) stating:
 - the experience and qualifications of the nominee and
 - whether or not the Nominee identifies as an Indigenous person, and if so
 - the cultural affiliation/ Indigenous community the nominee is from
 - whether or not the nominee meets the ICOMOS criteria for Emerging Professional
- a brief statement (250 words) indicating how you might contribute to the IHWG