

Communities - Collections - Connections

INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON
**CURATORSHIP AND
RETHINKING COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

6 JULY TO 22 AUGUST 2026

ORGANISED BY
IGRMS, BHOPAL, INDIA & IIIM, AUSTRALIA/USA



 International Institute
for the Inclusive Museum

 **UMAC**
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for University Museums
and Collections

INTRODUCTION



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The pluralistic and inclusive positioning of museums pursued over the past two decades by the International Research Network on the Inclusive Museum (<https://onmuseums.com/about/history>) is reflected in both the updated ICOM 'Museum' definition (2022) and the statements in the UNESCO Recommendation on Museums (2015). The recent MONDIACULT meeting in Barcelona (September 2025) and the ICOM Triennial General Assembly and Conference in the UAE (November 2025) have mapped pathways for museum futures. Among its strategic directions are the need for cooperation and coordination; interdisciplinary approaches; transformative learning and education; balancing AI and the digital within a dynamic and holistic museum and heritage environment.

These global developments are reflected as well in India's evolving national standards, including the National Education Policy (2020) and initiatives under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (2021). As the world undergoes rapid change, museums are challenged to remain relevant and reflexive as they confront contemporary realities. Intercultural and intergenerational dialogue remains crucial as we face global tensions, climate crisis, and social conflicts. Reconciliation and community building must continue shaping museum actions. This IGRMS course focuses on the meaning of curatorship and community engagement for contemporary museums. It is grounded in the outcomes of the IGRMS and UNESCO Chair workshop and symposium, which resulted in the IGRMS Bhopal Charter (February 2024): <https://university.kiss.ac.in/3d-flip-book/igrms-bhopal-charter-2024/>

CURATORSHIP AND RETHINKING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The relationship between curatorship and community engagement is evolving, moving away from authoritative models towards collaborative, inclusive, and reciprocal processes. This shift is essential for GLAM institutions to maintain relevance in a diverse and rapidly changing society. The IGRMS Bhopal Charter provides a platform for professional development and future policy formulation in India within a global cultural ecology. IGRMS and iim are initiating certificate programmes focussing on knowledge, skills, and competencies. A key priority is the nature and essence of curatorship—both conceptual and practical—in the contemporary world. This Professional Development Course facilitates interdisciplinary curricula and pedagogy based on collaborative learning.

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OBJECTIVES/ LEARNING OUTCOMES

- UNDERSTAND THE EVOLVING ROLE OF MUSEUMS IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- CRITICALLY ENGAGE WITH GLOBAL AND LOCAL CASE STUDIES IN PARTICIPATORY CURATION, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH
- APPLY STRATEGIES FROM OBJECT-BASED LEARNING, COLLECTIONS ACCESS, AND FIRST VOICE APPROACHES
- BUILD FRAMEWORKS FOR INCLUSIVE MUSEUM PRACTICE WITHIN THEIR OWN REGIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXTS



CONTENT OF THE COURSE

- INTERDISCIPLINARY LECTURES BY INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL MUSEUM EXPERTS
- ELEMENTS OF COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH AND FIELD IMMERSION
- INTERACTIVE SESSIONS ON ETHICAL CURATORSHIP AND HERITAGE INTERPRETATION
- OBJECT-BASED LEARNING EXERCISES
- CASE STUDIES ON INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
- COLLABORATIVE PROJECT PRESENTATIONS
- COCREATING AND DRAFTING CURATORIAL STATEMENTS



PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

DESIGNED FOR INDIAN CITIZENS:

- IN-SERVICE PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN STATE, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS
- MUSEUM PROFESSIONALS
- HERITAGE PRACTITIONERS
- UNIVERSITY MUSEUM STAFF
- CULTURAL WORKERS
- PROFESSIONALS ENGAGED WITH COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PARTICIPATORY INITIATIVES



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LET'S LEARN



COHORT SIZE
20

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

COURSE DURATION

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- Online (06 July–03 August 2026)
- Preparatory Assignment (04–15 August 2026)
- In-person intensive at IGRMS, Bhopal (16 – 22 August 2026)

DATES

- Application deadline: 31 May 2026
- Final selection list: 15 June 2026
- Fee payment deadline: 25 June 2026

COURSE FEE: ₹10,000 PER PARTICIPANT

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APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Motivational statement (300 words) on course relevance and institutional benefit
- One professional reference with contact details

**A maximum of 20 participants will be selected.
Only one participant per institution.**



SCAN TO
REGISTER

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

CERTIFICATE AWARDED UPON COMPLETION OF ALL ASSESSMENTS AND IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION

- Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya/National Museum of Humankind (IGRMS), Bhopal, India (Lead agency)
- International Institute for the Inclusive Museum (IIIM), Australia/USA (facilitator)
- International Council of Museums - University Museums and Collections Committee (ICOM-UMAC)
- Object Based Learning (OBL), Chau Chak Wing Museum, the University of Sydney, Australia
- Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), BBSR, India
- Ekkathaa Welfare Foundation, BBSR, India



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Govt. of India



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