



# Statutes of the Association of European Open Air Museums

Ratified at the General Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024  
(Szentendre, Hungary)

## § 1 Name, seat, mission and aims

1. **Name and status.** The name of the association is the Association of European Open Air Museums (AEOM). It is a supranational, inclusive, transparent, and independent organisation. The AEOM is an affiliated organisation of the International Council of Museums (ICOM).
2. **Seat.** The seat of the Association rotates according to the home institution of the president.
3. **Mission.** The AEOM is an open and inclusive network of museum professionals where knowledge, experiences and ideas are exchanged in an atmosphere of collegiality and collaboration. The AEOM represents the interests of its diverse member museums, promotes the open-air museum sector on the local and international levels, and contributes to its development.
4. **Aims.** Among themselves, the member museums and fellows of AEOM exchange scientific, technical, practical and organisational experience and expertise specific to open air museums, inter alia in the areas of open air museum management, protection of tangible and safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, collection management, museum interpretation, knowledge sharing, traditional agriculture or sustainable development.

The AEOM represents and promotes the interests of its member museums vis à vis external stakeholders, especially on a European and international levels and in international organisations.

The AEOM works to increase the visibility of open air museums and highlights their role in society.

For this purpose, the Association shall organise meetings of its member museums and promote publications and proceedings consistent with these

aims, the definition of a museum by ICOM and the definition of an open air museum by AEOM.

It shall advocate the interests of open air museums as a field on different levels.

5. **Definition of an open air museum.** In this connection, open air museums are defined as scientific collections in the open air of various types of structures, which as constructional and functional entities, illustrate settlement patterns, dwellings, economy and technology.

## § 2 Membership

1. Attendance at meetings of the Association is open to everyone, but membership is restricted as follows: members of the Association are open air museums. In organisational terms, the open air museums as members can be part of a larger institution. It is for the member museum to decide by whom they are formally represented in the Association.
2. The Board will recommend new member museums to the General Meeting based on a written expression of their interest. The General Meeting will decide on their admission. The Board will actively approach potential member museums and promote membership in the Association.
3. Membership can be terminated upon a written request of the member institution. The General Meeting can terminate the membership unilaterally on the recommendation of the Board only if the member no longer acts in line with the objectives of the Association or ethical principles of ICOM.

## § 3 Fellows

1. Fellows are colleagues that the Association wants to show appreciation because of their competencies in the management or development of open air museums. It is a special honour to be appointed a fellow of the AEOM. By appointment to fellowship, the AEOM clearly states that the fellow is expected in the future to be an asset to the international field of open air museums and will help support the organisation and contribute towards its goals.

2. Fellowship of the AEOM is personal and lifelong. It can be terminated upon a written request of the fellow. The General Meeting can terminate the fellowship unilaterally on the recommendation of the Board only if the fellow does no longer act in line with the objectives of the Association, the provisions stated in this paragraph or the ethical principles of ICOM.
3. Fellows must at the time of appointment work in open air museums as their main employment. A new fellow must have attended a conference or another AEOM meeting as a guest before being eligible to join. A new fellow must be recommended by two existing fellows, at least one of whom must be from a museum other than the applicant's own.
4. One of the fellows proposing a new fellow should circulate a short CV of the individual to the Board. The Board will recommend new fellows to the General Meeting that will decide on admission.
5. Personal members elected as such before 2017 are hereafter fellows of AEOM.
6. The Board may nominate individuals who have made a significant contribution to the work of the Association to the General Meeting that will decide on admission as honorary fellows.

#### **§ 4 General Meeting**

1. The General Meeting of member museums of the AEOM is the main decision-making body. It shall meet at least once every two years. If the circumstances allow, the General Meeting is held together with the biannual conference. The time and place of each meeting shall normally be decided at a previous meeting by a majority of the member museums present in agreement with the open air museum where the assembly is to be held. The Board shall be authorised to change the time, place and agenda of the meeting if necessary. Successive meetings shall be held in different countries.
2. The Board shall prepare the agenda and the working documents and circulate them at least 30 days before the General Meeting takes place.
3. Only member museums have voting rights and each member museum has one vote. If the formal representative is not present, another employee of the member museum can vote by proxy based on written authorisation.

4. Resolutions of the General Meeting shall be adopted by a simple majority of votes.

## **§ 5 Board**

1. The General Meeting shall elect a Board consisting of a president, a vice-president and up to seven additional members. Members of the Board shall be of different nationalities, representing different parts of Europe. One candidate will represent the institution(s) organising the next conference and will be a Board member for one term in preparation of the upcoming conference.
2. The Board shall take office immediately on its election by the General Meeting and will hold it for a term of two years.
3. Board members are eligible for re-election for two further terms, but thereafter must retire for at least two years. The Board shall meet as required, either at the request of the president or of two other members and may appoint a secretary and treasurer. The Board can create and dissolve ad hoc or permanent working groups.
4. The treasurer function is agreed upon as Beamish Museum.
5. If the president is unable to act, the vice-president shall convene the Board meeting or the General Meeting.
6. If a Board member is unable to finish his or her term, the Board can decide to leave the seat vacant or appoint an interim Board member who will serve on the Board until the next regular election.
7. On retiring from office, the president shall hand over all documentation of the AEOM to Bokrijk, Belgium, where the AEOM archive is kept. Digital copies or photocopies of the originals may serve if so required.

## **§ 6 Working language**

1. The working language of AEOM meetings is English. If the financial situation of the organising institution allows, the meeting can be interpreted, and the printed materials can be translated into other languages.

## **§ 7 Biannual conference**

1. The item 1.4 of the Statutes shall, inter alia, be implemented through the organisation of a biannual conference hosted by one or more AEOM member museums. The General Meeting shall be held as part of this conference whenever the circumstances allow.
2. The Board shall issue and update detailed instructions on the application procedure for hosting the conference, criteria of acceptance, organisational requirements and structure of the conference report, including a timeframe of its publishing and responsibilities of the organisers and the Board.
3. By applying, the organising institution(s) commit(s) to bear the costs and all organisational burden related to the conference as well as the General Meeting, and to publish a detailed conference report.

## **§ 8 Financial arrangements**

1. The General Meeting decided in 2017 that an annual fee can be attached to the membership in the Association in order to finance operational or extraordinary activities.
2. Correspondence and travelling expenses incurred by members of the Board in connection with the activities of the Association shall normally not be borne by the AEOM but by the Board members' own institutions.
3. Expenses arising from the organisation of any meetings shall be borne by the host institution(s).
4. The General Meeting shall decide upon the financing of any publications, joint action for publicity, etc. planned by the Association, the costs of which cannot reasonably be imposed on either the president's institution or the local organisers.

## **§ 9 Dissolution of the Association**

1. The AEOM as founded under these rules can be dissolved or transferred to other organisations on request of the General Meeting. Decisions taken in this respect shall require a majority of three-quarters of the total number of AEOM member museums.

2. Before any discussions to this end, the request shall be notified in writing for inclusion in the agenda of the meeting. If the total number of votes in favour of the resolution does not reach three-quarters, the Board may propose a new motion and ask for a decision by simple majority.
  
3. In the event of dissolution, the archives of the AEOM shall be handed over to Bokrijk, and any capital to ICOM.