

ITP Anniversary Conference 2027

CALL FOR PAPERS AND APPLICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

Resilient museums in a fragile world

Centrul Cultural Palatul Principilor Transilvaniei din Alba Iulia, Romania

2 – 5 February 2027

Conference overview

In increasingly volatile times across the world, what are the challenges museums are facing? Political and social instability, the climate emergency, changing audiences and developing technology all impact on museum people, collections and spaces.

During times of crisis and insecurity the museum sector and their local communities can be severely impacted. The drivers of crisis and the challenges faced will be many and varied, the responses though have a common theme of collaboration, partnership, shared resources and a sense of community.

Resilience is not simply the ability to successfully adapt in times of profound change but to create, transform and lead through periods of uncertainty. And museums, as spaces for discussion and nuance, can be active civic spaces that encourage open debate, challenge single perspectives, and encourage visitors to navigate complex social issues.

The ITP anniversary conference will explore solutions to those global, national and local challenges. It will focus on how museums can provide support, solutions and benefit to address current challenges and plan for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient future.

Conference themes

Proposals may address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- ***communities*** (diversification, new forms of engagement, social purpose, addressing issues around restitution, repatriation and decolonisation)
- the ***climate emergency*** (climate change, environmental impact, natural disasters)
- ***societal change*** (changing audiences, political interference, social fragmentation, inequality, and global uncertainty)
- ***technology*** (social media, modern means of communication, using digital to support the preservation of tangible and intangible heritage)

We recognise that the theme is broad but this is a chance for you to influence and define the conference and its scope.

The conference will take place over two days, following will be a one-day workshop and one day for visits of culture and heritage in the region.

Conference outcomes

Shared knowledge, skills and experiences.

Inspiration from speakers and a shared sense of motivation to put your learning into practice.

A new network of contacts to continue to engage with after the conference ends.

How can the ITP global network take part?

Call for papers

Conference organisers are looking for examples of:

- Learning, inspiring solutions and a shared of cultural purpose to address current challenges across the culture and heritage sector.
- How the challenging and unexpected can result in new and exciting opportunities for the global sector.
- How creativity and a collective purpose can address international challenges.

1. Individual Papers

20-minute presentations followed by 10-minute Q&A. (30 minutes total)

2. Panel Proposals

Panels of 3 speakers (each 15 minutes) with a unifying theme. Panels that combine multiple country/region voices across the ITP network are especially encouraged. (1 hour total: 5-minute introduction, 3 x 15-minute presentations, 10-minute Q&A)

In your application, please include the following:

1. Proposer
2. Job title
3. Organisation
4. Email
5. ITP year

** IF YOUR PROPOSAL IS FOR A PANEL SESSION, PLEASE INCLUDE ITEMS 1 – 5 FOR ALL SPEAKERS**

6. Proposed session name
7. Outline of session (200 words max)
8. Three key take-aways for delegates (three things you hope the audience will learn from your session)

Applications for participation

If you would like to take part in the conference, please send the conference team in email with the following information:

1. Name
2. Job title
3. Organisation
4. Email
5. ITP year
6. Why would you like to take part in the conference and what do you hope to take-away from the experience (200 words max)

Key Dates

Final Deadline for Paper Submission: ***Friday 16 October 2026***

Paper Decisions: ***Friday 30 October 2026***

If you would like to submit a paper for consideration OR apply to take part in the conference, please email itp@britishmuseum.org and title your message ***ITP Anniversary Conference 2027_CALL FOR PAPERS*** or ***ITP Anniversary Conference 2027_APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION***

Some important notes

If you are accepted to give a paper or take part in the conference, the ITP team will provide financial support for you to travel to Romania.

For speakers the ITP team will make all the arrangements.

For attendees the ITP team will provide you with a grant and all necessary information so you can make your own arrangements.