

**CANDIDATE FOR THE BOARD OF ICOMOS
CANDIDAT AU CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DE L'ICOMOS**

YOLOXOCHITL LUCIO ORIGAZA

MEXICO - MEXIQUE



PLATFORM / PLATE-FORME / PLATAFORMA

While studying architecture at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), I often heard people mention ICOMOS, especially in reference to the Venice Charter. However, it was not until 2010, the year I formally became involved with heritage in Santiago, Chile, after the 8.8 Richter earthquake, that I understood that ICOMOS was not an office of bureaucrats writing letters about heritage conservation, but rather an association of conservation professionals seeking to establish best practices so that the heritage we inherit can also be enjoyed by future generations.

Later, in 2019, I had the opportunity to get involved with my country's National Committee, and soon after, in 2020, I became a member of ICOMOS. At first, I led a group of young professionals called Youth and Heritage. It was through this initiative that in 2021 I was invited to represent Mexico in the Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG) of ICOMOS International, and months later, I was invited to apply to

be the EPWG Focal Point. This has been one of the most enriching experiences of my life.

It was while I had the opportunity to lead the EPWG, together with Süheyla Koç, that I understood what I had not understood before about ICOMOS, which is not just an office that issues conservation charters, nor is it a group of professionals, or at least not only that. In terms of built heritage, ICOMOS is an organization that remains strong because of the scientific work it does. These are its building blocks, but the mortar that holds them together and makes them more resistant are many values that I will not attempt to list, but I will mention at least a few of them. The human character of ICOMOS is represented by the volunteer work that sustains our activities, the courage of its members to defend heritage when necessary, but also the necessary tenderness to embrace each other with our cultural diversity and human complexity, the ability to listen, respect, and validate others even when we disagree. During my time at ICOMOS, I have met many of the most brilliant minds I know, but I have also found many of the biggest hearts.

When I was in the EPWG, I understood the importance of creating safe spaces for new generations to develop their leadership skills and receive feedback from mentors who have already walked part of the path they are walking today. Since then, I have been committed to involving young and not-so-young professionals who are just starting their careers in the field of heritage. I would like to join this organization, which is so dear to me, as a member of the Board and use my skills to support ICOMOS in fulfilling its mission and maintaining its scientific relevance among new generations of conservation professionals.

Also, as a Latin American, I am aware of the richness and diversity of cultural heritage across the region, as well as the importance bringing these perspectives in global discussions. In this regard, I am motivated to contribute to build bridges between the region I come from and the global scene.

It is therefore an honor for me to address you on this occasion to apply as a candidate for the Board of such a notable organization. If entrusted with the opportunity to serve on the Board, I would approach this responsibility with a strong sense of commitment, collaboration, and service to the ICOMOS community. It will be enormously satisfying for me to be able to serve the organization from which I have received so much. I confirm I will gladly attend in-person and virtual meetings to fulfill my duty if elected.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Architect and heritage professional specialized in the conservation and management of built heritage. She studied a Master's degree in Conservation and Restoration of Built Heritage (ENCRyM) and a Master's in World Heritage Studies (BTU Cottbus – Senftenberg Online). She is specialized in the conservation, documentation

conservation, and management of built heritage. Her academic and professional work and interests focus on the relationship between heritage conservation, social values, and community engagement, particularly in the context of historic cities and vernacular architecture.

Yoloxochitl currently works for the Ministry of Culture of Mexico, where she is responsible for conservation of heritage documentation and the assessment of conservation initiatives and heritage management processes. Her work involves coordinating information systems, reviewing technical documentation related to conservation projects, and supporting decision-making processes regarding the allocation of public resources for heritage protection.

She is also committed to strengthening intergenerational collaboration. She served as a Focal Point of the Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG) of ICOMOS (2020–2024), where she contributed to international initiatives among emerging professionals from around 100 different National and Scientific committees. Moreover, she was also part of the Climate Heritage Network Youth Forum where she served as co-convenor of the forum. She currently serves as Treasurer of ICOMOS Mexico.

Her professional work and interests include archive conservation, heritage documentation, community engagement in heritage conservation, vernacular architecture, data analysis for heritage conservation, heritage dissemination, and the development of collaborative approaches to heritage management. Yolo is compromised with promoting inclusive and socially grounded perspectives in the protection of cultural heritage.

