Hands On! International
Association of Children in Museums

European Museum Academy
A European Museum Expertise Foundation

THE 2024 JUDGES' REPORT

Mercis bv

CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD

The jury is looking especially for museums, exhibitions, programmes and museum environments that show:

- a commitment to children, to encourage children's curiosity and to stimulate their imagination
- creativity and innovation
- quality learning experiences

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD

- Permanent space designed for children up to the age of 14 years.
- Age-appropriate exhibitions and/or programmes based on the cognitive, social and emotional development of children.
- Permanent staff/ management.
- Dedicated budget.
- Interactive learning experiences and exhibit strategies engaging as many senses as possible.
- Specialist provision for children within the museum sector internationally.

INTRODUCTION

This is the thirteenth year of the Award, and we have been able to return to our normal procedure of visiting the seven shortlisted candidates, either in person or with a combination of personal visits and Zoom conversations. We consider there is no substitute for face-to-face visits, and it is only because of financial constraints that we have had to limit the number of judges sent to candidates outside Europe.

The Children's Museum Award was established in 2011 by the European Museum Academy and Hands On! International for the recognition of excellence in the specific sector of international children's museums. In 2014 the name of the Award was changed to the Children in Museums Award, to reflect the wider range of provision for children in today's museums. Applications are welcomed from children's museums and from education, children and youth departments in museums and science centres, both long-established and recently opened.

The European Museum Academy (EMA) is a non-profit Foundation established to reflect museums at the international level, to promote research on museography and museology as a high cultural activity, to provide constructive criticism and promote discussion on new exhibitions and museums, and to diffuse museological knowledge and ideas among members of the profession. It aims to promote the conception and development of new as well as of traditional museums as tools of social change. EMA co-operates with Hands On! International Association of Children in Museums for this Award. Judges representing the European Museum Academy are also active members of the Academy in a number of roles. www.europeanmuseumacademy.eu

Hands On! International Association of Children in Museums (HO!I), is an international professional organisation representing and advocating for its non-profit member institutions. It actively stimulates the creation and development of children's museums (including science centres and large collections-based institutions serving young visitors) and more space for cultural and educational activities for children and young people. HO!I supports the important role of children's museums as centres where play inspires creativity, informal and lifelong learning. www.hands-on-international.net.

THE JUDGES' REPORT

The panel of judges considered carefully all the material submitted by the candidates, paying special attention to the ways in which a candidate is likely to change the course of museum thinking or museum practice, nationally and internationally, with imaginative interpretation and presentation being marked highly. From 32 applications the judges reached a varied shortlist of museums. All are museums of the highest quality and show no compromises in subjects and approaches which are interesting for children, stretching their imagination and range of interests. They tackle subjects from indigenous peoples to science, citizenship to the home. Museums are increasingly consulting children on their programmes, enabling children to become protagonists, and others create many playful and meaningful activities for adults and children to share. New standards have been set this year for what museums working with children can achieve, and what children can aspire to under online guidance, learning in a playful and interactive way.

After an intensive period of exchange of views, a shortlist was announced and all the museums on the list received a visit from one or more members of the judging panel. Reports were written, shared and discussed at a meeting in August and a list of Finalists was confirmed.

- **The Museum of Solutions (MuSo), Mumbai, India**
- **Seoul Children's Museum, Republic of Korea**
- **Groninger Museum, Groningen, The Netherlands**
- **Miffy Museum, Utrecht, The Netherlands**
- **University Museum Utrecht, The Netherlands**
- **POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw, Poland**
- **Science Museum CosmoCaixa, Barcelona, Spain**

THE MUSEUM OF SOLUTIONS (MuSo), MUMBAI

This museum in central Mumbai opened in November 2023 after six years of youth-led prototyping. The MuSo team was responsible for the design, together with some private museum consultant companies and a kids' advisory board comprising 20 pupils in the age group 12-16 from five public and private schools across the city, who joined the design process in 2020. Their feedback has been incorporated into the design and content of the exhibitions. The building spans 9,300 m² on 10 floors, six of which are open to the public. It is run by a private non-profit foundation with several private sponsors who finance the running costs. The museum space is organised as a series of zones or labs, accessible to children aged two and above. The stated mission of the museum is 'to inspire, enable and empower children to make meaningful change in the world, together, today'. This purpose is further defined by three main pillars or guiding principles – boldly child-led; rooted to reality; and radically inclusive. Children are the active agents of the changeset, improving the condition of everyday life and society. MuSo offers a variety of topics, especially related to STEM, climate change and SDGs and facilitiated by hands-on stations, workshop areas, play zones, discovery labs and a discovery room. Cognitive, social and emotional development is considered in many ways, engaging as many senses as possible and paying attention to different learning styles. A programme supporting children from underprivileged areas of the city provides transport, free entrance and food, and has involved c.4,000 children so far. The museum makes a concerted effort to recruit and hire a diverse and inclusive staff.

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The judges said: The different zones on each floor address issues and ideas that are contemporary, bold and emotional. MuSo is not just about exhibits, it is about unlocking the potential within every child to change the world, using exhibitions, educational activities and public programmes to promote learning, enjoyment, reflection, creativity and knowledge. MuSo asks kids to put their ideas into practice, to make projects, finding strategies and solutions, and to realise them.

The Museum of Solutions (MuSo)
(Founder: Tanji Jindal Shete)
Victoria House, Pandurang Budhkar Marg
Lower Parel
400013 Mumbai
India

SEOUL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, SEOUL

The museum operates as a public institution, established by the Seoul Metropolitan Government and managed through a public-private partnership with the Museum Management Research Unit. It receives budgetary support aimed at promoting public welfare activities and collaborates through mutual consultations to establish a partnership based on trust. The museum space is vibrant and colourful, with each section carefully designed to stimulate curiosity and creativity. The design incorporates playful elements, including hands-on installations and immersive environments, which make learning a fun and dynamic experience. Children are introduced to new concepts centred around science, art and culture. By blending traditional educational approaches with modern technology, the museum provides a platform for creative thinking and problem solving, inspiring children to think differently and imagine new possibilities. The Light Room was designed and developed with the aim of avoiding exhibits or programmes relying on state-of-the-art technology and symbolises the museum's determination to revitalise museum education in a forward-thinking manner. Children embark on a journey of self-discovery, sensory perception, and the expression of emotions through aesthetic experiences. This results in programmes that allow full immersion in light and sound and experience of unique sensory stimuli to enhance cognitive flexibility. The museum's educational programmes have been designed to make complex concepts accessible and enjoyable. Play Box is a series of at-home educational packages with activity kits and a link to video tutorials relating to the museum exhibits.

The judges said: Through exhibitions and educational initiatives, the museum provides an inclusive, welcoming environment. The museum's proactive community engagement, collaboration with local organisations and outreach programmes for underserved groups demonstrate its social impact and dedication to cultural awareness. Challenges in Korean society are addressed, including the low child happiness index, declining birth rate, excessive media exposure and educational disparity.

Seoul Children's Museum (SCM)
(Director: Byung Tae Kim)
216 (Neung-dong 18), Neungdong-ro
Gwangjin-gu
04991 (143-847) Seoul
Republic of Korea

GRONINGER MUSEUM, GRONINGEN

In 2021-2022 the museum organised the first Children's Biennale, an idea first introduced by the National Gallery in Singapore. Groningen had several objectives in mind – to design and programme the Biennale in collaboration with the National Gallery Singapore and Groningen artists; to create a new and positive form of art appreciation and art experiences for the young target group of 8-12-year-olds; to broaden the horizons of children and young people; to promote a new audience; and to expand and perpetuate collaborations with other local and regional organisations. Due to its success a second Biennale was held in 2024 with a theme of 'A Better Place', the central question being how children can make their environment and world a better place. The aim was to stimulate curious young minds through art and imaginative play, challenging children to marvel at diverse and colourful works of contemporary artists and encouraging them to participate. The museum's education team developed an ambassador programme, and in the Biennale's second edition children's ambassadors were co-creators of the programmes. A group of 60 children from primary schools in specific priority neighbourhoods of the city and province played a prominent role in the programming, design, education and marketing of the Biennale. 24 youth ambassadors aged 16-22 were also recruited, sourced from social media and by a Museum Caravan travelling around the province to schools and festivals and offering workshops. Interested young people were told they could be ambassadors and signed a contract with the museum. Treated as interns, the youth ambassadors were paid for their work in the exhibition halls and talking with visitors about the diverse and interactive displays.

The judges said: The entire museum, including the management, supports the idea of the Children's Biennale. The input of resources in money and personnel, in participatory efforts and outreach in the neighbourhood and province, is enormous. The number of visitors, especially children and families, has risen sharply and the impact on the children is very high. The Education Department is a role model for other institutions, with its responsibility for the timetable and finances of this large project.

Groninger Museum
(Director: Andreas Blühm)
Postbus 90
NL-9700 ME Groningen
The Netherlands

MIFFY MUSEUM, UTRECHT

The museum reopened in June 2023 after a period of expansion and refurbishment. The main target group is children of pre-school age (up to six years old), although the museum is becoming very popular with adult Asian tour groups, thanks to the interest in the work of Dick Bruna (1927-2017). Designed with and around the artwork and world-famous Dutch children's book author, the museum offers toddlers and pre-school children the possibility to discover their world on their own terms, together with Miffy and her friends. All the attractions are robust and at child height. The children are allowed to use everything and there are no corners or edges to ensure safe play. Parents and carers accompany children through the exhibition. The museum believes that it is never too early to build a memory library to judge how to respond to situations and offers a wide range of experiences in a world created around friendly and familiar Miffy, very similar to their own. Parental participation is encouraged, as young children learn best through interaction with adults. Children engage with topics in a playful way and learn by imitating the adult world, with themed islands including cooking and eating, telephones, transport and health, a reading room and creative workshops. The aim is to teach children to count and name objects at the same time. Many of the interactive stations were tested by families and professionals in the field of early child development as well as partners involved in the conception and implementation of the exhibitions. Attractions are accessible for visually impaired and deaf youngsters, and staff are trained to deal with many disabilities, so that everyone feels 'normal' and as independent as possible.

The judges said: Education is the great strength of the Miffy Museum; the focus on early childhood education has been consistently implemented and the enthusiastic staff are well prepared for their tasks. Although the museum is under the umbrella of the Central Museum it became obvious that a separate museum was essential. The consistent thinking and awareness of inclusion and diversity is very well developed and implemented throughout the museum.

Nijntje Museum
(Director: Marco Grob)
Agnietenstraat 2
NL-3512 XB Utrecht
The Netherlands

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM UTRECHT (UMU)

Recently renewed after being closed for four years, the attractive building housing the museum has a bright shop and entry area, with separate entry for school groups. A large outdoor area includes a botanical garden and a restaurant/café in an older building. The main target audiences are children of pre-school age, schoolchildren (8-14) and families, although the museum descibes itself as 'the museum for everyone who is curious'. The premise is that anyone can become a researcher. Visitors find that you can research anything if you ask the right questions, and the museum engages visitors in the process through citizen science projects and collecting relevant data. There are also several programmes for primary and secondary schools, supervised by students of Utrecht University, where students get actively involved. Every room in the museum has a special colour, treats one topic and one specific method of research. Visitors are guided by specific signalling with signs and texts, while instructions are simple but systematic. Collaboration between visitors is actively encouraged. The museum trains its own researchers in participation, as it wants them to interact with the public and also wants visitors to meet 'real' researchers and see them as normal people. Students from very different backgrounds are emplyed in the role of hosts, and every group is accompanied by two 'communicators'. Awareness of inclusion is well developed and the entire exhibition was tested with different visitor groups, neighbours, an asylum centre and outreach – members of museum staff went to festivals and events by bike to get in touch with potential visitors. School visits are well prepared, with clear tasks, feedback forms and a lot of self-detection.

The judges said: The museum is itself a learning organisation which is constantly changing. It is rare that a science museum acts in such a consistent manner. UMU is a role model in many aspects - establishing new exhibitions (iterative approach, testing); education and inclusion; awareness of the impact of museums on society and academic professions, but also in relation to the development of people and organisations (management, training, marketing) and the strategic use of collaborations.

UMU - Universiteitsmuseum Utrecht
(Director: Femke den Boer)
Lange Nieuwstraat 106
NL-3512 PN Utrecht
The Netherlands

POLIN MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS, WARSAW

The museum stands in the former heart of Jewish Warsaw, an area turned into a ghetto during the Second World War. Opened in 2014, its modern building faces the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes and forms part of a unique memorial complex. The educational mission of the museum is 'to preserve the past and shape the future' in the believe that exposure to the rich history of Polish Jews provides more than historical education: it inculcates respect for people from different backgrounds and strengthens the resolve to fight xenophobia. After the outbreak of the war in Ukraine many refugees, entered Poland, including 17,000 children. The local Ukrainian School almost overnight went from 50 students to 2,000. Whilst other museums in the city have decreased or stopped their work with this displaced and traumatised community, POLIN has redoubled its commitment. Since March 2022 seven Ukrainian staff have been recruited and trained. In partnership with the Ukrainian House in Warsaw, whose goal is to support the Ukrainian community, and the Ukrainian School there are joint discussions on the needs of the children, with planning and implementation of activities. Events addressed to refugee children target families and school groups. All activities aim to create as a safe space for peer interaction, shared play and development. The main goal is to reduce the trauma associated with war experiences and integrate children into their new environment, with sessions that are open, calm and maintain focus. The positive impact has also been felt by accompanying Ukrainian teachers, who have been left without psychological support. Artists in exile in Warsaw have also started approaching the museum with projects for children.

The judges said: This is an exemplary approach to community engagement at a time of real-world conflict, providing a safe space to learn. POLIN has taken on a significant social responsibility by welcoming refugees from a neighbouring country with a different culture and language, providing a haven from the hardships and horrors they may have experienced. This outstanding work is done respectfully and with a focus on maintaining their native language.

POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews
(Director: Zygmunt Stępiński)
6 Mordechaja Anielewicza St.
PL-00-157 Warsaw
Poland

SCIENCE MUSEUM COSMOCAIXA, BARCELONA

The museum was established in 1981 as part of the 'la Caixa' Foundation, which has a firm commitment to building a better and fairer society, providing more opportunities for those who need them most. The impressive building, combining Art Nouveau and contemporary design, has exhibitions, activities and services extending over six floors, clearly identified through colour codes and pictograms. In 2004 the building and exhibitions were expanded and completely refurbished, and in 2019 a new concept was adopted for the permanent exhibition layout. MICRARIUM opened in 2022, and CLIK in 2024. CLIK is a learning space for children from the age of three. It was developed by the Foundation with support from international museum experts and the collaboration of science education experts at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. CLIK encourages experience-based learning through models that promote play, hands-on exploration and the excitement of discovery. It focuses on analogical and manual aspects and elements such as water and air, breaking away from current dynamics of interaction and learning with new technologies. This approach has been highly rated by parents and teachers. 25 modules are split into four specific areas for light and colour, mechanics and construction, water and wind. These elements have huge educational value for working on concepts in physics, such as gravity, weight, forces and the properties of fluids. While the children experiment freely, museum educators are also involved, suggesting challenges to make individual or collective learning more dynamic. All activities at the museum have qualitative assessment systems to make sure they are meeting educational targets.

The judges said: CosmoCaixa carries out highly professional work in the field of science literacy, with a well targeted, impressive variety of programmes and activities. It deserves our congratulations for its livelong achievement over 45 years, with its capacity to remain young and attractive, with constant renewal and change. Special praise is due to the Bubble Planetarium, which introduces children up to the age of five to astronomy.

Museo de la Ciència CosmoCaixa
(Director: Valenti Farràs Company)
C/Isaac Newton 26
ES-08022 Barcelona
Spain

THE 2024 CHILDREN IN MUSEUMS AWARD WINNER

THE MUSEUM OF SOLUTIONS (MuSo)

MuSo is a learning institution, and its staff members are open to exploring new solutions. MuSo places children at the heart of everything it does. The museum strongly believes that children have the power to change the world and encourages them to think critically and develop innovative solutions for future challenges. Learning methods are open-ended and offer free choice, allowing visitors to explore all parts of the exhibitions or focus on selected areas. In its three levels – the Play LAB with its hands-on station displays the fundamentals of aerodynamics, water systems, physics, mechanics and movement. The Discovery LAB is about the SDGs related to water and climate change through an immersive zone, a connecting zone, an empathy zone and an investigation zone. The Make LAB provides different zones and studios in which children are invited to create, engaging them in problem-solving and encouraging them to develop technical skills, with an electronic and robotic zone, the prototyping studio, woodworking studio, art studio and media studio. In all these areas MuSo encourages its young visitors not only to learn more about current problems but to follow through with suggested solutions. The museum is clearly designed, with very bright clear colours which have been repeated in the printed materials and the website, so the understanding of each activity is immediate. There is always a pointer that helps the visitor find the most suitable activity, depending on ages and interests and whether the visitor is a child or an adult. In addition, the museum provides learning materials to take home, with plenty of ideas (all related to the museum experience) to continue to be creative after the visit.

The judges said: There is no doubt that within India, with its very traditional teaching methods, MuSo is revolutionary, but its ethos is a model for many other countries, while considering national differences. MuSo has a strong belief in the power of children and that children are the changemakers. The young visitors are encouraged and empowered to think for themselves and to find methods and solutions, looking to the future, to make a better world for their communities. The museum does exceptional work, thanks to its extraordinarily committed staff. In the long run MuSo contributes to raising responsible members of society. Who else but a children's museum can carry out this educational task in such a holistic way?

THE TROPHY

The trophy is a bronze statue of Miffy, the world-famous children's character, which was created by Dick Bruna (1927-2017). The sculptor is Marc Bruna, Dick Bruna's younger son. This (only existing) statue is a scale model of the original statue that is in Utrecht, the home of Dick Bruna in The Netherlands. The statue was donated to the city by the Soroptimist Club of Utrecht in the 1990s.

2025 will be Miffy's 70th anniversary and yet she still appeals to children all over the world – the Miffy books are now translated in more than 50 languages. As a character, Miffy embodies the principles of creativity, fantasy, openness (she looks at you), positivity, freedom of thinking and child friendliness. Her profile as the familiar, friendly character that children worldwide recognise and love was underlined in 2004 when New York City chose Miffy as their Family Tourist Ambassador in a bid to attract tourists' families back to the city, post 9/11.

APPENDIX ONE: LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE 2024 AWARD

Australia	Melbourne: Melbourne Holocaust Museum www.mhm.org.au
Croatia	Ogulin: Ivana's House of Fairy Tales www.ivaninakucabajke.hr/eng/
Denmark	Copenhagen: Danish Architecture Center www.dac.dk
	Copenhagen: Museum of Copenhagen www.museumofcopenhagen.dk
	Nykøbing: Museum Lolland-Falster www.museumlollandfalster.dk
Estonia	Tartu: Tartu Toy Museum www.mm.ee
Germany	Berlin: Deutsches Historisches Museum www.dhm.de
	Frankfurt am Main: Deutsches Filminstitut & Filmmuseum www.dff.film
Hungary	Budapest: Hungarian Money Museum & Visitor Center https://www.penzmuseum.hu/eng/
India	Mumbai: The Museum of Solutions (MuSo) https://museumofsolutions.in
Korea, Republic of	Gyeonggi: Gyeonggi Children's Museum www.gcm.ggcf.kr
	Seoul: National Hangeul Museum https://www.hangeul.go.kr/main.do
	Seoul: Seoul Children's Museum www.seoulchildrensmuseum.org
Montenegro	Cetinje: National Museum of Montenegro https://narodnimuzej.me/

The Netherlands	Groningen: Groninger Museum www.groningermuseum.nl Hilversum: Netherlands Institute for Sound & Vision www.beeldengeluid.nl Rotterdam: Tax & Customs Museum www.bdmuseum.nl Utrecht: Miffy Museum www.nijntjemuseum.nl Utrecht: University Museum Utrecht www.umu.nl
Poland	Warsaw: POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews https://polin.pl/pl
Portugal	Sintra: São Miguel de Odrinhas Archaeological Museum https://cm-sintra.pt/actualidade/cultura/museus-municipais-de-sintra/museu-arqueologico-de-sao-miguel-de-odrinhas
Serbia	Belgrade: Museum of Yugoslavia https://muzej-jugoslavije.org/en/
Spain	Barcelona: Science Museum CosmoCaixa www.cosmocaixa.com Madrid: Canal Foundation www.fundacioncanal.es
Switzerland	Geneva: Fondation pour l'art modern et contemporain www.playground-ge.ch Sonogno: Museum of Val Verzasca www.museovalverzasca.ch Zürich: Museum of Design Zürich https://museum-gestaltung.ch/de/
Turkey	Izmir: Arkas Art Center https://arkassanatmerkezi.com/
United Arab Emirates	Dubai: Children's City https://childrencity.dm.gov.ae/en/

APPENDIX TWO: THE 2024 PANEL OF JUDGES

Elaine Chan oversees Early Years and Family Programmes in her role as Assistant Director (Learning) at National Gallery Singapore, where she contributed to the development of the Keppel Centre for Art Education which won the Children in Museums Award in 2018 for innovative art education, awarded by Hands On! International Association and the European Museum Academy. An early childhood practitioner by training, Elaine is interested in how the arts can help us look and re-look at ourselves and our world. She believes that early exposure to art fosters curiosity in children and encourages them to make new discoveries beyond the boundaries of curriculum. Elaine holds a M.Ed in Early Childhood Education from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. [HO!I]

Helen Charman FRSA, MA, Dip is Director of Learning, National Programmes and Young V&A at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. A creative and cultural learning professional for 30 years, Helen's professional portfolio encompasses schools, universities, galleries, museums, festival organizations, local authorities and charities. She was a founder member of the education team at Tate Modern and on the directorate that mobilized the new Design Museum, London. Her remit at the V&A Museum includes leadership of Young V&A, the nation's premier national museum and creative powerhouse designed with and for the young from birth to early teens. The broader scope of her role also includes overall responsibility for Learning & Digital, Interpretation and National Programmes. Helen's international remit contributes to the UNESCO Framework on Culture and Arts Education and membership on the Association of Children's Museum's Advisory Council and Education Integration Global Forum Scientific Committee. [HO!I]

Laura Diamanti is the Multimedia Editor for a Specialist Master's programme in New Media, Museology, and Museum Communication at IULM University in Milan. She is also on the team for the Heritage in Motion Award, a prestigious competition promoted by EMA that celebrates innovative and creative multimedia projects related to cultural heritage in Europe. She has spent many years as the Head of Cultural Activities and

Events for the ‘Genus Bononiae’ project, a cultural initiative that turned seven historic buildings in Bologna (Italy) into museums and cultural venues. During this period, she also worked to establish the museum's educational department to improve community engagement and educational outreach. Over her career, Laura has worked with the European Museum Academy (EMA) and Kriterion Consulting, contributing to museum-related projects and supporting various European cultural initiatives. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences and two Master's degrees in Innovation and Organisation of Culture and the Arts and European Museology.[EMA]

Jörg Ehtreiber studied physics, chemistry and museum education at the University of Graz, Austria. After that, he became head and curator of the energy department at the Technical Museum in Vienna, followed by the position as Head of the hands-on exhibitions unit. Ehtreiber completed a management training and founded MTC (Museum & Technology Company). He worked several years as a consultant for museums and governmental institutions, planning and implementing large-scale exhibition projects. In 2003, he became Director and CEO of KIMUS, which includes the Graz Children's Museum FRida & freD and the Fairy Tale Express Graz. Since 2015, he is President of Hands On! International Association of Children in Museums and serves on various boards in an advisory capacity. Ehtreiber was in charge of Science Center CoSA - Center of Science Activities - that opened in Graz in 2019. He is currently working on an inclusive museum about the Austrian composer Robert Stolz that will open in May 2023. [HO!I]

Anita Elefsen was appointed Director of The Herring Era Museum in Siglufjörður, Iceland in 2016. She began her museum career at that very same museum as a young student and later as curator. In 2004 The Herring Era Museum won the Luigi Micheletti Award, at the time administered by the European Museum Academy. Anita holds a BA degree in History and an MA degree in Museology from the University of Iceland in Reykjavík. She has been Chair of The Icelandic Museum Association since 2020 and serves on the boards for The Icelandic Association of Maritime Museums; *Sarpur* – The Icelandic Museum Collections Database; North-East Iceland Culture Committee and serves as Iceland’s National Representative for the European Museum Academy. [EMA]

Susanne Gesser worked as a curator at the Frankfurt Children's Museum since 1992, which she has also headed since 1998. She is also head of the Department of Education and participation at the Frankfurt Historical Museum. Between 2003 and 2017 she also represented the Frankfurt Historical Museum in building planning matters and has been a member of its New Concept working group. Susanne was also the project coordinator for the permanent exhibition Frankfurt Now! and founder of the 'City Laboratory', which she leads. She is co-founder of the Federal Association of German Children's Museums as well as founding member of the German Association of Museum Education. She is on the Board of Directors of Hands On! International Association of Children in Museums. [HO!I]

Dirk Houtgraaf has been for many years the director of Public Services of Naturalis, the Dutch National Museum of Natural History. He also has been the leader of the exhibit development team and the educational department in the years before. During the years he has been involved in several educational forums, boards and foundations, and for example in the branding of the public libraries. He is a biologist and strategic marketeer by training. Nowadays he has returned as a Director Public & Market (ad interim) to Naturalis as well as working as a strategic manager at the Dutch Cultural Heritage Agency. He is one of the board members of the European Museum Academy and the author of books including 'Businessmodels' (Dutch) and 'Mastering a Museum Plan: Strategies for Exhibit Development"' (English). [EMA]

Nils M. Jensen graduated in Journalism, Archaeology and Museology from the University of Aarhus, Denmark in 1987. He started the same year as curator at the Open-Air Museum, Odense, and later at Odense City Museums as Head of Communication (1991-99). Then he worked as Assistant Professor at the Danish Museums Training School, leading the Nordic Museum Leadership Training. From 2002 to 2008 he was Director of Communication at the National Museum of Denmark and from then Director of the Association of Danish Museums. He has been involved in national and international associations and boards including the Association of Interpretation and Learning in Danish Museums, ICOM CECA, executive positions within the Association of Danish Museums,

Network of European Museums Organization, the National Danish Centre of Excellence for History and Cultural Heritage – and now as Danish Ambassador of the Hands On!, embodying his belief in making cultural heritage accessible and engaging for all. [EMA]

Pia Lädrach studied anthropology and has a postgraduate degree in cultural management. Due to her long professional experience as a human resources consultant and business coach as well as a project manager and curator in various educational and cultural institutions, topics such as cultural leadership, participation and outreach are particularly close to her heart. As managing director of the Schulmuseum Bern, she led this institution, which is supported by 60 volunteers, until 2021 before taking over the management of the Kindermuseum Creaviva at the Zentrum Paul Klee in Bern, Switzerland until 2024. She believes that children can strengthen their self-confidence through their own artistic creation and playful interaction with art; she also wants to create opportunities for co-creation so that young people themselves can contribute to a better world. Creaviva was recipient of the Children in Museums Award 2022 together with Leeds Museums & Galleries and hosted the 14th International Hands On! Conference “CREATE THE MAGIC. for a better tomorrow” in 2023. [HO!I]

Elia Vlachou is an Archaeologist-Museologist. Director of Projects, Partnerships & Development at the Cultural Foundation of the National Bank of Greece; Museum & Cultural Management Consultant, Co-founder and Gal Secretary of the Hellenic Steam Institute, a non-profit association dedicated to the preservation and valorization of industrial heritage. As Head of the Museums Department at the Piraeus Cultural Foundation (2007 – 2017), she has coordinated a Network of nine museums, numerous projects and activities. Elia gives lectures on cultural management at graduate and postgraduate level. Member of the Pool of Experts of the European Museum Academy and member of international juries awarding prizes to museums and cultural projects. Main research interests: cultural management; innovative methods of interpretation of material and intangible culture; audience development; analysis of the visitors' experience; protection and valorisation of the technological heritage. [EMA]

APPENDIX THREE

WINNERS OF THE AWARD

2012	Tropenmuseum Junior, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2013	Please Touch Museum, Philadelphia, USA
2014	National Gallery of Denmark (SMK), Copenhagen, Denmark
2015	Lifetime Achievement Awards were awarded to: ZOOM Kindermuseum, Vienna, Austria Boston Children's Museum, Boston, USA
2016	GeoFort, Herwijnen, The Netherlands
2017	National Museum of Science and Technology, Stockholm, Sweden
2018	Keppel Centre for Art Education, National Gallery Singapore
2019	Ker ImagiNation, Dakar, Senegal
2020/2021	Dutch Open Air Museum, Arnhem, The Netherlands
2022	Creaviva Children's Museum, Bern, Switzerland And Liverpool Museums & Galleries, United Kingdom
2023	Tokyo Toy Museum, Japan
2024	The Museum of Solutions (MuSo), Mumbai, India

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