

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

KNUTSEN MARIANNE

NORWAY – NORVEGE



PLATFORM / PLATE-FORME / PLATAFORMA

It is with humility and respect that I present my candidacy to stand for the role of Vice president for the period 2026-2029.

I have been a Board member for the period 2023-2026, and I have learned that the position on the Board can be both challenging and rewarding. Challenging in that it can be time consuming and it forces you to be involved and take a stand in a wide range of often complicated and delicate administrative and organizational issues and rewarding in that it broadens your knowledge and your perspective on intercultural and international relations. It gives you the feeling of being able to “make a difference”. This motivates me to stand for a second period as Board member, and to take on the role as Vice President.

My background is in Heritage Management at a Municipal level in Bergen, Norway, and I have also seven years as a Heritage Consultant for Norconsult - a major Consultancy company operating internationally.

Throughout my career, I have worked with Heritage preservation, planning processes, and cross-sectoral stakeholder engagement. I am daily facing challenges with management of the Historic City of Bergen in general, and with the World Heritage site Bryggen in particular.

In my current role as Senior Advisor, I am Project Manager for the development of a Bufferzone for the World Heritage site Bryggen. The work is anchored in local planning processes and largely developed through community involvement, in alignment with UNESCO's Operational Guidelines. I see the Bufferzone as a tool for increasing local identity and pride. The vision is to strengthen knowledge, the sense of belonging and the Citizens' ownership to the World Heritage. In this way we are ensuring that Heritage values are understood, integrated, and protected within broader societal and environmental frameworks. *What you own - you care for!*

This process of developing a proposal for a bufferzone includes what I believe is fundamental to good management and protection of cultural heritage; good communication with respect and understanding of different values and interests, and a Rights based and Human centred approach.

In my professional role as Cultural Heritage Manager at the local level, close to people and communities, I find that there is often a gap between academic research, international guidelines and directives, and implementation in practical Heritage Management. Finding viable ways to adapt and implement global guidelines into different national contexts and site-specific conditions is a challenge I find important to address within the ICOMOS system. As Vice president I would therefore investigate the possibility to establish a network between members working at the local level as Cultural heritage Managers as a platform for exchanging experiences and strategies.

I would also strongly encourage the amazing work the ICOMOS University Forum is achieving. I believe this is an excellent way of engaging with, and stimulating, students and young professionals, in the multidisciplinary field that Cultural Heritage has become.

If reelected to the Board, I will also be happy to continue my engagement with the Sustainable Development Working Group and with the Rights Based Approach Working group. I believe that the work carried out by the members engaged in the different Working Groups is an important contribution to ICOMOS' achievements and to the future of the organization. It is essential to engage as many members as possible in different committees, working groups and other networks or platforms.

The position as Vice President plays an important role in the ICOMOS system, and it is a huge task to take on.

The expectations are high and as we say in Norway – "it is not easy to jump after Virkola" (and Virkola was an amazing Norwegian ski-jumper!) - referring to the excellent job Riin has done as Vice President for the last six years!

The Eurogroup now, is a well-functioning group with a lot of motivated and positive members, who I know will be of great support to whoever take on the role as Vice president. I see the role as Vice President as a facilitator and focal point for all the good initiatives and actions within the organization.

In the world today where we see the well-established international organizations face severe strains, driven by rising geopolitical competition, funding withdrawals and a retreat from multilateral cooperation, ICOMOS is more relevant than ever with a network of over 12.000 professionals worldwide, sharing knowledge, best practices and collaborating in a nonpolitical and collegial way.

Since ICOMOS was founded in 1965, the organization has been able to adapt to new realities, and to take on new challenges, but at the same time been able to keep its role as a neutral, independent defender of World Heritage, and promoted the fundamental role Heritage in general play in sustainable development and local identity.

I truly believe that ICOMOS, as an international organization based on volunteerism, will play an important role also in the future where Cultural Heritage is fundamental for a sustainable World. Nevertheless, we need to adapt to an ever-changing reality and to new possibilities and challenges. I would be very happy to continue the discussions on ICOMOS future which has started within the Board under the Umbrella – "The spot on the horizon". We need to be relevant also for the new generation of Professionals.

The Organizations economy is also an issue that will demand increased attention in the years to come. The economic landscape for International non – governmental organizations today is defined by shrinking available fundings, both private and official. Together with the ICOMOS secretariat/headquarters the Board will have to continue to look into a more diversified revenue strategy, as well as a balanced membership fee as a stable and vital basis for income.

When it comes to communications skills – I am known for being diplomatic and down to earth - and my languages are Norwegian (Swedish and Danish) , English, Italian, some German and I will definitely improve my knowledge of French if elected Vice President.

It would be an honor to continue to represent the ICOMOS Board to support the organization's continued leadership in International Heritage protection and to contribute to ICOMOS important work based on the fundamental principle of openness and transparency.

I confirm that I will serve and attend Bureau and Board meetings if elected.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Marianne has had the position of Cultural Heritage Management Officer for the City Council in Bergen in the period 1997- 2011, and from 2018 until today. In the period 2011-2018, she was working as Cultural Heritage Consultant for Norconsult AS, a private planning and development company based in the Nordic Countries.

She has been working with strategic policy and advisory work within cultural heritage and planning sectors, including urban development and conservation of Historical Buildings and Urban Landscapes.

Marianne has experience with World Heritage Management and Protection plans, and also with the Heritage Impact Assessment, as Commissioner for an international Assessment in Bergen and Bryggen.

With Project leadership experience in initiatives involving Heritage Assessments, community involvement, and long-term cultural value planning she is currently Project Manager for the development of a proposal for a Bufferzone for the World Heritage site Bryggen in Bergen. This work involves interdisciplinary collaboration across architecture, conservation, sustainability, and local governance

Her background is Cand Philol. Art Historian from the University of Bergen (1997), with a specialisation in Urban Development and Theory of Conservation of Historical Cities, with Naples in Italy, as a case study.

Marianne has been a member of ICOMOS since 1999 and a board member of ICOMOS Norway since 2009. She was President of ICOMOS Norway from 2014 to 2021, and International Board member for the period 2023-2026.