



Façade du Musée d'art et d'histoire

CIDOC 2012 Annual Conference in Geneva, potential opportunities and advantages

Like the City of Geneva, the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire and the Musée Ariana today are institutions wishing to be open to the world, to share knowledge and to benefit from that of its colleagues from museums all over the globe.

With regard to a future CIDOC conference, the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire and the Musée Ariana can provide a certain number of advantages.

Located in the heart of Europe, Geneva is easily accessible by air, rail or road and can be quickly reached from all the capital cities of the continent. A number of low-cost airlines provide service to the airport, while modern road and rail networks put Geneva within striking distance for a large number of potential participants, whether for the duration of the conference or a shorter period.

There are many institutions in the area whose staff would likely be interested in participating in such an event, including the museums of Lausanne, Bern, Basel and Zurich in Switzerland, Grenoble, Lyon and Annecy in France, and Turin and Milan in Italy, all of which can be classified as "museums in the greater region".

Consequently, the topic of museum documentation should encounter strong interest amongst a large number of museum professionals in the area. In addition, Switzerland and France have a large number of resident CIDOC members who could be tempted to travel to Geneva for the event.

Beyond this "regional" pool, Geneva, as the world capital of non-governmental organizations, can provide grants for attending such a congress to participants from "non-European" countries in the development phase of their museological capabilities.



Grande salle du Musée Ariana

Other museums in Geneva

The City of Geneva maintains a large number of museums: besides those affiliated with the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire and the Musée Ariana (ceramics and glassware) the City administers five other public museums of importance:

- the Maison Tavel (local history) –
- the Musée d'Ethnographie (Museum of Ethnography)
- the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle (Natural History Museum)
- the Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques (Conservatory and Botanical Gardens)
- the Musée International de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge (International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum).

Additionally, there are a number of private museums, such as the Musée Barbier-Mueller (primitive and ancient art) and the Musée Baur (Asian art).

Organization and event management

The Museum can rely on the support of an internal team of some 15 staff members specialized in documentation (the Inventory and Scientific Documentation department) for organizing an event of this nature. Some of these collaborators already possess relevant experience in the task from having organized the 1999 ICDAD congress.

Moreover, this unit has all the necessary technical competence for maintaining a website dedicated to the event.

Venues and rooms

The City of Geneva has available a large number of rooms well suited for plenary sessions of hundreds of people, as well as smaller rooms for parallel meetings or working groups.

We have at our disposal a hall near the museum with nearly 400 seats, and in the museum itself a large conference room with a capacity of 250 people along with several more modest spaces also in the Musée Ariana.

In addition, within a perimeter of less than one kilometre there is to be found a whole series of rooms holding between twenty and one hundred people that could be used for work groups or other smaller gatherings. All of these spaces can be equipped with wireless internet access.

Social events

We have an attractive room at the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire known as the Salle des Armures (Armoury Room) where a welcoming reception could be held. Another room at the Musée Ariana (the ceramics and glassware museum that is affiliated to the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire) could be the venue for the closing ceremony.

A day trip to Lyon or Lausanne could also be organized during or after the conference.

Financing

Beyond what the registration fees bring in, the conference could be entirely financed by the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire. If necessary, we also retain the possibility of requesting sponsorship from a company such as Zetcom (collection management software) with which we work and that would be interested in participating at the conference.

Translating and interpreting

A number of translating and interpreting firms are established in Geneva, a city of congresses par excellence. We could provide simultaneous interpretations of the presentations from French to English and vice-versa (and possibly from German to English as well if necessary).

Food and accommodation

A large range of hotels of all categories can be found in Geneva, with modest but decent lodgings available from 50 euros per night. In the context of an international congress and with the help of the Geneva tourism office it should be possible to negotiate a price between 80 and 100 euros per night with one or several comfortable hotels.