

Report to ICOM

Re:

Diana Walters (membership 47595)
American Alliance of Museums Conference
Atlanta, Georgia
April 2015

As museum specialist for Cultural Heritage without Borders I invited to convene a panel to discuss the role of museums in peacebuilding at the annual American Alliance of Museums meeting April 26-28 2015.

With the generous support of ICOM Sweden, I was able to attend this event and to facilitate a panel discussion around internationalism, peacebuilding and social transformation through museums. The panel included representatives of projects managed by CHwB in the Balkans and Kenya; work supported by Swedish grants and partnerships.

The AAM is a huge conference with several thousand people attending and an extensive programme. However, over a hundred people came to our panel and a lively discussion and debate took place there and afterwards. It was clear that museums playing this role was quite a new concept to many and there was real enthusiasm and interest for the approach CHwB has developed.

For colleagues from Kenya and Serbia the opportunity to discuss their work on an international platform was potentially transformative. Several connections have now been made and hopefully new partnerships will develop as a consequence. Reducing isolation is a massive part of peacebuilding.

I would like to sincerely thank ICOM Sweden for the very generous grant that allowed me to offset travel costs to the USA. AAM assisted us in accommodation, but other than that all costs were paid by ourselves. It was such an important event and a really amazing opportunity to showcase internationalism. Thank you very much.

Diana Walters