

Museum Definition Survey Results

March 6, 2020

From February 16 to March 4, 2020, ICOM DEMHIST distributed a survey to its membership list. The International Committee received **40** responses. **23** respondents were from confirmed committee members. **17** respondents were either members of another international committee or members whose primary IC membership could not be identified.

Survey Results

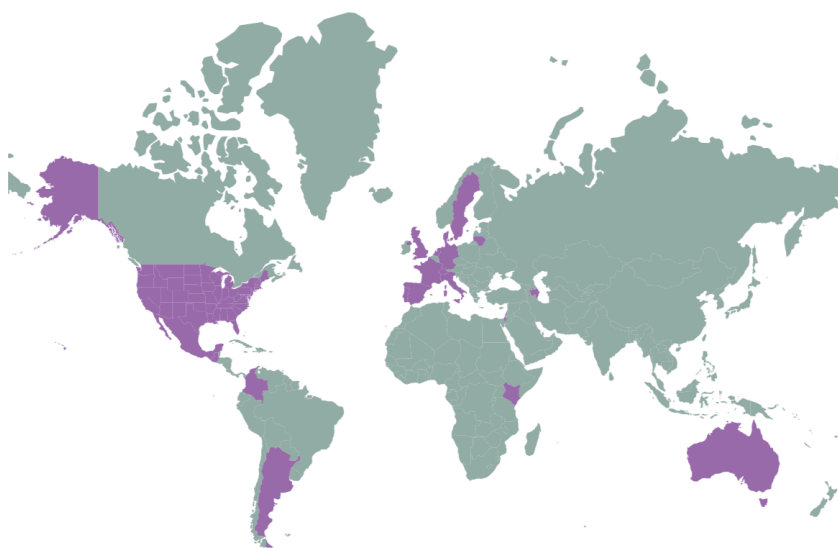
The majority of survey respondents stated the existing museum definition is satisfactory. Many respondents made mention of the importance of the non-profit mission of museums and the importance of intangible heritage included in this definition.

Many respondents made reference to the fact that while a museum may have a nonprofit mission, the institution does not necessarily require a nonprofit structure. Many respondents detailed the need for more impactful language to be included within the definition such as the word “preservation.”

Each respondent included three words describing how they define a museum. **34** respondents submitted their own museum definition.

Please see detailed survey questions on the next page.

Survey Participation Map



Country	Respondents
Argentina	1
Australia	2
Azerbaijan	1
Colombia	1
Denmark	3
France	1
Germany	1
Guatemala	2
Israel	1
Italy	3
Kenya	1
Lithonia	1
Mexico	1
Netherlands	6
Portugal	3
Spain	1
Sweden	1
Switzerland	2
UK	2
USA	6
TOTAL	40

Survey Questions

After a brief introduction to the context of the Museum Definition debate, including the existing Museum Definition, the survey included the following four questions:

1. What do you think are the STRENGTHS about the existing ICOM museum definition?*
2. What do you think COULD BE IMPROVED about the existing ICOM museum definition?*
3. What are THREE WORDS you think define museums?*
4. Please write YOUR DEFINITION of a museum starting with "A museum is..."

The asterisk denotes a required survey question.

For more information about specific responses to the above survey, please contact DEMHIST Secretary Remko Jansonius at remkojansonius@gmail.com.