Welcome to the ICOM-US Annual Meeting

October 20, 2026

ICOM international council of museums US

Antonio Rodriguez
President

International Council of Museums

THANK YOU, ARTHUR!

Arthur Affleck
Executive Director
Association of
Children's Museums
Arlington, VA

ICOM international council of museums United States

Thank You to our Board Members Completing Their Terms

Joanne Sofía Flores
Smithsonian Institution

Jason Cryan
Natural History Museum of Utah

Julian Siggers
Field Museum of Natural History

ICOM international council of museums **United States**

Welcome to New Board Members!

Welcome New IC Chairs!

Shoshana Resnikoff,
Demmer Curator of 20th and 21st Century Design, Milwaukee Museum of Art **/** ICOM Documentation

Kenny Libben,
Curator, Cleo Redd Fisher Museum, Loudonville, OH / **ICR:** International Committee for Regional Museums

Brandie MacDonald,
Executive Director and Chief Curator of Indiana University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology **/ COMCOL:** International Committee for Collecting

Heidi McKinnon,
Founder, Curators Without Borders, Santa Fe, NM **/ ICME:** International Committee for Museums and Collections of Ethnography

2026-2029 Officer Slate

Kate Quinn, MBA, MFA
Chair

Elizabeth Duggal
Vice-Chair

Doug McDonald
Treasurer

ICOM international council of museums United States

Welcome Gretchen!

Douglass McDonald
ICOM-US Treasurer
Appointed to ICOM's Finance and Resources Committee (FIREC)

Approved by the ICOM Executive Board | March 2026

FIREC advises ICOM leadership on:

- Financial oversight
- Resource development
- Long-term organizational sustainability

Doug joins another American, Shaoting Pi, and museum and nonprofit leaders representing:

Burkina Faso • Canada • Côte d'Ivoire • France • Netherlands • South Korea • Uruguay • United States

ICOM-US: From Recovery to Renewal

The journey from the May 2023 discovery to financial stability, compliance restoration, and renewed investment in programming

Online Town Hall Report to the ICOM-US Membership | October 2026

Presented by Douglass W. McDonald
Treasurer, ICOM-US

Two clocks: the criminal case and ICOM-US recovery

His custodial sentence moved toward an end. The organization's financial consequences did not.

The enduring lesson

The prison sentence had an endpoint. ICOM-US's rebuilding, restitution recovery, and member obligations continued beyond his release from BOP custody.

Douglass W. McDonald | Treasurer, ICOM-US

Financial position: rebuilt and increasingly resilient

August 31, 2026 balances show liquidity, positive operating results, and room for disciplined investment.

$435,877	$154,797	$281,081	$160,177	$663,487
Total cash in bank accounts	Checking balance	Savings balance	Year-to-date net income	Total equity

Liquidity

14.5 months operational cash on hand

10.9 months of cash on hand using the full-reserve budget measure.

Dues performance

$588,837.50 membership dues collected through August

$36,863.50 above budget. The next major dues collection cycle begins this month, so cash should rise as receipts come in.

The rebuilding is real, but the legacy exposure remains

We are stronger because controls, liquidity, and compliance have improved. Restitution is still uncertain.

REBUILT FOUNDATION

- New bank access and reconciliations
- Transparent board financial reporting
- Positive YTD operating performance

COMPLIANCE MILESTONE

- Forms 990 for 2019–2024 completed and filed
- Request for nonprofit-status reinstatement submitted
- IRS review and approval still pending

LEGACY ITEMS

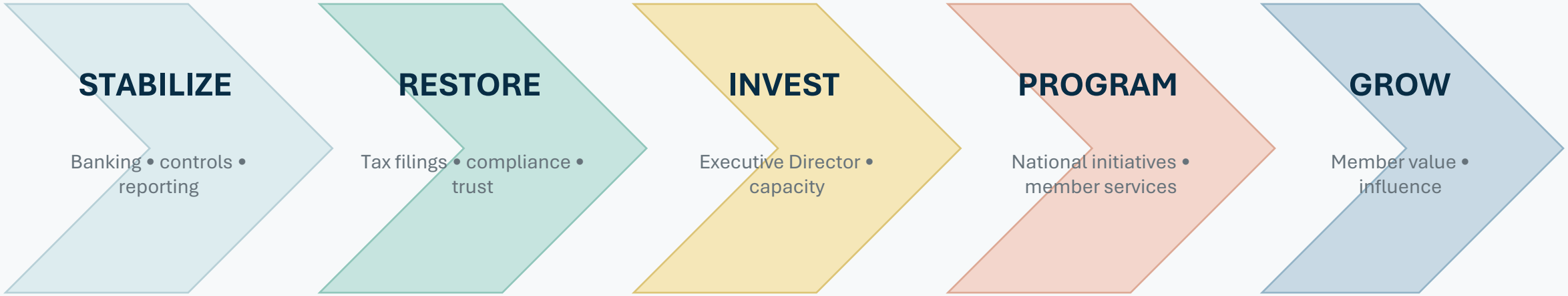
- $557,215 restitution receivable is not cash
- $329,844 of prior ICOM obligations remains payable
- Recovery timing and collectability remain uncertain

Financial discipline: ongoing commitments should be supported by cash and recurring revenue, not by the restitution receivable.

Douglass W. McDonald | Treasurer, ICOM-US

From recovery to mission: invest in the Executive Director role

The organization is positioned to convert stronger finances and governance into stronger programming and member value.



Board action: Move forward with a multi-year Executive Director investment plan that protects reserves, is supported by recurring dues revenue, and excludes uncertain restitution from the operating funding base.

Closing report to the membership

Treasurer’s report: ICOM-US has moved from crisis response to responsible renewal.

“The story of ICOM-US is no longer only about what was taken. It is also about what members and leaders rebuilt: transparent finances, stronger controls, restored compliance, and a credible platform for future service.”

We remain realistic about restitution and legacy obligations. At the same time, we are financially stronger, filing-compliant, and ready to invest in programming through a new Executive Director position.

Better governed. Better positioned. Still rebuilding.

Douglass W. McDonald, Treasurer, ICOM-US
Online Town Hall Report | October 2026

ICOM-US Operations Report

Gretchen Ehle, Executive Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Building the Operating Infrastructure

Gretchen Ehle, Executive Director

Membership Outreach

- Segmented renewal cadence (30/60/90-day, 7-day-expired)
- ~4,000-person prospect list ready for outreach
- October institutional-membership push
- New museum-studies student pipeline
- Digital media outreach plan

Programming Initiatives

- Fall 2027 DC cultural diplomacy convening (NACDI, IA&A)
- North American Dialogue Webinar Series
  - Mapping North American IC leadership across US, Canada, Mexico
  - Working with ICOM Canada and ICOM Mexico

Communications Planning

- Quarterly newsletter
- Fall All-Membership Meeting
- Website refresh planned for early 2027
- Digital Engagement

Membership Snapshot

4,212

Current Total Membership

Up from 3,715 in October, before the 2026 renewal period opened

+497

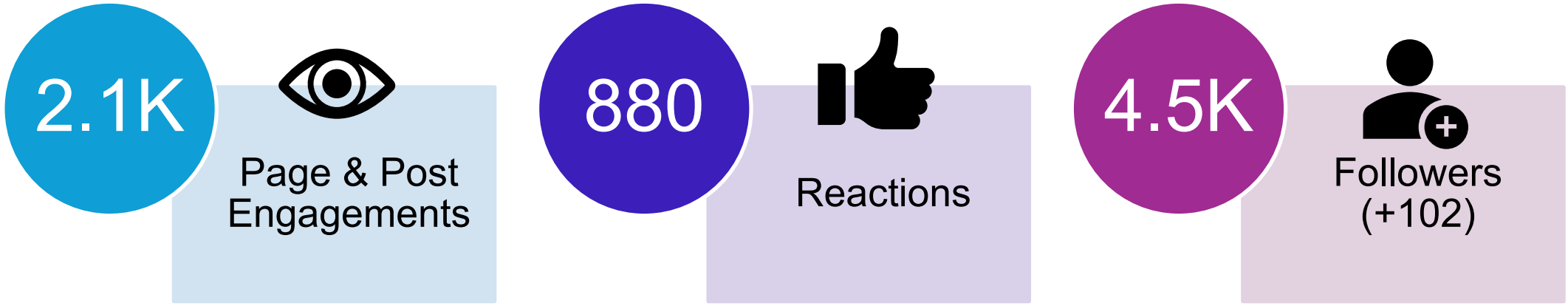
Net membership growth so far in the 2026 renewal cycle

Category	Current	2026 Renewals	New Applications
Working	2091	1863	424
Retired	943	862	66
Student	687	540	257
Institution	115	101	25
Supporting	20	19	1

Renewals: Oct 1, 2025–Sep 9, 2026. New applications: Oct 1, 2025–May 7, 2026 (excludes pending applications).

ICOM-US Facebook Engagement Report

July 10–September 11, 2026



Top Posts:
ICOM-US has released a statement supporting the Smithsonian Institution
14K impressions, 303 clicks
ICOM-US welcomes new Executive Director
11.5K impressions, 556 clicks

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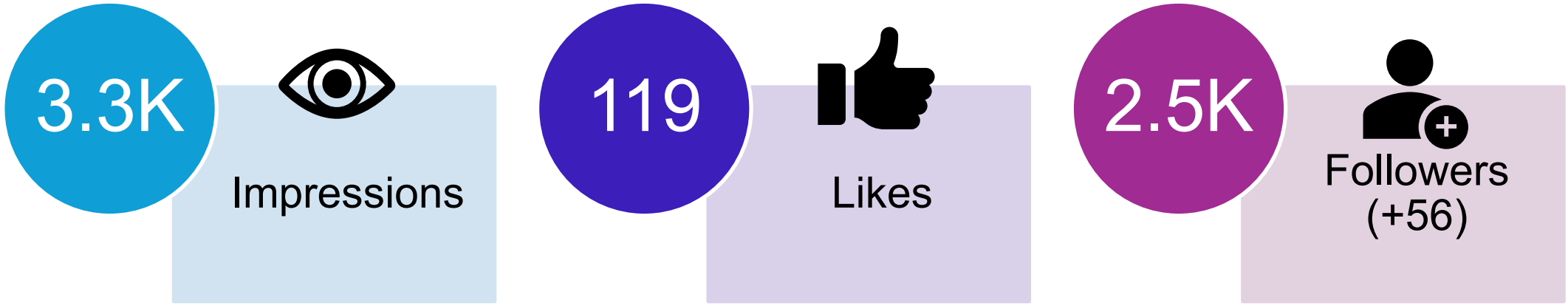
ICOM-US Instagram Engagement Report

July 10–September 11, 2026



Top Posts:
ICOM-US has released a statement supporting the Smithsonian Institution
1.9K impressions, 79 likes
ICOM-US welcomes new Executive Director
870 impressions, 35 likes

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ICOM-US LinkedIn Engagement Report

July 10–September 11, 2026

Top Post:
ICOM-US has released a statement supporting the Smithsonian Institution
6.1K impressions, 190 clicks
ICOM-US welcomes new Executive Director
1K impressions, 50 clicks

ICOM international council of museums US

ICOM-US Chair Report

Kate Quinn, MBA, MFA

Chair

27th General Conference – Dubai, UAE

2026 ICOM General Meeting

Museums Uniting a Divided World

The meeting will be composed of the 100th session of the Advisory Council, and the 41st session of the General Assembly, as well as an evening reception on June 24, and a scientific programme on the theme ‘Museums Uniting a Divided World’, selected as this year’s International Museums Day theme in Marseilles in 2024. This theme also reflects the particularly meaningful facet of this year’s meetings, celebrating our network’s 80th anniversary. Indeed, ICOM was born out of this exact wish, and has striven towards it ever sinc

June 24 and 25 at UNESCO’s headquarters in Paris, France. We will be able to accommodate two (2) representatives per committee in-person**, and the entire network online.**

Digital Projects: Updates

CRM
- Evaluation of Stripe for online payments

E-Card & Mobile Application
- Survey of the Prototype
  - Meets expectations (rated no lower than 4.2/5)
  - 99% of institutional members said yes (66%) or maybe (33%) they could accept the e-card

Next Steps:

CRM
- First visuals and mockups in September/October
- Confirmation of Stripe as payment provider

E-Card & Mobile Application
- Incorporation of final feedback
- Preparation of report for ICOM General Conference

28th General Conference

Successful Bid Awarded to:

ICOM Netherlands:

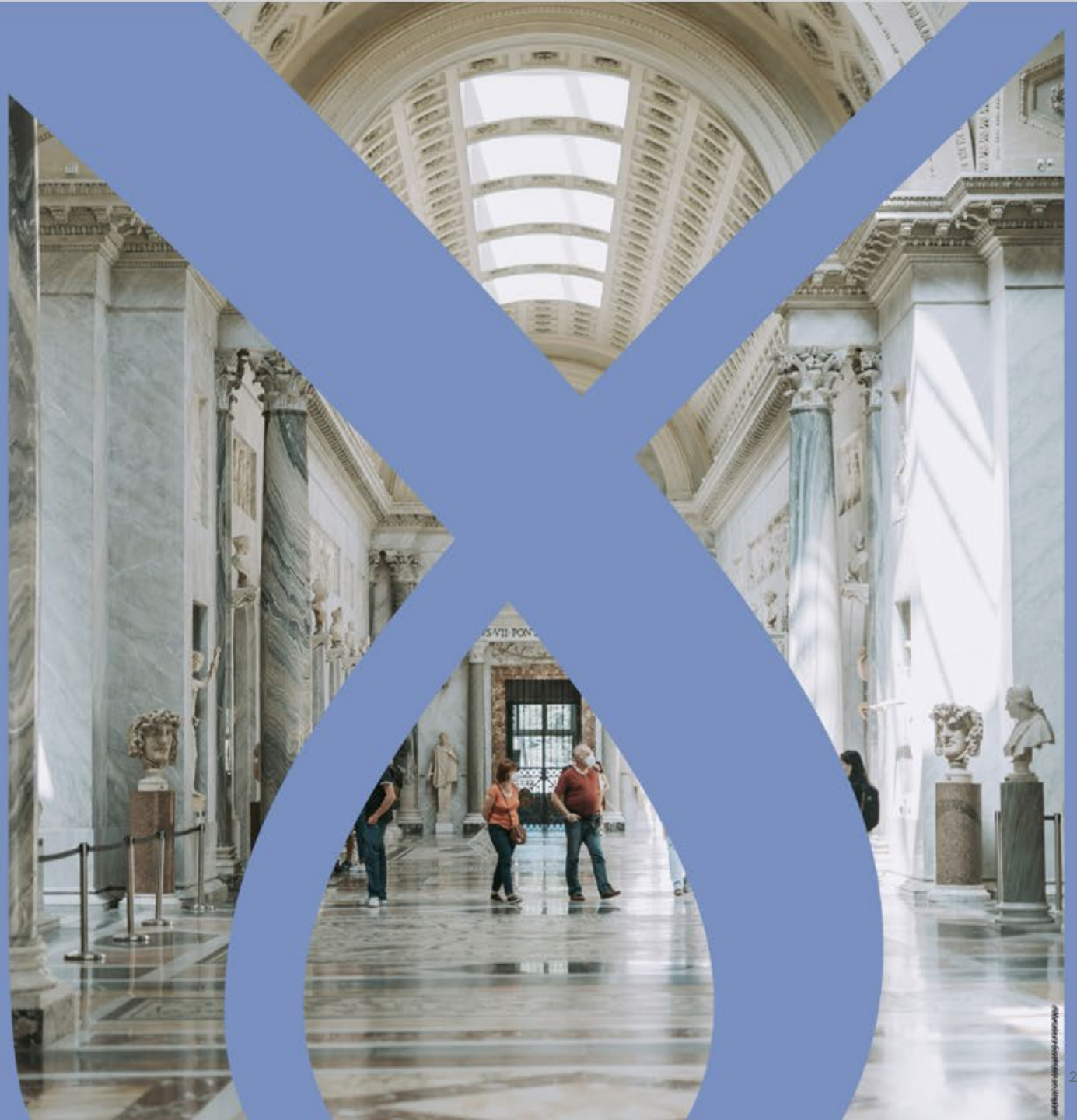
Rotterdam

August 28 – Sept. 1, 2028

ICOM international council of museums

ICOM Leadership Guide

May 2026



The Principles of Effective Board Leadership at ICOM

1. Strategic direction truly thrives when it is guided by a clear focus and a daring, long-term vision.
2. Good governance flourishes when decisions are open, well-informed and transparent.
3. Ethical leadership is the foundation of trust, protecting the integrity of ICOM at every step.
4. Global collaboration blooms when inclusive, culturally-aware engagement is embraced.
5. Our members feel energised and inspired when they see credible, purpose-driven representation.
6. By looking ahead and acting responsibly, risks are anticipated and tackled with confidence.
7. Responsible stewardship ensures ICOM's values remain at the heart of what we do.
8. The museum community grows and evolves when supported by strong, effective leadership.

These principles form the backbone of effective leadership at ICOM. By keeping them at the heart of everything you do, you will help to drive meaningful impact for ICOM, our members and the global museum community.

STRATEGIC PLAN REFRESH

Since 2023: What's Changed

- A new Executive Director joined in July 2026, with core operations now outsourced to SAM
- Tax-exempt status, previously revoked, is in the process of reinstatement
- The ICOM Triennial bid — anticipated in the original plan — is now an active, concrete initiative
- ICOM-US issued a public statement on the Smithsonian, signaling an emerging public-advocacy posture
- There is no standing Membership Committee; that function currently runs through the ED and SAM

STRATEGIC PLAN REFRESH

The 2023–27 Strategy Framework

Adopted May 2023 after a nine-month, member-informed process. Member agreement with each priority ranged from 4.08 to 4.58 out of 5 at adoption.

1

Member Focus

Grow, engage, and retain a diverse membership. Institutional membership (~122) remains small against a ~30,000-museum US universe.

2

Professional Development

Position ICOM-US as a trusted source of internationally-informed professional development.

3

International Connection

Strengthen ties to the wider ICOM network. Named the Triennial feasibility task force now underway.

4

DEAI Commitment

Advocate for DEAI and embed it in board, committee, and programming. Draft statement never formally adopted.

5

Organizational Health

Build strong governance, sustainable finances, and organizational capacity.

2027 Annual Membership Meeting

- Houston, Texas
- May 5 – 8, 2027

The 2027 theme focuses on what matters most across museums of all types, sizes, and locations:

Mission. Value. Impact.

American Alliance of Museums