

AFRICOM Receives Critical Funding from Getty Foundation

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The International Council of African Museums (AFRICOM) has received a grant of \$175,000 from the Getty Foundation to support a series of strategic planning workshops for AFRICOM's board and to assist with core operational costs over a three-year period. The workshops will include representatives from other key institutions in the region's developing museum sector, such as the Ecole du Patrimoine Africain (EPA), the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA), and the West African Museums Programs (WAMP). Led by Zambia-based strategic planner Mabel Chileshe Luo Mung'Omba, the sessions will focus on strengthening AFRICOM's ability to serve museums across the continent and improving coordination of services among the institutions. The Getty grant will also help AFRICOM identify new funding and revenue sources as part of a five-year strategic plan.

"The Getty is looking forward to working with AFRICOM over the next several years, as AFRICOM continues to provide vital support for its growing membership of museum professionals across the African continent," states Joan Weinstein, Associate Director of the Getty Foundation.

The current Getty grant is the fourth to benefit AFRICOM. Previous Getty grants enabled museum professionals from across the African continent to attend AFRICOM General Assembly meetings in 2003 and 2006, as well as the first International Council of African Museums Constituent Assembly in 1999.

Established as a non-governmental organization in 1999, AFRICOM focuses on the development of museums and museum professionals across Africa with the goal of preserving and sharing the continent's rich heritage. Recent activities have included exchange programs, workshops, and short-term training programs for museum professionals, in addition to AFRICOM's Conference and General Assembly. For additional information, see www.africom.museum.

The Getty Foundation is based in Los Angeles, California and provides support to institutions committed to advancing the understanding and preservation of the visual arts locally and throughout the world. The Foundation fulfills the philanthropic mission of the J. Paul Getty Trust, an international cultural institution devoted to the visual arts. Additional information is available at www.getty.edu/foundation.

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President
On behalf of the AFRICOM Board of Directors