

December 15, 2025

Report of the Election procedure for the Board of the ICOM International Committee for Museums and Collections of Costume, Fashion and Textiles for the period 2026-2028

1. Results of the election

Costume Committee Board 2025-2028

Position Nominee	Nominee/Country
CHAIR	Joanna Regina Kowalska/Poland
VICE CHAIR	Elisabeth Murray/UK
SECRETARY	Lee Talbot/USA
TREASURER	Vicky Salías/Argentina
MEMBERS AT LARGE	
	Marta Franceschini/UK
	Dorothea Nicolai/Switzerland
	Valerie Steele/USA
	Jackie Yoong/Singapore



Chair

Joanna Regina Kowalska – historian and art historian, curator of the Textile Collection at the National Museum in Krakow (since 1999). She completed the Technical Courses at CIETA in Lyon (2013–2014). Her exhibitions include *Always at Hand. Bags from the Middle Ages to the Present* (2009) and *Fashionable in Communist Poland* (with Małgorzata Moźdżyska-Nawotka, 2016), and she was also a member of the curatorial team of the exhibition series *4 x Modernity* (2020–2024). Joanna has authored numerous publications on the history of fashion, she is particularly attentive to the role of fashion in shaping modern society. National Committee: Poland. Joined the Costume Committee in 2013.



Vice-Chair

Elisabeth Murray is Senior Curator at Fashion Museum Bath and Lead Curator for the Museum's major redevelopment. Prior to joining FMB, she was a curator in the fashion and textiles section at the V&A focusing on 20th-century and contemporary fashion. While at the V&A she was project curator for the major exhibitions *NAOMI: In Fashion*, 2024, *Africa Fashion* 2022, and contributed to their accompanying publications. Before joining, the V&A Elisabeth worked in the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection at Kensington Palace. National Committee: UK. Joined the Costume Committee in 2024 through Institutional membership.



Secretary

Lee Talbot, Senior Curator, The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum, Washington DC. He joined The Textile Museum as a curator in 2007, specializing in East Asian textile history. Most recently, Talbot curated the exhibitions *Irresistible: The Global Patterns of Ikat* (2024) and *Korean Fashion: From Royal Court to Runway* (2022). He was also curator or co-curator of exhibitions including *Vanishing Traditions: Textiles and Treasures from Southwest China; Bingata! Only in Okinawa*; and *Stories of Migration: Contemporary Artists Interpret Diaspora*. His recent publications the chapters "Ikat in Japan" in *Global Ikat: Roots and Routes of a Textile Technique* (2023) and "Scholarly Discourses on Fashion Change in Late Joseon" in *Dress History of Korea: Critical Perspectives on Primary Sources* (2023). National Committee: USA. Joined the Costume Committee in 2019.



Treasurer

Vicky Salías, is coordinator of the Historic Collection of Argentinian dress at the Museo Histórico Nacional, Buenos Aires, Argentina. She won the national public contest for the Direction of the Museum of Costume's History of Argentina (2016-present). In 1994 she graduated in fashion design from the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), and in 2005 a Specialization in Cultural Management from the University of San Martín (UNSAM). Now she is completing a Master in Curating Visual Arts, University of Tres de Febrero (UNTREF). Since 1999 she is a professor of textile and clothing design at the University of Buenos Aires and given workshops, talks, conferences and seminars. She is the author of the Buenos Aires City Fashion Guide 2006 and 2007. Vicky has curated various fashion exhibitions including *MAD Award 2015, 2016 and 2017* at the National Museum of Decorative Art, *Fashion Universes* at the Fortabat Collection, *States of Consciousness* at the Sívori Museum. National Committee: Argentina. Joined the Costume Committee in 2017.

Members at large



Dr. Marta Franceschini is a design historian, researcher, and curator. She holds an MA in History of Design from the RCA / V&A and a PhD in design sciences from IUAV Venice. She has contributed to fashion exhibitions, including *Il Maschile: Androgynous Mind, Eclectic Body at the Gucci Garden*, *Fashioning Masculinities: The Art of Menswear* at the V&A, *Genderquake: Liberation, Appropriation, Rejection* at the SCAD Museum of Art in Savannah, and is currently co-curating the exhibition *Vestiaire Dissident* at the Palais Galliera in Paris (2026). Marta is the Head of Communication at the European Fashion Heritage Association (EFHA). She also consults for brand archives and museums and regularly writes and lectures on fashion history and material culture in the UK, France, Italy and the US. National Committee: UK. Joined the Costume Committee in 2022.



Dorothea Nicolai is a Freelance costume designer, lecturer at AMD Academy of Fashion Design Munich/Berlin. I consider myself as an interdisciplinary costume thinker and researcher. It all began with an apprenticeship as a tailor in Munich, then costume studies at the University of Applied Arts in Hamburg. After many years as a director for costumes, wigs and make-up at the Salzburg Festival, Bayreuth Festival and the Zurich Opera House, with productions in Milan, Paris, London, St. Petersburg, Tokyo...now working freelance for different projects. Lecturer for costume history and textile technology at the AMD Academy Fashion Design in Munich/Berlin. Fluent in German/French/English/Italian. I try to unite textile handicraft knowledge with theory and research. Next projects ahead in Shanghai! "Everything is Costume" www.nicolai.at. National Committee: Switzerland. Joined the Costume Committee in 2005.



Valerie Steele is director and chief curator of The Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York City, where she has organized more than 25 exhibitions since 1997, including *The Corset: Fashioning the Body*; *Gothic: Dark Glamour*; *A Queer History of Fashion*; and *Dress, Dreams, and Desire: Fashion and Psychoanalysis*. She is the author or editor of 30 books, some of which have been translated into Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. She is founder and editor in chief of *Fashion Theory: The Journal of Dress, Body & Culture*, the first scholarly journal in Fashion Studies. National Committee: USA. Joined the Costume Committee over 10 years ago.



Jackie Yoong is Senior Curator (Design) and leads the Design team at the Asian Civilisations Museum and Peranakan Museum in Singapore. She curated the exhibitions *Guo Pei: Chinese Art and Couture* and *Andrew Gn: Fashioning Singapore and the World*, and the museums' fashion galleries. Her research now explores contemporary Asia in global fashion. Internationally, she serves on ICOM Costume, Fashion and Textiles Board (2023-2025) and the Advisory Panel of CHAT (Centre of Heritage, Arts and Textile), Hong Kong. She holds an MA in History of Art from SOAS, University of London. National Committee: Singapore. Joined the Costume Committee in 2022

2. The Nominating Committee

The Nominating committee was composed of 2 members:

Nominating Committee Chair: Isabel Alvarado - Chile

Nomination Committee (Past Chair): Alexandra Palmer - Canada

3. Nominations

- A call for candidates was sent to all members of the committee by August 8, 2025.
- 14 members kindly stood for office representing 12 countries.
- A list of candidates for each position was prepared.
- Eligibility of nominees was checked with the support of the Marie Olivier and Marine Walon (International Committees Coordinator of ICOM) from Paris.

4. Election procedure

- The ballots with a photo and brief biography of candidates for the different positions was sent to all committee members by October 29, 2025.
- The voting was done using the platform Balotilo, from November 20 to 26.
- 127 members voted representing 16 % of Costume members.

5. Future Nominating Committee Chair

The next Nomination Committee is:

Nominating Committee Chair: Ninke Bloemberg, Netherlands

Nomination Committee member (Past Chair): Isabel Alvarado, Chile

We thank all members that kindly stood for election, and we welcome our new Board.

Respectfully submitted

Isabel