## ICOM EXHIBITIONS 2024 CONFERENCE

**Estonian National Museum,** Tartu, Estonia



















# ICOM Exhibitions

ICOM Exhibitions is a transformative voice in museums, ICOM, and the exhibitions community. ICOM Exhibitions inspires individuals and organizations to connect with each other through meaningful experiences and dialogues, focusing on content creation, exhibition development, strategic partnerships, collaborations, and cultural exchange.

#### Mission

ICOM Exhibitions is committed to being a force for transformation in the museum and exhibition sectors by supporting efforts to expand diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion (DEAI), by encouraging difficult conversations to discover common ground, by providing a multicultural and multidisciplinary platform for all members and organisations and by taking risks that enable and support innovation and progress within the exhibition industry and our museum communities as a whole.

ICOM Exhibitions seeks to expand and strengthen its position as the global voice for the international museum exhibition community.

ICOM Exhibitions seeks to establish and share best practices in exhibition production, partnership development, sustainable production models, and content exchange.

ICOM Exhibitions leads a global museum network that embraces change and supports innovation and progress.

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# MOMENTUM Exhibitions and Memory

## Sunday September 29. 2024

Join us to celebrate the opening of **Momentum: Exhibitions and Memory** 

4:00pm - 6:00pm

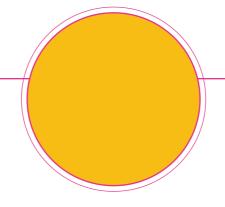
**Tartu University Museum** Lossi 25 51003 Tartu linn

Attendees are invited to pick up their conference badges and enjoy drinks and light snacks while meeting the conference organizers. Participants will also have exclusive access to the Tartu University Museum's permanent exhibition, "University of Our Lives," as well as the latest temporary exhibition, "Hidden Worlds Expanding."

### Welcome

Marian Raisma, PhD Director, Tartu University History Museum

> Hillary Spencer Co-chair, ICOM Exhibitions













## Monday September 30. 2024

## Welcome to

# **Momentum: Exhibitions and Memory**

8:30 - 9:00 **Conference Opens** 

**Estonian National Museum** 

Muuseumi tee 2 60532 Tartu

9:10 - 9:15

Welcome

Hillary Spencer, ICOM Exhibitions, United States Kertu Saks, Estonian National Museum, Estonia Linda Norris, International Coalition of Sites of

Conscience, United States

Kai Lobjakas, Chair ICOM Estonia, Estonia

9:15 - 10:45

Keynote: Exhibitions, Memory and the Future

Lebogang Marishane, Constitution Hill, South Africa Amina Krvavac, War Childhood Museum, Bosnia and Herzegovina, moderated by Hillary Spencer,







## Exhibitions, Memory and the Future

Memories shape the future, but what happens when community members do not have direct experience with the events of the past? How can exhibitions engage young people in thoughtful explorations of our histories to create more just futures?

In this keynote conversation, **Lebogang Marishane** of Constitution Hill in South Africa and Amina Kryayac of the War Childhood Museum in Bosnia and Herzegovina share their strategies, dilemmas, and hopes for creating future memories through exhibitions.

Amina Krvavac is the Executive Director of the War Childhood Museum in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, which focuses on the experiences of children affected by war. Under her leadership, the museum has gained international recognition for its innovative approach to peacebuilding and reconciliation. The War Childhood Museum won the prestigious Council of Europe Museum Prize in 2018. Krvavac believes in museums as spaces for social action, societal healing, and drivers of change, and is particularly interested in unlocking the potential of museums in transitional justice processes.

Lebogang Marishane is a South African researcher and a social justice, culture, and peace-building practitioner, currently serving as the Strategic Support Manager at Constitution Hill in South Africa. With over 15 years of experience, Marishane has been instrumental in advancing truth and reconciliation efforts post-Apartheid. Her work spans transitional justice for African youth to curating exhibitions in post-conflict societies, with a focus on fostering dialogue, reconnecting individuals with their pasts, and envisioning a brighter future for all.

Hillary Spencer, a leader in the conversation about the future of museums, and the co-chair of ICOM Exhibitions, will moderate the session. Spencer is known for her research that focuses on the importance of risk in effective leadership. Committed to models of co-creation and co-leadership in both content creation and structural change, Spencer's work is at the forefront of shaping inclusive and forward-thinking museum practices.

**Explore how exhibitions can help** create meaningful connections between the past and the future, especially for younger generations who may not have lived through the historical events being presented.

## Monday September 30. 2024, cont.

10:45 - 11:15 **Coffee Break** 

**Concurent Sessions - Workshops** 

11:15 - 12:45 **Workshop 1 - Future Perfect Museums** 

> Hillary Spencer, ICOM Exhibitions, United States Maggie Greyson, Futures Present, Canada

If your museum could be anything what would it be? What stories would you tell? How would you share them? Who would you reach? This workshop invites you to embrace the unique strengths of your organization and ask, "What if?" Through futures thinking, you'll collaborate with peers to envision your own Future Perfect Museum and develop actionable strategies to bridge the gap between today's realities and tomorrow's possibilities. Join us to discover how to advocate for bold, new narratives using innovative tools of advocacy and disruption, tailored for the evolving museum landscape.

11:15 - 12:45 **Workshop 2 - Creating Dialogic Exhibitions** 

> Linda Norris, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, United States

Drawing on examples from Sites of Conscience around the globe, this active workshop provides participants with concrete tools and approaches for teams to use in developing exhibitions that encourage visitors to consider and shape more just futures for all.



11:15 - 12:00

**Panel Session 1** 

Violence, Peace, Identity: Memories for the

Future Samantha Vaughn, Catherine Gilbert, Natalie Heidaripour, Yusuf Patel, Newcastle University, United Kingdom

Explore memory's role in understanding our past and shaping a better future. By comparing exhibitions from South Africa, Rwanda, Czechia, Northern Ireland, and the United States, we will examine how trauma and difficult histories are addressed. The focus will be on how exhibitions use these memories to confront the past, foster



12:00 - 12:45

Panel Session 2

**Exploring Heritage and Social Issues Through Exhibitions** 

Niloofar Yazdkhasti, Iran Dolls Museum, Iran Jole Martinengh, Contemporanea Progetti, Italy Anna Dentoni, Promotori Musei Mare, Italy

This session explores how museums and exhibitions raise awareness about heritage, social issues, and cultural evolution through three interconnected projects:

The Iran Dolls Museum spotlights women's rights by showcasing stories of Iranian women advocating for gender equality.

"Women in the Ancient World," an exhibition by Contemporanea Progetti and Museo Nazionale Romano, examines gender roles in ancient societies to foster discussions on inclusivity.

"Hollywood in Riviera" by Promotori Musei Mare connects the glamour of Hollywood's past with modern perspectives, inspiring visitors through its engaging narrative.

Discover how these exhibitions preserve heritage while provoking thought on contemporary issues.

### Afternoon Activities

1:00 - 2:00	Lunch	Provided by Momentum!
2:00 - 2:30	Transit	<b>Tartu Toy Museum</b> Lutsu str 8 51006 Tartu
3:00 - 3:45	Tour	Special Exhibitions
4:00 - 5:00	Break out sessions and coffee	









## **Tuesday October 1. 2024**

## How do Exhibitions Shape our Memory?

Museum visitors bring their own life experiences into any exhibition, but how can a museum address the dilemmas of long-held perspectives shaped by colonization, racism, gender, and class? Whose stories are told? Whose memories are honored? How can an understanding of context, agency, and voice help create new meanings and memories in our constantly changing societies?

In this keynote conversation, Miles Greenwood of the International Slavery Museum in the United Kingdom and Olena Honcharuk of the Oleksandr Dovzhenko National Centre in Ukraine bring diverse perspectives to the exploration of the past, present, and future of reshaping community memory.

The conversation will be moderated by Linda Norris, a thought leader at the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.





Olena Honcharuk is the Acting Director of the Oleksandr Dovzhenko National Centre in Ukraine, the country's primary film archive. Since 2021, she has played a vital role in the organization, particularly in the preservation and promotion of Ukraine's film heritage during challenging times, including the ongoing war. Honcharuk has also led initiatives to expand the Centre's archival activities to document the war and its impacts.

Miles Greenwood is the Lead Curator at the International Slavery Museum, part of National Museums Liverpool. Greenwood's work focuses on addressing the legacies of slavery and empire through exhibitions, research, and community engagement. He has been instrumental in highlighting the historical impact of transatlantic slavery and colonialism, as well as their ongoing effects in contemporary society. Previously, Greenwood served as the Curator of Legacies of Slavery and Empire at Glasgow Museums, where he played a crucial role in reshaping narratives around Glasgow's involvement in the slave trade and its colonial past.

Linda Norris is the Senior Specialist, Methodology and Practice at the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, the only global network of historic sites, museums, and memory initiatives that connects past struggles to today's movements for human rights. Norris facilitates connections and builds the capacity of members and organizations in using the past to create a more just future. An international thought leader and co-author of Creativity in Museum Practice, Norris is known for her work in facilitating conversation and action on how creativity can transform museums, shape more compelling narratives, and foster deeper, more inclusive community connections.

Explore how exhibitions can challenge entrenched narratives, honor diverse memories, and create spaces for new perspectives that resonate with our evolving societies.



9:10 - 9:15 Welcome

Amanda Mayne, ICOM Exhibitions and The British Museum,

United Kingdom

9:15 - 10:30 Keynote: How do Exhibitions Shape our Memory?

Olena Honcharuk, Oleksandr Dovzhenko National Centre, Ukraine Miles Greenwood, International Slavery Museum, United Kingdom moderated by Linda Norris, International Coalition of Sites of

Conscience, United States

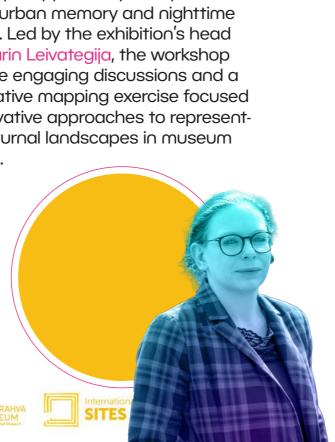
10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

### **Concurrent Sessions - Workshops**

11:00 - 12:45 Workshop 1 Nightscapes: Exploring Urban Memory

Karin Leivategija, Estonian National Museum, Estonia

This workshop, held in conjunction with the Estonian National Museum's exhibition 'Who Claims the Night?', offers participants a unique opportunity to explore the intersection of urban memory and nighttime experiences. Led by the exhibition's head curator, Karin Leivategija, the workshop will feature engaging discussions and a collaborative mapping exercise focused on innovative approaches to representing nocturnal landscapes in museum settings.





# 11:00 - 12:45 Workshop 2 Advancing Digital Innovation in Memory: A Collaborative Workshop

Dr Kate Marrison & Dr Victoria Grace Walden Landecker Digital Memory Lab, University of Sussex, UK

Between 2022 - 2023, 100 international collaborators developed a set of recommendations to support digital innovation in Holocaust museums, memorial sites, libraries, & archives. These guidelines focus on six key themes: Machine Learning and Al; Digitizing Material Evidence; Digital Recording, Remixing, and Recirculating Testimony; Holocaust Memory and Education on Social Media; Virtual Holocaust Memoryscapes; and Gaming and Play in Holocaust Memory and Education.

In this workshop, we invite individuals from the wider GLAM sector to collaborate on advancing these recommendations. Together, we will explore how these guidelines can inform and enhance your practice, particularly when working with historical material that is difficult, sensitive, or traumatic.

## **Concurrent Sessions - Lightning Presentations**

11:00 - 11:15 Presentation 1 The Amashi of Durban

Rebecca Naidoo, Old Courthouse Museum, South Africa

The Old Court House Museum in Durban features an exhibition on Rickshaw Pullers (Amahashi) to deepen understanding of South Africa's history through direct interaction with historical collections. This exhibition fosters appreciation for diverse cultures, serves as an educational hub, and encourages critical discussions.

11:15 - 11:30 Presentation 2 In Other Words, Québec: Meeting Ground Nicolas Gauvin, Musée de la civilisation, Canada

"In Other Words, Québec" reimagines Québec's social, historical, geographical, and cultural narratives, emphasizing diversity, encounters, and contemporary issues. It challenges conventional accounts of Québec's memory, aiming for inclusion and decolonization. Through new museolog-ical approaches, visitors are invited to engage with the past to shape a more just future. Hear how the Museum weaves empathy, inclusivity, and collective memory into the creation of a brighter tomorrow.

## Tuesday October 2. 2024, cont.

**Concurrent Sessions - Lightning Presentations, cont.** 

#### Presentation 3 Museums as Catalysts for Social 11:30 - 11:45 Awareness: The Role of The Partition Museum, Delhi

Abhinav Sharma, Indian Institute of Heritage, India

This presentation will examine the vital role museums play in addressing sensitive social issues, with a focus on The Partition Museum in Delhi, which is dedicated to the 1947 Partition of India. At a time when religious intolerance is a pressing issue in Indian society, museums serve as public platforms that can foster meaningful discussions and help bridge divides. This session will explore how exhibitions and programs can raise awareness of critical issues and

#### 11:45 - 12:00 Presentation 4 Revolutionizing Cultural Heritage **Preservation, Etienne Tellier, Iconem, France**

This session examines how new technologies and digitization are transforming the preservation of cultural heritage sites threatened by wars, conflicts, and climate change. By creating 3D digital twins of these sites, we can safeguard locations where cultures and civilizations once thrived. We'll explore projects like "Eternal Sites" and "Age Old Cities," discussing their role in preserving memory and how they complement traditional museum displays. Discover how technology is reshaping cultural heritage preservation and engagement worldwide.

#### 12:00 - 12:15 Presentation 5 Tokens of Power

Ken Ird, University of Tartu Museum, Estonia

In January 2025, a new exhibition, "Tokens of Power. Political Image of the Assembly Hall of the University of Tartu", will open at the Art Museum of the University of Tartu. This exhibition will provide a novel insight into that iconic neoclassical public space and analyse it as an ideologically (un) conscious stage for different political systems that governed Estonia in the 19th and 20th centuries. The presentation discusses challenges faced during the preparation of the exhibition and focuses on how to deal with politically sensitive history.



#### 12:15 - 12:30 Presentation 6 Reshaping Memory

Kosjenka Laszlo Klemar, Technical Museum Nikola Tesla, Croatia

This presentation examines the crucial role museums play in preserving or erasing collective memory, focusing on the Nada Dimić File 2023 exhibition This presentation examines the crucial role museums play in preserving or erasing collective memory, focusing on the Nada Dimić File 2023 exhibition at the Technical Museum Nikola Tesla. The session will discuss museums' responsibilities in managing dissonant and complex heritage, offering strategies for engaging audiences in reshaping erased memory. Attendees will gain insights into creating environments that encourage critical reflection.

#### 12:30 - 12:45 Presentation 7 Beyond the Frame: Charting the Spectrum of Preferences Between Digital and **Traditional Museum Exhibitions**

Zhi Ye, Kings College London, United Kingdom

This session examines how international audiences engage with digital technologies in blockbuster exhibitions, based on insights from over 30 semi-structured interviews. It explores how diverse audience groups interact with and perceive traditional, digital, immersive, and online exhibition formats. The findings highlight how digital elements can both enhance and detract from the overall experience. Drawing from these insights, the session will propose guidelines for designing more effective and inclusive digital exhibition experiences that cater to a wide range of international visitors.

#### 12:45 - 1:00 Presentation 8 Vårgårda Museum: Small Museum, Millions of Stories

Pia Hansson, Bohusläns museum, Sweden

Discover the magic of Vårgårda Museum, where a community's collective memory comes alive in a 140-square-meter exhibition. This small Swedish museum tells 10,000 years of history—from the Bronze Age to modern times—using innovative design on a limited budget. The exhibition's focu on roads, intersections, and trade routes creates a powerful sense of t longing, connecting visitors to the past through interactive experience compelling narratives, and immersive environments.









## Tuesday October 2. 2024, cont.

## Afternoon Activities

1:00 - 2:00 Lunch Provided by Momentum!

2:00 - 2:30 Transit Tartu City Museum
Narva mnt 23
51009 Tartu

3:00 - 3:45 Tour Special Exhibitions

# Join us for an evening along the Emajõgi River

Discussion

Lodjakoda Barge Centre Ujula tänav 98 Tartu linn

traditional Estonian fare.

4:00 - 5:00

6:00pm - 9:00pm

Break out sessions and coffee

Join us at the historic Barge Centre, winner of the Cultural Endowment of Estonia in Architecture special award in 2021, for a true Estonian evening! Enjoy music, sauna and friends!

The Barge Centre sauna uses leftover wood from ship building to heat the cosy sauna, which is located on the banks of the Emajõgi River, a 15-minute walk from the city centre. You can jump directly into the Emajõgi River from the hot sauna bench, or relax on the banks of the river while enjoying



## Wednesday October 2. 2024

# Exhibitions, Memories, and Indigenous Communities

Historically, exhibitions about Indigenous communities were often developed without their involvement, perpetuating legacies of colonialism and displacement. Today, Indigenous museum leaders are reshaping the exhibition process, introducing perspectives that challenge conventional practices. This keynote presentation will explore how Indigenous memories, traditions, and contemporary experiences can be honored and integrated into exhibitions, creating spaces that respect these cultures while fostering inclusive learning experiences for all. The conversation will spotlight museum leaders who are driving change by centering Indigenous voices and embracing diverse ways of knowing.

Taina Máret Pieski, Director of the Sámi Museum Siida in Inari, Finland. The Indigenous-led museum serves as both a cultural and nature center, focusing on the culture and history of the Sámi people, as well as the natural environment of Northern Lapland. Under Pieski's leadership, the museum has undergone significant renovations and expansions, enhancing its exhibitions and facilities to better serve the Sámi people and preserve Sámi heritage.



## Wednesday October 3. 2024, cont.

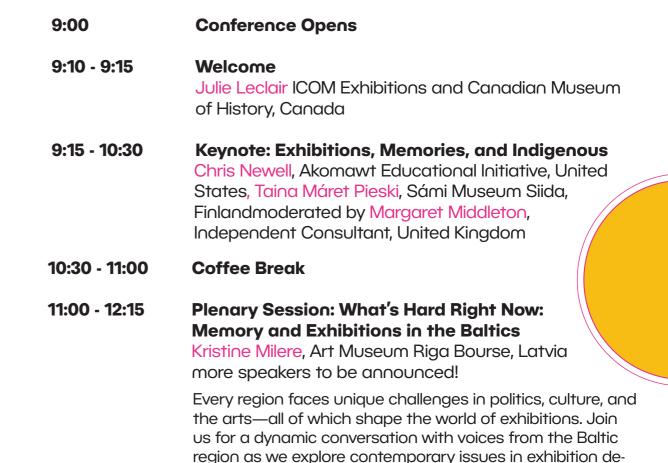
## Exhibitions, Memories, and Indigenous Communities, cont.

Chris Newell, a member of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, has made significant contributions to the museum field, particularly in promoting Indigenous perspectives. Newell served as the Executive Director and Senior Partner to the Wabanaki Nations at the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor, Maine. He was the first tribal member to lead the museum, which is dedicated to Wabanaki art, history, and culture. During his tenure, Newell focused on decolonizing museum practices by centering Native voices and restructuring the museum's board to include a majority of Wabanaki members. Newell is also the co-founder of the Akomawt Educational Initiative, which aims to improve education on Native history and contemporary issues across New England.

Moderated by Margaret Middleton, an American independent exhibit designer and museum consultant based in the UK with over 15 years of experience in the museum field. Working at the intersection of design and social justice, Middleton focuses on creating inclusive and welcoming museum experiences for diverse audiences.

Join us for this impactful session to gain insights into the evolving role of Indigenous communities in shaping exhibitions





1:00 - 2:00 Lunch

2:00 - 3:30 Marketplace of Exhibitions

Sponsored by Teo and Expona Exhibitions

velopment, storytelling, decolonization, and more. Don't miss

this opportunity to dive into the topics that matter most!

Discover the latest in exhibition development, hear calls for partners, and explore exciting hosting oportunities from our global community of content producers. The Marketplace is sponsored by Teo and Expona Exhibitions and will feature online and in person presentations.









## Wednesday October 3. 2024, cont.

3:00 - 4:30 **Concurrent Sessions - Workshops** 

Workshop 1 **Essentials of Traveling Exhibitions: From Concept** to Execution

> Julie Leclair, ICOM Exhibitions and Canadian Museum of History, Canada

Amanda Mayne, ICOM Exhibitions and The British Museum, United Kingdom

ICOM Exhibitions brings the pros to you! In this workshop, industry experts Amanda Mayne and Julie Leclair will share their extensive experience in managing and touring exhibitions, both large and small. Participants will gain valuable insights into the key aspects of planning and executing a successful traveling exhibition, including:

Topic Selection: Learn how to choose compelling and relevant themes that resonate with diverse audiences. Vendor Agreements: Understand the essentials of negotiating and managing agreements with vendors, ensuring smooth collaboration and clear expectations. Touring Artifacts: Explore the considerations involved in deciding whether to include artifacts in your exhibition, including conservation, security, and legal implications. Logistics: Delve into the practicalities of transporting, installing, and maintaining exhibitions across multiple venues. Rental Agreements: Gain knowledge on drafting and negotiating rental agreements that protect your interests while fostering successful partnerships.

Whether you're new to traveling exhibitions or looking to refine your approach, this workshop will provide you with the foundational tools and strategies



#### Workshop 2 Sustainable Exhibitions: A workshop exploring how to reduce the environmental impact of exhibitions

Elise Foster Vander Elst, Head of Exhibitions and Environmental Impact Lead, Design Museum, United Kingdom Lorraine Finch, Chair of the Institute of Conservation's Sustainability Network, United Kingdom

Museum leaders around the globe are prioritizing environmental sustainability by implementing innovative green initiatives. From adjusting temperature standards and transitioning to LED lighting to adopting green logistics practices, these efforts are not only reducing environmental impact but also leading to significant cost savings and lower energy consumption. In this workshop, we'll address the critical question: How Can a Museum Develop Sustainability Strategies for Exhibitions?

Maintaining and caring for museum exhibitions can have a measurable effect on an institution's environmental impact. With an eye on the future and an appreciation of the urgent need for all organizations to respond to the climate crisis, this workshop provides tangible strategies for greening your programs. This workshop provides tangible strategies, tools and resources for greening your programs.

#### Workshop 3 **Exploring Playful Engagement**

Ed Rodley, The Experience Alchemists, United States

In this workshop we will explore playful engagement in cultural settings through four interrelated concepts that are essential for creating compelling, memorable experiences—whether physical, digital, or blended. Participants will delve into sensory immersion, emotional evocation, narrative transportation, and playful participation as key components of effective visitor engagement. This workshop will provide attendees with a framework for understanding the visitor experience in cultural environments and propose a model of playful engagement that allows experience designers to visualize their objectives more clearly. Participants will learn how to incorporate these













## Wednesday October 3. 2024, cont.

### **Exploring Playful Engagement, cont.**

four concepts into their work, enabling them to craft a new generation of transformative experiences that resonate with audiences both in-person and online. Join us to discover how to enhance visitor engagement through playfulness and creativity!

#### 4:30 - 5:00 **Estonan National Museum** Reception

Join us to thank our Estonian hosts, toast our friends and announce the 2026 conference location!

## Join us to celebrate the closing of **Momentum: Exhibitions and Memory** at the **We Claim the Night Party!**

#### **Estonian National Museum** 7:00pm - 12:00am

Nomad Exhibitions is hosting the ultimate close-out party this year! Get ready to dance at the Estonian National Museum's "Who Claims the Night" exhibition! If you partied with us in Prague, you know ICOM Exhibitions knows how to celebrate, and if you danced with

> us in Medellín, you know exhibitions folks know how to have fun! Don't miss this epic conference finale—it's going to be a night to remember!

The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience empowers societies to reckon with their past in order to create more just and peaceful futures. To do so, we facilitate a global network composed of historic sites, museums, universities, and civil society organizations dedicated to helping the public confront traumatic histories and address their contemporary legacies. We support these institutions in creating powerful memory initiatives that shine a light on difficult truths and fight for specific actions to achieve justice, whether in the recent or distant past. Learn more at: www.sitesofconscience.org

Estonian National Museum is an ethnographic museum, focusing on the everyday life and cultural changes of Estonian and Finno-Ugric peoples. Opened in a brand new building in 2016, the museum comprises of vast collections, professional conservation, research, and educational departments. The museum's primary goal has been to broaden its impact on society by increasing the participation of various communities, cultural groups, and memory in its activities and serving as a catalyst for innovation based on heritage. https://www.erm.ee/

ICOM Estonia has more than 250 individual and 10 institutional members and a strong net work of Estonian museum professionals, who are encouraged to participate in interna tional museum cooperation. ICOM Estonia organizes Museum Day events, as well as local and international seminars. The main current topics of the four work groups are museum ethics, museum terminology, restitution, and environmental sustainability. https://www.icomeesti.ee/

> Nomad Exhibitions specialises in the design and production of innovative and expertly designed temporary, touring and permanent exhibitions for museums, galleries and cultural venues worldwide. Nomad are commitment facilitating worldwide access to outstanding collections, creative design, curatorial excell ence, exceptional partnerships, and environmental responsibility. www.nomadexhibitions.com

Teo is dedicated to supporting the international touring exhibitions community by fostering new connections, dialogue, shared knowledge and best practices within the touring world. Created for hosts, producers and suppliers of international touring exhibitions, Teo is a global living resource for sharing best practices and fostering new international collaborations in the world of travelling exhibits. https://www.teo-exhibitions.com

Expona Exhibitions specializes in developing, co-producing, and touring exhibitions for museums and exhibition centers, handling everything from content development to project management. We also offer personalized design services, including creative graphic design, to enhance the impact of temporary exhibitions. https://www.expona.net





