# Commonwealth Association of Museums
# Annual Report
# 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019

## Vision:

CAM is a network of postcolonial museums that reflects on colonial legacies and develops new international relationships and working practices.

## Mission:

CAM is an international NGO that empowers museums and museum professionals to use their resources – their collections, exhibitions, programmes, and expertise – to support the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Mandate:

CAM administers a Distance Learning Programme; develops international internships and exchanges; organises international conferences and regional workshops; implements demonstration projects on shared issues (such as Indigenous rights, reconciliation, migration, climate change, and gender equality).

## Core Values:

- ***Integrity:*** CAM acts in the public trust, demonstrating transparency in all its undertakings and accountability to funders, Civil Society and the public. CAM pursues its mission with commitment, discipline and rigour.
- ***Diversity:*** Recognising that the plurality of the Commonwealth is the strength of the Commonwealth, CAM is committed to equal opportunity for all and respect for difference.
- ***Collaboration:*** CAM is committed to engaging diverse organisations, communities and individuals in museums and working collaboratively and through partnerships.
- ***Ingenuity:*** CAM is committed to acting as a catalyst that brings stakeholders together to generate creative and innovative solutions and promote thoughtful analysis and learning.

## Objectives:

- ***Global Community:*** Foster and strengthen links between museums and museum professionals in the Commonwealth, the broader museum community and the public.
- ***Excellence:*** Promote and deliver the highest standard of museum practice in the Commonwealth for the benefit of communities.
- ***Learning:*** Encourage life-long learning and assist in professional development and training through the distance learning programme, international internships and exchanges, demonstration projects, conferences, workshops, and symposia.
- ***Communication:*** Facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and information on all professional matters.

***Collaboration:*** Work in collaboration with other international, regional and national museum organisations, museums, and other agencies and individuals in the achievement of these goals.

## 1. Internships

CAM offered two internships for recent Canadian university graduates to work in another Commonwealth country in 2018-2019. Kanchan Lal was the Culture and Heritage Intern at the National Museum of Vanuatu in Port-Vila where she developed the exhibition, publication and edukit, *Women & Weaving* about women's *kastoms* and the art of weaving in Vanuatu. She also prepared a report for CAM about *Gender Equality and Museums*, a precursor to CAM's 2019 campaign to encourage museums to develop a project promoting the UN's *16 Days of Activism for the elimination of violence against women* November 25-December 10. CAM is initiating our own project, in collaboration with ICMEMO (ICOM's International Committee for Memorialisation Museums) and partners, *Art Focus on Human & Women's Rights* which will culminate in an exhibition about women's rights in Nigeria.

Heather Fraser was the Community Engagement Intern who split her time between the Iziko Museums of South Africa in Cape Town and the University of Botswana in Gaborone. She completed research on the Botswanan remains in the collection of Iziko Museums and helped to organise the workshop in Botswana (see below).

CAM has received funding for two internships in 2019-2020, one in Rwanda and one in the Cayman Islands.

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CANADIAN MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION | ASSOCIATION DES MUSÉES CANADIENS

## 2. CAM Distance Learning Programme, Basic Certificate in Museum Studies

The *Basic Certificate in Museum Studies Programme* deals with two types of information: the history and philosophy of museums, and the basic procedures involved in museum operation. It is divided into seven units of study: Introduction to Museum Studies; Organisation and Management; Collections; Conservation; Exhibitions; Education & Programming; and Museums in Society. There were about 25 students in the programme in 2018-2019, The Bahamas, Guyana, South Africa, India, and the UK; five students in Barbados and four in South Africa graduated.

3. ***Thinking Locally, Acting Globally*** **symposium and CAM AGM, October 27, 2018, Edmonton, Canada**

CAM held a symposium in Edmonton, Alberta called *Thinking Locally, Acting Globally* in which two former CAM interns spoke about their experiences. Rachel Erickson, Manager of Museum Programs, Manitoba Museum, Winnipeg and current CAM Board Member interned in Glasgow, Scotland in 2013-2014. She spoke about *Reimagining Our Reach: Museum Engagement Beyond Museum Walls* – particularly about working within the South Asian community in Glasgow and how lessons learned there have impacted her work at the Manitoba Museum. Laura Jane Ritchie, then Curator at the Kelowna Art Gallery and CAM Intern in St. Kitts in 2012-13 spoke about *The Collection of the National Museum of St. Kitts: The Basis of a Paradigm Shift*. She too talked about how the internship in the Caribbean shaped her more recent experiences in Canada. CAM Secretary-General, Catherine C. Cole spoke about *Echoes of the Canadian Post-Colonial Experience* – introducing CAM's programmes and activities and talking about shared experiences, particularly around reconciliation and decolonisation. A spirited discussion followed moderated by Dr Shabnam Inanloo Dailoo, Athabasca University and CAM Treasurer.

4. ***Itinerant Identities Museum Communities Community Museums*****, November 7-9, 2018, Barbados**

CAM Secretary-General Catherine C. Cole attended the conference *Itinerant Identities Museum Communities Community Museums* November 7-9, 2018 at the EBCCI/Cave Hill Campus University of the West Indies, Barbados, where she spoke about a proposed Edmonton Diaspora/Caribbean Museum Exchange that CAM and the Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC) are planning. The project would involve a group of museologists from the Caribbean coming to Canada for a week or so and a group from the Caribbean diaspora in Canada going to a museum in the Caribbean. In both situations, CAM and MAC would offer a full programme of workshops, site visits and on-the-land experiences.

5. **Museums from Empire to Commonwealth: Repatriation, Restitution and Reconciliation, February 8, 2018, Cambridge University, UK**

CAM Secretary-General Catherine C. Cole participated in a panel discussion with Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (MAA) Senior Curator Dr Anita Herle, Senior Curator, MAA Dr Mark Elliott, moderator Dr Adam Branch, Director, Centre of African Studies, Dr Tunde Babalola, Smuts Fellow, Centre of African Studies, and organiser and former CAM board member Mrinalini Venkateswaran. The panel was presented by the Consortium for the Global South in collaboration with CAM and the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. We had a large audience and a lively discussion of the issues.

6. ***Human Remains Management: Extending the Conversation throughout Southern Africa*, March 11-12, 2019, University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana**

More than 50 people from eight countries (Botswana, Canada, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Kingdom, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) participated in the third *Human Remains Management* workshop in Gaborone, Botswana hosted by Dr Morongwa Nancy Mosothwane at the University of Botswana.

Following two days of presentations, small group discussions addressed whether a Southern African policy should be developed to provide a common approach to the return of human remains; whether the regional network should be extended; how to identify the relevant communities for consultation regarding returns and the challenges with engagement/consultation; and in what ways communities should be involved in returns and reburials? There was general agreement that each country should establish a working group with representatives from the government, museums, universities and other collecting institutions to establish local guidelines and that a convention or agreement should be established between countries in the region. Finally, Catherine C. Cole facilitated a session about next steps for the project. CAM will organise a pre-conference workshop

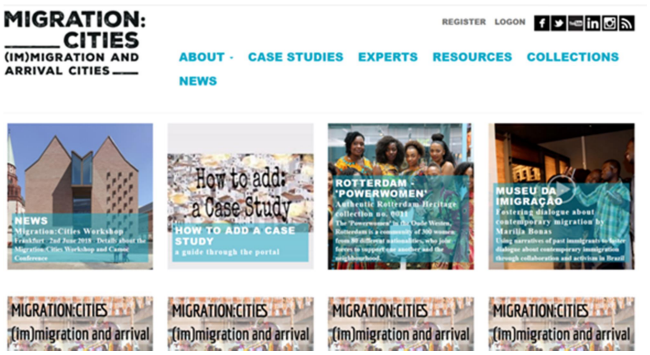
on *Collections Management and Preventive Conservation of Human Remains and Sacred Belongings* in Cape Town next March for curators and collections managers in African museums as well as several concurrent workshops on *Interpreting Difficult History: Curation and Education.*

CAM Secretary-General Catherine C. Cole also spoke about *"*Our Colonial Past as a Connection for the Future: The Commonwealth Association of Museums*"* at the Museums Association of Namibia's conference titled *Past, Present and Future of Namibian Heritage"* in Windhoek, August 28, 2018. The *Human Remains Management* project is a collaboration between CAM, the University of Botswana, The Botswana National Museum, Iziko Museums of South Africa, the Museums Association of Namibia, ICOM ICME (the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Ethnography), and the ICOM National Committees in Botswana (2019), Namibia (2018) and South Africa (2017). We are very grateful to ICOM for three-year Special Project funding from 2017-.2019 which has made this project possible.

### 7. Secretary General's visit to the National Museum and Monuments of Botswana and the Livingstone Museum in Zambia

Following the workshop, CAM Secretary-General Catherine C. Cole met with the directors and senior staff of the National Museum and Monuments of Botswana, Gaogakwe Phorano in Gaborone, and of the Livingstone Museum (one of Zambia's National Museums), George Mudenda in Zambia, to discuss future collaboration between CAM and their museums.

### 8. Migration:Cities I (Im)migration and Arrival Cities

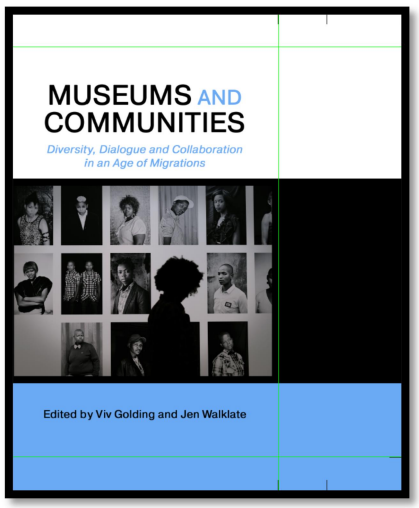



The third year of the three-year ICOM-funded project ended in December 2018. CAM Secretary-General Catherine C. Cole met with UNESCO in Paris in February 2019 to discuss future collaboration and funding possibilities. She has received funding for a demonstration project in Edmonton as is now working with colleagues to identify further funding opportunities for the next phase. The Migration:Cities virtual platform in online at http://www.migrationcities.net. The project is a collaboration between CAM, ICOM CAMOC (Collections and Activities of Museums of Cities, and ICOM ICR (International Committee for

Regional Museums). On March 11, CAM President Richard Benjamin gave a paper at the ICOM UK *Working Internationally* Conference at the British Library. The conference considered the role and importance of international networks in supporting cross-border collaborations and partnerships and Richard's session was on *Museums and Migration.* Other speakers represented the Tate and Migration Museum in London.

## 9. Publications

CAM published six issues of the bimonthly *CAM Bulletin* as well as the chapter "Who Were They? Repatriation and the Rehumanisation of Human Remains in Museums in Southern Africa," co-written by project partners including the CAM Secretary-General in *Museums and Communities: Diversity, Dialogue and Collaboration in an Age of Migrations, pp 308-321,* edited by Viv Golding and Jen Walklate, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne. The book was launched at the CAM workshop in Botswana in March.




## CAM Executive Council 2017-2020

**President:** Dr Richard Benjamin, Head, International Slavery Museum, National Museums Liverpool, UK
**Vice-President:** Nirvana S. Persaud, Chief Executive Officer, National Trust of Guyana
**Treasurer:** Dr Shabnam Inanloo Dailoo, Assistant Professor and Director of the Heritage Resources Management Program, Athabasca University, Alberta, Canada
**Past-President:** Rooksana Omar, Chief Executive Officer, Iziko Museums of South Africa, Cape Town
**Members:**
Poulomi Das, Consultant, Museums & Heritage Spaces, Mumbai, India
Rachel Erickson, Manager of Learning & Engagement, Manitoba Museum, Winnipeg, Canada
Ken Hall, Curator, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, New Zealand
Dr Asma Ibrahim, Director, Monetary Museum of the Central Bank of Pakistan, Karachi
David Mbuthia, Keeper, Antiquities Sites and Monuments, Central and Western Regions, National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi
Dr Jeremy Silvester, Director, Museums Association of Namibia, Windhoek
Wesley A. Wenhardt, Executive Director, Foss Waterway Seaport Maritime Museum, Tacoma, Washington/Vancouver, BC

2020-2023 Elections will be held at CAM's Triennial General Assembly in Cape Town in March 2020. Contact CAM Secretary-General Catherine C Cole for more information: CatherineC.Cole@telus.net