

Mission Statement

ICOMOS-UK National Committee for Digital, Electronic, Robotic Technologies and their Application to Cultural Heritage

21.07.15

ICOMOS, the International Council of Monuments and Sites, is a global non-governmental organisation associated with UNESCO. Its mission is to promote the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of monuments, historic building complexes and landscapes / sites and intangible cultural heritage. It participates in the development of doctrine, evolution and distribution of ideas and conducts advocacy. ICOMOS is a leading organisation in providing advice and skills in societal development.

National committees are organisations that are created at the national level in those member countries of UNESCO. A national committee provides a forum where individuals and representatives of institutions and societies concerned with the conservation, protection, research, rehabilitation, enhancement and celebration of culture and heritage can meet to exchange information and views on principles and practices in the field, also participating in research and project implementation.

A national committee represents the interests of its members, nationally and internationally. National committees are charged with delivering their own agenda or those at the request of their own Governments. Each national committee has its own rules of procedure and programme according to agreed objectives with an agenda developed in conjunction with the national Executive Committee and linked to ICOMOS international scientific committees.

National committees are also a channel through which membership takes part in ICOMOS' international meetings, other activities and missions entrusted to ICOMOS by UNESCO. National committees can exert decisive influences on the programme priorities of ICOMOS and can volunteer to take responsibility, in co-operation with ICOMOS International Secretariat for some part of ICOMOS' international agenda especially where relevant to their own country.

The ICOMOS-UK National Committee for Digital, Electronic and Robotic Technologies (the 'Committee') has been established with the approval of the Executive Committee of ICOMOS-UK to address all aspects of digital technology mediums relevant to the culture and cultural heritage of the United Kingdom and with an international outreach.

Digital Technology is of rapidly growing importance and is constantly evolving – for ICOMOS-UK providing fundamentally important new methods for the celebration, protection, analysis, and management of our heritage and of diverse cultures worldwide. For the Committee, key topics of interest include, but not limited to: World Heritage Sites; Monuments; Ruins; Buried Archaeological Remains; Museums; Historic Buildings; Historic Landscapes; Visitor Centres; Libraries; Asset Documentation, Visualisations and Analysis; Archives; Intangible Heritage; Living History; Survey / Instrumentation / Monitoring; Conservation Science; Project Management (especially through BIM and GIS methods); 3D Computer Modelling; 3D Asset Printing; Special Events and Gaming; Disaster Preparedness and Management; and, Appropriate Societal Development.

The Committee brings together and forges linkages between all members who have a keen interest or professional involvement in digital technologies relevant to cultural and cultural heritage, tangible and intangible.

Of key importance to the objectives of the Committee is: active participation with all other ICOMOS national scientific committees; connections with international ICOMOS scientific committees; and, with the various Government and non-Government bodies in the UK concerned with committee's specialist interests and skills.

The Committee is open to membership from all existing members of ICOMOS-UK, and others, these who are then required to join ICOMOS-UK. New membership and participation is specifically encouraged from students and schools, Further Education and Higher Education institutions. Digital technology commercial industries and external specialists are encouraged to support and collaborate with the Committee's endeavours. The Committee thus gains strength from the breadth of its membership covering all aspects of digital technologies and cultural heritage, representing both the public and private sectors in the different countries and regions of the UK; and, all linked to matching membership and interests overseas.

The Committee is administered by elected representatives of the membership, managed by a chairperson, secretary and special interest representatives, with terms of reference conforming to ICOMOS statutes of association and governance. ICOMOS-UK Secretariat provides supporting services.

In the first year the Committee has the general remit of:

- general information and research intelligence sharing;

- catching up with the science, technology and arts of the advanced electronic world, as specifically we wish digital technologies to be applied to culture and cultural heritage objectives;
- creating new links with new industries/academia/professional practitioners, who are, and could in the future be highly relevant to the various planned objectives and working agenda of ICOMOS-UK, especially in the next two decades;
- better relating ICOMOS-UK to academic institutions with advanced research capabilities;
- capturing a new membership and heritage audience;
- forging new links with the many other ICOMOS-UK national and international scientific committees;
- holding a national conference;
- gaining financial support for general and specific agendas; and,
- increasing the awareness of ICOMOS-UK membership to the objectives and activities of the new national Committee.

A set of long-term core activities are to be progressed through regular committee meetings and inter-connected special interest and research sub-groups and / or individuals within the Committee:

- the production of best practice guides;
- giving advice to practitioners and the general public;
- sharing and exchanging of new technical skills;
- providing international outreach;
- supporting academic institution with presentations, teaching and aiding with internships / placements;
- with dedicated funding, the undertaking of cutting edge pure and applied research projects, supported with in-house placements and external joint ventures; and,
- focussed exchange and collaboration with digital commercial companies and with media organisations.