

Proposal of CIMAM, the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Modern Art, and an Affiliated Organization of ICOM, to the new Museum Definition of ICOM.

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

The board of CIMAM was grateful to its members for contributing with key ideas and relevant thoughts to the new Museum Definition of ICOM.

Having reviewed all the proposals received, the CIMAM board identified that the new Museum Definition of ICOM should embody these three essential concepts:

1. Art

Art should be represented in the museum definition, besides artifacts and specimens.

“they hold works of art, artefacts and specimens in trust for society ...”

“they hold and mediate art, artefacts and ...”

2. Education

The educational, learning, community building and enjoyment aspects are key experiences that museums provide.

“for the purposes of education, increased understanding, exchange and enjoyment...”

“and platforms for learning, study and enjoyment...”

“the museum, being eminently educational, ...”

3. Sustainability

Museums should be on a path to a sustainable future, committed to fight back the climate emergency and taking responsibility to achieve the United Nations' [Museums and the Sustainable Development Goals](#).

“and enhance understandings of the world, aiming to contribute to human dignity and social justice, global equality, “and to environmental sustainability” and planetary wellbeing.

Inclusive rather than *Democratizing*

The word *democratizing* is problematic for those museums in non-democratic contexts. CIMAM instead suggests removing it and leave “inclusive” and add “the presents”:

“Museums are ~~democratizing~~, inclusive and polyphonic spaces for critical dialogue about the pasts, the presents and the futures.”