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FOCUS ON CONSERVATION 2025 – ROUTES TO RESILIENCE

DECEMBER 2–5, 2025, ONLINE CONFERENCE,

Museums, as stewards of cultural heritage, face increasing challenges in safeguarding their collections. Changes in our physical, societal, and economic environments all pose risks to the preservation and conservation of cultural objects and the institutions that care for them.

Continuing the "Focus on Conservation" conference series, this online event will explore how cultural heritage professionals and institutions can build resilience in the face of these pressures. The 2025 convening will centre on strategies and approaches that support the long-term sustainability of collections, conservation practices, and institutions themselves.

Through the following sessions, participants will gain insights into the various "Routes to Resilience."

Resilient Collections & Spaces | Resilient Conservation Practice

Resilient Resources & Partnerships | Resilient Futures

CONFERENCE WEBSITE:

<https://www.icom-cc.org/en/news/focus-on-conservation-2025--routes-to-resilience-online-conference-december-2025>

FREE REGISTRATION: <https://forms.gle/AMQTDQB2M5Pq6zz57>

CONTACT: FoC2025@mfn.berlin

Program

Tuesday, December 2, 2025: Resilient collections & Spaces

All times given in U TC. For conversion to your own timezone please refer to

<https://www.worldtimebuddy.com/>

- 13.00 | Welcome | Dawn Rogala | Smithsonian, Washington DC, United States of America
- 13.15 | Keynote | Kathleen Ferrier | Dutch UNESCO Commission, The Netherlands | Resilience through Solidarity: 80 Years of UNESCO and Collaborative Futures
- 13.45 | Q & A
- 13.50 | Talk | Pil Rasmussen | SMK – National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark | Towards a New Paradigm - Sustainable Climate Control?
- 14.10 | Talk | Heidi Sobol | Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada | Museum Sustainability in the 21st Century
- 14.30 | Talk | Brian Coyle | Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater MD, United States of America | Building a Sustainable Campus for Resilience, Research and Education
- 14.50 | Q & A
- 15.00 | Coffee break
- 15.30 | Talk | Stefan Bichlmair | Fraunhofer Institute for Building Physics IBP, Holzkirchen, Germany | Future Climate Simulation and Risk Assessment for Cultural Heritage
- 15.50 | Talk | Christof Ziegert | ZRS Architects Engineers, Berlin, Germany | Resilient Indoor Climate Stabilisation Using Earth Building Materials
- 16.10 | Dialogue | Morten Ryhl-Svendsen | Royal Danish Academy, Copenhagen, Denmark | Low-Energy Museum Storage – the Danish Experience and Simon Lambert | Canadian Conservation Institute, Ottawa, Canada | New Climate Guidelines and Tools from the Canadian Conservation Institute
- 16.40 | Q & A
- 16.55 | Meet the speaker, breakout rooms
- 17.25 | End of day 1

Wednesday, December 3, 2025: Resilient Conservation Practice

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- 14.00 | Welcome | Kate Seymour | ICOM -CC
- 14.05 | Dialogue | Claire Betelu | L'Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne, Paris, France | Master 1 in Archaeology and Preventive Conservation Jausen & Savignac: Sharing Expertise and Responding to Precise Needs and Nasir Al Darmaki | ICOM United Arab Emirates, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates | Systemic Resilience: Governing Heritage Risk through ICCROM -Sharjah's Integrated Capacity Model in the Arab World and Anwar Sabik | ICCROM Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates | Highlights from ICCROM's Regional Centre in the Arab Region: Empowering Knowledge, Skills, and Heritage Revival
- 14.50 | Talk | Mariana Valdez and Federico Tamborenea | Centro de Conservación, Restauración e Investigación (CCREI), Secretaría de Cultura de la Nación, Argentina | Sustainability in the Use of Conservation Materials
- 15.10 | Talk | Celiwe Dlamini | Eswatini National Museum, Lobamba, Eswatini | Resilient Conservation Practices: Sustainable Solutions for Heritage Preservation and Community Engagement at the Eswatini National Museum
- 15.30 | Q & A
- 15.45 | Coffee break
- 16.15 | Dialogue | Camilla Carmagos | Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil | Creative Routes to Resilience: Biopolymer and Agro-Waste-Derived Nanoparticles for a More Sustainable Conservation Practice and Cecil K. Andersen | Royal Danish Academy, Copenhagen, Denmark | Assessing Climate Resilience in Collections
- 16.45 | Talk | Ayesha Fuentes | University of Cambridge Museums, Cambridge, United Kingdom | Material Lifetimes in Himalayan Collections
- 17.05 | Talk | Kathryn Hanson | Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative, Washington DC, United States of America | Examples of Cultural Heritage Resilience Through Response, Training, and Research
- 17.25 | Talk | Lian The | ToornendPartners, Haarlem, The Netherlands | Resilient Spaces and Best Practice - the Human Factor
- 17.45 | Q & A
- 18.05 | Meet the speaker, breakout rooms
- 18.35 | End of day 2

Thursday, December 4, 2025: Resilient Resources & Partnerships

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- 14.00 | Welcome | Melissa Miller | Smithsonian, Washington DC, United States of America
- 14.05 | Keynote | Elke Selter | Belgium, previously ALIPH | Fundraising & Cooperating in Support of Heritage in Emergencies
- 14.30 | Keynote | Medea Ekner | ICOM/Blue Shield International | tba
- 14.55 | Q & A
- 15.05 | Dialogue | José Luiz Pederzoli Jr. | ICCROM, Rome, Italy | Resilient Collections: Relevance, Foresight, and Cross-Sectoral Collaboration and Henry McGhie | Curating Tomorrow, Liverpool, United Kingdom | Resilience - Building as a Core Part of Sustainable Development: Increasing Our Options, Abilities and Choices
- 15.35 | Dialogue | Young Hee Sung | Laird Art Gallery, Toronto, Canada | Resilience in Density: Art, Process, and Renewal and Catherine Snel with Ayesha Hendricks | Sanlam Ltd, Cape Town, South Africa |
- 16.05 | Q & A
- 16.20 | Elevator Pitch | Constanze Fuhrmann | German Federal Environmental Foundation, Osnabrück, Germany | Heritage Under Climate Pressure: Adaptation, Transformation and the Future of Conservation (also meet the speaker)
- 16.25 | Coffee Break
- 16.50 | Talk | Juergen Vervoorst | The International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, London, United Kingdom | Resilience Through Conservation – Leadership in Sustainability
- 17.10 | Dialogue | Lori Wong | J. Paul Getty Trust, Los Angeles, USA | Strengthening Ecosystems of Resilience in Conservation and Tom Learner | J. Paul Getty Trust, Los Angeles, USA | Building Resilience into the work of the Getty Conservation Institute
- 17.40 | Q & A
- 18.00 | Meet the speaker, breakout rooms
- 18.30 | End of day 3

Friday, December 5, 2025: Resilient Futures

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- 13.30 | Welcome | Kim Kraczon | Ki Culture, Berlin, Germany
- 13.35 | Keynote | Emma Jhita | The Institute of Conservation, London, United Kingdom | From Traditional Models to Future Technologies, how Conservation is Innovating to Achieve Resilient Futures
- 14.05 | Talk | Birgitte Aga | MUNCH, Oslo, Norway | How MUNCH Use AI and Data in Conserving, Presenting, and Making Art Relevant for Future Generations
- 14.25 | Talk | Hanna Hölling | Collegium Helveticum, Bern Academy of the Arts, Bern, Switzerland |
- 14.45 | Q & A
- 15.00 | Coffee break
- 15.20 | Talk | Johanna Eiramo | Finnish National Gallery, Helsinki, Finland | Springing from the Original — How Digital Experiences can Expand Accessibility to Our Art Collection
- 15.40 | Talk | Thomas Speck | Botanic Garden, University of Freiburg, Germany | Biomimetic Shading Systems and Building Hulls Inspired by Plant Movements: Solutions for a Greener Architecture of the 21st Century
- 16.00 | Dialogue | Annette Kühlem | Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Bonn, Germany | Community-Led Heritage Management in the Face of Climate Change - The Tuvalu Digital Repository for Cultural Heritage and Hilke Marit Berger | Hafen City Universität, Hamburg, Germany | Tidal Memories, Fragile Futures: Cultural Heritage as a Contested Resource in Sinking Cities
- 16.30 | Q & A
- 16.40 | Talk | Lisa Swedberg | Kiruna Centre for Conservation of Cultural Property, Kiruna, Sweden | What is Happening in Kiruna? A Conservation Perspective
- 17.00 | Talk | Johanna Leissner | Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, Brussels, Belgium | Strengthening Cultural Heritage Resilience for Climate Change – a European Perspective for Future Closer Cooperation
- 17.20 | Q & A
- 17.35 | Meet the speaker, breakout rooms
- 18.05 | End of conference

