

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

**KNUTSEN MARIANNE**

**NORWAY – NORVEGE**



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**PLATFORM / PLATE-FORME / PLATAFORMA**

My name is Marianne Knutsen, member of ICOMOS Norway, and I want to express my interest in serving on the ICOMOS Board for a second term. 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 forces you to be involved and take a stand in a wide range of often complicated and delicate administrative and scientific issues and rewarding in that it broadens your knowledge and your perspective on intercultural and international relations, and it gives you the feeling of being able to “*make a difference*”. This motivates me to stand for a second period as Board member.

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 to a big extent 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 a local level – close to people and communities, I find that there is a gap between academic research and implementation in practical Heritage Management. To find 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.

If reelected to the Board I will 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 Working Groups is an important contribution to ICOMOS' achievements and the future of the organization.

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 everchanging 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.

It would be an honour 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 Board meetings if elected.

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

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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.

