



## July 2013

### MAC AGM 2013

Plans for the 2013 MAC AGM to be held in Belize, October 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> are developing quickly. Find further information in this newsletter and regularly visit the MAC website.

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*MAC is an organization to help museums and museum professionals in the Caribbean. It relies on the membership to direct and help the elected Board who do all the work voluntarily. This is YOUR organization and the more the membership help, the more active MAC can be.*

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## What Resources Are Available for Museums?



*Host of the 2012 MAC AGM in Trinidad showing some delegates around their collection*

Wow, what a wonderful year this is for meetings and training opportunities for museums in the Caribbean. As this issue reports we not only have our own MAC AGM in Belize in October, but there are events in the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Argentina and of course the ICOM meeting in Brazil, which will hopefully attract several thousand museum professionals including many from the Caribbean region. On top of this there are specific subject meetings that relate to museum collections in the region, most notably the International Association of Caribbean Archaeology (IACA) which held their meeting in July in Puerto Rico. If you know of any other meetings going on in the region or that will benefit Caribbean museums, please tell us.

On top of these meetings MAC is looking at how to supply additional training in the region and is at present looking at a partnership project with ICOM-UK for museums in the UK Overseas Territories (more news on this later in the year, hopefully). MAC is of course aware of budget restrictions that mean many museums cannot afford to send staff to training and conferences and are therefore looking at providing free attendance at courses that MAC organize or alternatively by providing resources online (see page 7).

This is the MAC Membership newsletter, so to make sure it is up to date and contains all the news from the region, please submit any information you wish to be included to Nigel Sadler at [secretariat@caribbeanmuseums.com](mailto:secretariat@caribbeanmuseums.com).

If you wish not to receive the newsletter or wish other email addresses to receive the newsletter, please email the Secretariat.

The newsletter can also be downloaded from the MAC website:  
[www.caribbeanmuseums.com](http://www.caribbeanmuseums.com)

## Latest from Museum of Belize on the 2013 MAC AGM

### GREETINGS FROM THE 2013 MAC CONFERENCE CHAIR

Dear Colleague,

The Conference Organizing Committee would like to cordially invite you to the 2013 Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC) Conference organized under the auspices of the National Institute of Culture and History, through the Museum of Belize and Houses of Culture. This year's conference will be hosted at The Radisson Fort George Hotel and Marina in Belize from October 27 – 31, 2013 under the theme "Pooling our Resources: Collaboration & Connections".

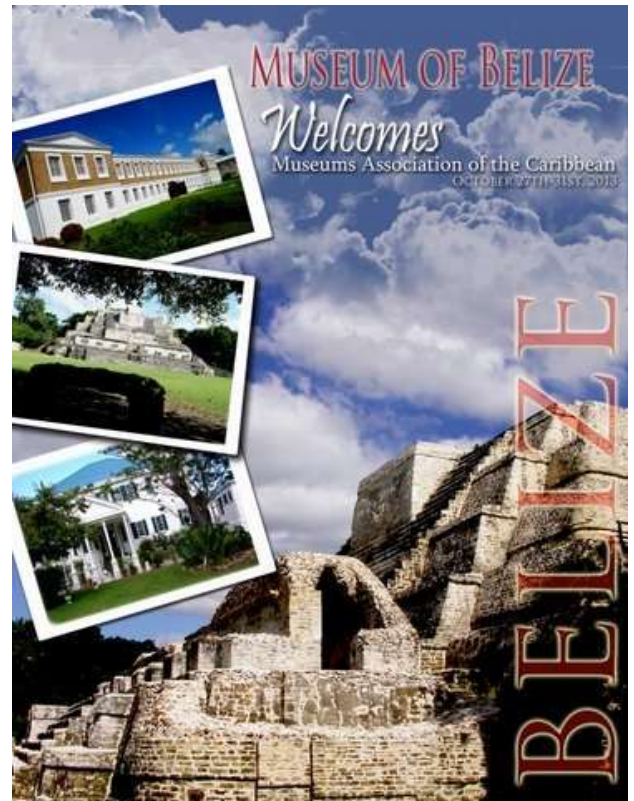
The Conference Organizing Committee is excited to host such a prestigious conference after a 20 year absence in Belize. We therefore promise a highly stimulating and informative conference covering a wide range of interest while sharing the sounds and sights of our country with all delegates. This year's conference will feature key speakers from the region including thoughts from feature speakers Dr. Amareswar Galla, Dr. John Morris and Dr. Herman Byrd.

The Organizing Committee encourages everyone to submit papers on the topic or subtopics for this year's conference. It promises all delegates an opportunity to renew acquaintances, build new alliances and an opportunity to foster awareness in our field by pooling our collective resources, in order for us to achieve the objectives of our respective institutions.

Details on the conference, accommodations, travel and registration are now on our conference website at <http://macinbelize.wix.com/macinbelize> or on the MAC website <http://www.caribbeanmuseums.com/index.html>. Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or the MAC Secretariat for more information. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming Conference and Annual General Meeting.

Sherilyne Jones  
Director, Museum of Belize & Houses of Culture

Cyril J. Saltibus  
President, Museums Association of the Caribbean



Ministry of Tourism & Culture



Museum of Belize  
and Houses of Culture



national institute of culture and history

Please add the following dates to your diary:  
MAC AGM 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> October, 2013.

For the latest news on the AGM please visit the  
MAC website:

[www.caribbeanmuseums.com](http://www.caribbeanmuseums.com)



## Advance Information: 24th Annual MAC Conference, Belize, C.A 2013

The 24th Annual Conference of the Museums Association of the Caribbean will be held in Belize from Sunday, October 27 to Thursday 31, 2013. Registration will open on Sunday afternoon, and sessions begin Monday morning.

### Conference Cost

Registration is USD\$100 for MAC members. Fees include lunch and refreshments on all conference days, as well as the day trip. Registration forms are on [www.caribbeanmuseums.com](http://www.caribbeanmuseums.com) or at <http://macinbelize.wix.com/macinbelize#!home/mainPage>.

### Conference Venue and Accommodations

All conference sessions will be held at Radisson Fort George Hotel and Marina, located on the Caribbean coast in the historic Fort George area. Special rates have been negotiated for MAC attendees which are US\$119 for a single room and US\$129 for a double. Transportation is being arranged from the airport, and more information about the shuttle schedule will be posted on the MAC website as soon as it becomes available. Please visit the hotel website for information about services and amenities: [www.radisson.com/belizecitybz](http://www.radisson.com/belizecitybz)

### Host Country

Belize is located on the north eastern coast of Central America. It is the only country in the area where English is the official language, although Belize Kriol and Spanish are more commonly spoken. Belize is home to one of the world's most mysterious civilizations – the ancient Maya. The country is sprinkled with archaeological sites that date to the Maya heyday, known as the Classic Period (AD 250–1000). Enormous steps lead to the tops of tall stone temples, often yielding 360-degree jungle views. In the seventeenth century, the arrival of Europeans encouraged the development of the region's logging industry and in 1862 the area officially became part of the U.K. Commonwealth as British Honduras.

### Getting Here

The Philip Goldson International Airport is just 2 hours away from Miami, Houston and New Orleans with service to Belize offered by: American Airlines, United Airlines, US-Airways, TACA and Delta Airlines.

No visa is required from citizens of US, UK, Commonwealth or CARICOM Nations.

### Conference Theme

The Conference Committee is pleased to receive papers on this year's theme "Pooling our Resources: Collaborations & Connections". While papers on this topic are encouraged, please note that applicants are welcome to submit any of the following subcategories listed below or on any creative proposals about other imaginative museum subjects or ideas.

Sub-Categories:

- 1) No Museum an Island: Collaborating for Survival
- 2) Pushing the Envelope: Innovation and the Future of Museums
- 3) Collection Policy and Management
- 4) Transforming Your Museum into a Community Leader
- 5) Small Museums Overcoming Challenges
- 6) Developing staff and volunteers as partners to the mission

MAC welcomes submissions from researchers working in the fields of museum studies, cultural studies and allied subjects, and from museum practitioners. Submissions will be accepted for presentations (20 minutes plus 10 minutes Q&A). There may be opportunities for publication, in a form yet to be determined, for papers accepted for and presented at the Symposium.

### Deadlines

Abstracts of 250 words must be submitted via email or post by September 2nd, 2013 to the addresses provided below. The abstract should contain the following information:

- author(s)
- affiliation
- email address
- title of abstract
- body of abstract (including the intended nature of your presentational form)
- 3-4 keywords
- technical requirements (e.g., video, data projector, sound, web access)

### Contact

Secretariat of the Museums Association of the Caribbean ([secretariat@caribbeanmuseums.org](mailto:secretariat@caribbeanmuseums.org)) or the Museum of Belize ([mob@nichbelize.org](mailto:mob@nichbelize.org))

Museum of Belize  
8 Gaboural Lane  
Central Bank Compound  
Belize City, Belize

## Sint Maarten National Heritage Foundation Celebrates International Museum Day

On Friday May 17th, the Sint Maarten National Heritage Foundation and Museum, celebrated "International Museum Day 2013". The general public and schools were invited to visit the museum's "Open Day" at Front Street 7 in Philipsburg between 10 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. and on this day entrance was free.

The museum contained displays on Sint Maarten's history, geology, nature, environment and hurricanes and visitors were especially encouraged to study the recently donated artifacts and to look through the well-stocked museum shop selling arts and craft from local, Caribbean, South American and African artists. They were also invited to look in our collection of history and poetry books or admire the beautiful reproductions of antique maps.

The public were also encouraged to become part of the museum by donating old books, postcards, traditional clothing, photographs, old utensils, music instruments or other items that they no longer used or thought could belong in a museum display. The museum noted that any gift or loan would become part of the exhibits and inventory, along with the donor's name, thereby enhancing the "picture" of Sint Maarten.

The museum expressed their thanks to those who had recently donated items, as well as those who had donated money to the foundation. They also thanked the island government for their input, the Foundation Board and the museum volunteers for their support in keeping the museum open and the Heritage Foundation alive.

The museum extended its opening hours until 6:00 p.m. to allow residents that work during the day an opportunity to visit us and see the exhibitions, including the slide show of "10-10-10" and watching old films dating from 1947 and 1963 in the comfort of an air conditioned environment.

This was another successful International Museum Day!

## Taking it to The Streets, CAM Symposium, Glasgow May 2014

### Taking it to the Streets

Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM)  
and Glasgow Museums  
Scotland Street School Museum, Glasgow  
May 14-17, 2014

May 14-15: International symposium  
May 16: Visits to Community Outreach Programs &  
Glasgow Museum Tours  
May 17: Invitational Workshop on Museums &  
Participatory Governance, limited to 30 delegates



*Glasgow Museums Resource Centre*

Museums are increasingly engaged in civic debate and developing exhibitions and programs to extend the reach of the museum beyond four walls throughout the community and, by extension, increasing their benefit to the society. Some museums are encouraging deeper community engagement – participatory governance – in which citizens are involved in all aspects of decision-making. There is a commitment to enabling individuals and groups to engage more fully in political issues, in public policy and in the governance of the museum at all levels. These relationships pose challenges for museums committed to sharing authority whether on a project basis or considering sustained changes. Join us for an international symposium, the opportunity to visit community outreach programs and tour Glasgow Museums, and an invitational workshop on Museums and Participatory Governance.

CAM and Glasgow Museums invite proposals for papers, panels, roundtables, Ignite! sessions, workshops, posters, and presentation forms such as performance art, that deal with community engagement and outreach. Interested participants, whether panel chairs or individual presenters, should send a proposal of 300–500 words and a 200-word biography by September 15, 2013.

CAM was established in 1974 as a Commonwealth professional association and an international non-governmental organization (NGO) working towards the betterment of museums and their societies in the Commonwealth family of nations and globally. Glasgow is known internationally for its outreach service, the Open Museum, based at Glasgow Museums Resource Centre, which for more than 20 years has taken Glasgow's museum collections beyond the museum walls and out into the community.

There will be an application and selection process for all delegates to ensure solid participation from Commonwealth nations outside of the United Kingdom. Funding assistance may be available for participants from Commonwealth developing countries. Please advise whether funding is required.

For further information or to submit a proposal, contact: Catherine C. Cole, Secretary-General, Commonwealth Association of Museums, 10023 93 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, CANADA, T5H 1W6; 1-780-424-2229; CatherineC.Cole@telus.net; <http://www.maltwood.uvic.ca/cam/about/index.html>



## University of West Indies Museum: One Year and Counting

June 27, 2013 marks one year since the University of the West Indies (UWI) Museum opened its doors within the new UWI Regional Headquarters building at Mona, Jamaica. And amid the exhibitions held and initiatives explored during that year, there rest a couple of major realizations: the existence of the UWI Museum creates a context of collection and interpretation within which to secure artifacts that might otherwise be lost. It provides a space within which to celebrate and orient students, staff and others to the history and heritage of the UWI. And it creates an opportunity to translate research into possibilities for teaching and learning through production and exhibition.

In addition, the recent establishment of the museum as a project of the Vice Chancellery, some 60 years after the first university plans included reference to a museum, underscores the importance of on-going networking with other repositories, especially those within the university system that have helped preserve some artifacts over the decades. The focus of the UWI Museum is on the institution's history and development as well as the region to which it is connected; a focus that goes beyond the physical location at the Mona campus to reflect on various facets of the regional university. It provides a context and a purpose and contributes to ascribing a sense of value to artifacts of the university and the region – artifacts that may not just command attention in terms of helping to ground the institution historically, but also be of use in research and in extension of intellectual discourse via exhibition.

Without such a context, some items reflective of the origins of the UWI have been discarded, deteriorated, garage-saled or otherwise lost, over the years, without benefit of assessment as heritage objects.

But some have emerged not just from the stacks of the UWI Main Library or the University Archives, but also from the scrapbooks, drawers and cupboards of alumni, the boxes of retirees, and the secret corners of staff members who were determined to hold on to some items whose time had passed.

The active use of these artifacts in exhibitions and the interest shown by visitors from within and outside the UWI are a positive indicator moving forward.

For further information contact: The UWI Museum, UWI Regional Headquarters Building, Mona, Kingston 7, Jamaica.  
E-mail: [uwi.museum@uwimona.edu.jm](mailto:uwi.museum@uwimona.edu.jm) Blog: [www.uwimuseum.wordpress.com](http://www.uwimuseum.wordpress.com)



*UWI stamped hall crockery disused after the introduction of external catering to the halls. These remnants were gathered and secured until the museum opened its doors. The special event menus were donated by various alumni.*

*Ceramist artist Vilya Thomas with the matriculation and graduation gowns used by her mother, late UWI alumna Geraldine Thomas. Thomas' black University of London graduate gown places her in the early 1960s. The university, originally a college of the University of London, became an independent university in 1962 and used its own regalia after its first set of graduates completed their independent studies in 1965. The red matriculation robe was one that students wore up to the early 1970s.*



## Online Resources on the MAC Website

In 2011 one of the priorities of the newly formed MAC Secretariat was to develop a new website. The website was not only an important means to promote MAC and its projects, especially the AGM, but also to provide useful resources to MAC members. Discussions have been undertaken and it has been decided that members must have some benefits that are not available to non-members and at this year's AGM all new MAC members will be given a code to give access to the MAC members section.

So what will be in this 'Members' Only' section?

This Members' Section is now ready to go live and already contains a resources section. This provides links to documents, publications and case studies of good practices through the museum sector, mostly taken from the UK and USA markets. The links send you to the document directly, but we would advise people to check out the original website the resource is on as there is usually a lot more information there. The resources we link to can be downloaded, usually as a pdf or Word document, at the linked website so that even if you have a slow internet download speed, once you have downloaded the document it will be on your computer.

At present the Members' section is split into:

- Collections Management – Documents related to how museums manage all aspects of their collections.
- Museum Organisations – lists relevant details of organisations like ICOM, PIMA, CAM, AAM.
- Service Providers – for a small fee service providers with a proven track record in the Caribbean can have a link put to their websites. MAC of course does not recommend any of these organisations and would expect any museum wishing to hire one of these companies to do their own competency reviews.
- Miscellaneous Documents – This includes many of the 2012 AGM papers, the data from the Caribbean Museum Survey of 2011 undertaken by MAC and the final UNESCO report on the Slave Route Project produced by MAC in 2001.



What else will appear in the 'Members' Only' section?

Museum List – We will be providing a list of the museums we have so far identified in the Caribbean. This will be available to non-MAC members just as a list, but the Members' section will also contain the museum address and website.

All documents from the AGM – Where possible we will put up all papers from the most recent and past AGMs so that members who attended can recap on what was said or for those that could not attend they will also have access to the papers.

What if you cannot attend the MAC AGM?

Do not worry. Membership to MAC is open to all museum and heritage workers in the Caribbean and those that have an interest in the subject. If you would like to join MAC please contact the Secretariat so we can advise you on how to pay. Do not miss out on our resource section!

## Making Museums Accessible to the Deaf

It is common to notice how some groups of hearing-impaired persons simply visit the museum and maybe take some pictures without really interacting with the exhibitions because they are unable to communicate with the museum educator or use audio guides. Museums have a vocation of being inclusive, but what can they do when visitors have these special needs?

Since May 2013, four museums in the Dominican Republic have made video guides available to their deaf visitors. The Cathedral of Santo Domingo, the Columbus Palace Museum, the Royal Houses Museum and the Museum of Dominican Man are among the first in the region to launch this service. A small portable device allows deaf visitors to watch a video of a sign language interpreter at the information stops created by each museum in their exhibits.

While it might appear that museum visitors would not be hindered by a lack of hearing, research and experience has proved otherwise. The majority of visitors benefit from additional interpretation aids to explain objects, add further meaning or simply give some context. But providing information in a way appropriate to deaf visitors is not enough; the entire museum experience needs to be taken into account, from staff attitudes and abilities to how the gallery is laid out and how events are handled.

To enhance accommodations and programming for people who are deaf, museums should consider the following:

Having staff in the Education Department who are responsible for developing, creating and evaluating programs for the disabled. It is important that the persons involved either have a background or are trained in providing services for people with disabilities.

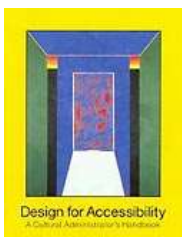
In conjunction with a local deaf organisation, conduct an audit of the physical environment of the museum and the accessibility programs it provides for the deaf community to identify and eliminate physical and social barriers, improve programming and create training for museum staff.

It is essential that all museum staff be aware and trained on the museum's accessibility policy and practices, particularly those employees who come in contact with the public: educators, gallery guards and security.

If a museum wants to provide programming for the deaf community, it should develop a marketing plan to communicate this information to the deaf community. By including information such as sign language interpretation or video guide availability, the museum increases public awareness about accessibility.

Adding a social component to the education program can help to build comfort and loyal attendance with visitors who are deaf. This could mean hosting a small reception or informal gathering where the deaf visitors can socialize with each other and with museum staff before or after a program.

Making museums accessible is desirable because it enables museums to reach new audiences. In the words of Janice Majewski, Smithsonian Institution Accessibility Program Coordinator, "Accessibility does not have to be expensive. Experience has repeatedly shown that accommodations designed to serve people with disabilities generally improve the quality of programs for the broader public. In short, museums cannot afford not to make their programs accessible to all visitors."



*Design for Accessibility: A Cultural Administrator's Handbook* was produced by the National Arts Endowment in the United States to help museums comply with Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, but it is also very useful for museums in other parts of the world which are interested in becoming more accessible and inclusive.

You may download the entire book or individual sections and chapters as PDF documents here:  
<http://www.nea.gov/resources/Accessibility/pubs/DesignAccessibility.html>



## American Alliance of Museum Forum on Museum Excellence



The Board of Directors of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) in collaboration with the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico (MAPR) will host a Forum on Museum Excellence for museum professionals in the Caribbean and Puerto Rico on Thursday, October 31, 2013. Through the forum, participants will learn about various AAM programs to help museums strengthen their operations; hear from colleagues about the benefits of participating in the Accreditation and Museum Assessment Programs; gain insight on standards and best practices with a focus on strategic planning; and share information on museum needs and concerns in the Caribbean with the AAM Board. The meeting will take place at the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico (MAPR) in San Juan, P.R. To register or receive more information contact Mrs. Ivanska Cano at [icano@mapr.org](mailto:icano@mapr.org) or 787-977-6277 ext. 2202 or Ms. Solimar Salas at [ssalas@mapr.org](mailto:ssalas@mapr.org) or 787-977-6277, ext. 2203.

## Disaster Risk Management for Caribbean Museums, Bahamas, September 24-27, 2013

The Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM) is partnering with the National Museum of the Bahamas to organize a disaster risk management workshop for Caribbean museums. The program will include: identifying and mitigating risks; first aid for heritage buildings and artifacts; visits to local heritage sites, museums and the national gallery to assess risks; role-playing solutions; and discussion of whether there is a need for a regional response network. CAM has secured funding to support the travel costs of a number of participants from Caribbean Commonwealth nations.

Delegates from other nations are welcome at their own expense. If you are interested in participating, please complete an application form/needs assessment and return by email to [CatherineC.Cole@telus.net](mailto:CatherineC.Cole@telus.net) by August 15<sup>th</sup> 2013. Participants will be informed of their acceptance by August 23.

For further information contact:

Catherine C. Cole, CAM Secretary-General ([CatherineC.Cole@telus.net](mailto:CatherineC.Cole@telus.net))

Kim Outten-Stubbs, CAM Board Member and Chief Curator, National Museum of the Bahamas ([kouttenstubbs@ammcbahamas.com](mailto:kouttenstubbs@ammcbahamas.com))

Please note:

- 1) MAC and ICOM-UK are also planning a free specialist 4 day Emergency Training course for the 6 United Kingdom Overseas Territories in the Caribbean and will be inviting 4 of the neighbouring islands to join in for free. Funding is being sought for this at present.
- 2) ICOM still has a Caribbean-wide Museum Emergency Programme training course offer for the Caribbean, but have so far been unable to gain funding.

**MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL FORM  
MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF THE CARIBBEAN (MAC)  
2012 - 2013**

Please check the appropriate categories in both columns:

- New member
- Institutional membership (US\$100 annual dues)
- Renewal
- Associate membership (US\$50 annual dues)

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If applying for institutional membership, please give a short description of your organization:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form, I agree to abide by the ICOM Code of Ethics.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues are payable at the Annual General Meeting & Conference. If you are not attending, you may send this form along with payment (check drawn to US Bank) to:

David Hayes  
 Treasurer  
 PO Box 2762  
 Kingshill,  
 St. Croix  
 VI 0851-2762  
 USA

## Latest News Upcoming Events

If you have information or are organising an event, please send details for inclusion in the next newsletter.

### 2013

#### I Meeting of Latin American and Caribbean University Museums

October 24th - 25th in Santa Fe, Argentina

#### MAC Annual General Meeting and Conference

October 27th - 31st in Belize

### 2014

#### 'Taking it to the streets' CAM Symposium

May 14th - 17th in Glasgow, United Kingdom

#### International Museum Day (IMD) Themes

IMD is held on or around May 18th

2014 Museum Connections Make Connections

2015 Museums for Sustainable Society

To be confirmed

Museum Emergency Planning Training Course run by ICOM and MAC

## Contributing Articles to the Newsletter

Would you like to write an article for the newsletter? We are looking for articles on the work being carried out by museums in the Caribbean, requests for help, or on any information that you think your colleagues would find of use. For articles please submit no more than 400 words, and if possible three or four images. Contact us at [secretariat@caribbeanmuseums.com](mailto:secretariat@caribbeanmuseums.com).

The deadline for receipt of articles is a full month before the publication date. The 2013 provisional publication dates are: October 31<sup>st</sup>

Provisional dates for 2014 are:

January 31<sup>st</sup>    April 30<sup>th</sup>    July 31<sup>st</sup>

However, publication dates might change to fit in the need to release information to the members.

## ICOM Conference in Brazil

ICOM will be holding their conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 10-17<sup>th</sup> August 2013 with the theme "Museums (memory + creativity = Social Change)".

The ICOM-Rio website is now open and people can book to attend. For more information visit:

<http://www.icomrio2013.org.br/>



## Latest Publications

If you know of any publications coming out that will be of interest to museum professionals in the Caribbean, please send details for inclusion in the newsletter.

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*If you want further information about MAC, want to become a member of the Association, want to receive this newsletter, know someone who would be interested in receiving this newsletter or to have information that you would like to share through this newsletter, please contact the Secretariat.*

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**Display Cases** Conservation Material **Exhibition Design** Policy Production  
**Insurance** Collection Care Emergency Recovery Fundraising  
Publications **LIGHTING** **Project Management** Research Image  
Archives **SHIPPING STORAGE**

Would you like to Advertise your Products and Services?

## THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS

Does your company supply products to museums in the Caribbean or carry out services for the heritage sector? Would you like to promote your products or services to the many hundreds of museums and heritage organisations in the Caribbean region?

During 2012 the Museums Association of the Caribbean's newsletters will be distributed to over 200 museums in the region and will be placed on the MAC website.

If you would like to discuss promoting your company in the newsletter please contact [secretariat@caribbeanmuseums.com](mailto:secretariat@caribbeanmuseums.com) for rates.

Alternatively, if you would like to discuss how your business can support MAC and help museums in the region develop, please contact us.

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Archives **SHIPPING STORAGE**