

Call for Presentations

Intangible! Living Heritage and Museums

International Conference, 6-7 June 2024
at Forschungscampus Dahlem, Berlin
organized by the Institute for Museum Research
and the Museum of European Cultures

From beekeeping to hip-hop to midwifery, cultural heritage is diverse and supported by many different communities of practice. Depending on their thematic focus, museums are also closely linked to living heritage; both tangible and intangible cultural heritage (ICH) form the basis of their work.

Objects are at the center of attention in museum practice. They are also interpreted and exhibited as representatives of intangible and ephemeral cultural expressions and practices. Museums have therefore long used media such as film, photography, and sound recordings to capture, document, and communicate object-related practices, knowledge, and skills.

At the same time, the dimension of the immaterial has hardly been reflected in the theoretical reflection of museum work. Little is known about the interactions between a living, practiced cultural heritage and the preserving, object-related activities of a museum. Similarly, the transformations that can be triggered by cooperation between museums on the one hand and ICH communities on the other have been little explored.

The conference "In-Tangible! Living Heritage and Museums" is jointly organized by the Museum of European Cultures and the Institute for Museum Research. It aims to shed light on the multifaceted dimensions of intangible heritage and its reflection in museum practice: On the first day of the conference, the two panels "Practices of Intangible Heritage" and "Locations of the Intangible" will focus on the complex relationships between actors, practices and locations of the intangible in museum contexts. The second day will be dedicated to networking and dialogue between communities of ICH and museum practitioners using concrete approaches and examples from practice.

The aim of the conference as a whole is to create a greater awareness of how intangible cultural heritage is dealt with in museums, and to explore together how this might be more strongly reflected in the analog and digital collecting practices and strategies of museums in the future, as well as in their communication and interaction with their various audiences. The current international debate already provides some pointers and will be brought together with positions from practice-oriented research at this conference.

Your contribution as a tandem (in German only) is needed!

In order to facilitate the exchange of experiences between the various stakeholders and to create spaces for inspiration and joint learning, we cordially invite "tandems" consisting of a museum and representatives of a community of practice to host a project or initiative showcase on the **second day of** the conference. Within one hour, you can present your cooperation as a tandem in a freely selectable format. You will then be available for questions and discussion. In order to give as many participants as possible the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the projects and initiatives presented, we ask you to give your presentation (in German only) twice.

A total of 10 showcases will be awarded, for which tandems can apply. You can apply for a presentation by **March 17, 2024** with a description of your project/initiative and a brief outline of how you would present as a tandem.

Please send a **text (maximum 500 words)** or a **video** (maximum five minutes) to **ifm@smb.spk-berlin.de**. The selected tandems will also be asked to design a poster for the conference that conveys the main points of their presentation.

The conference language will be English on the first day and German on the second day.



**Museum
Europäischer Kulturen**
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin



**Institut für
Museumsforschung**
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin