

**CANDIDATE FOR THE BOARD OF ICOMOS  
CANDIDAT AU CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DE L'ICOMOS**

**NAIMA BENKARI**

**ALGERIA - ALGERIE**



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I am Naima Benkari (Algerian). Architect and PhD holder, specialized in the built heritage. I am an Assistant Professor at Sultan Qaboos University, where I am responsible for the “heritage related studies” in the program of Master degree in Architecture. I joined the ICOMOS in 2016 and am an expert and voting member in ICOMOS-IFLA-CIAV and ISCLL. I accomplished desk reviews and other reports for the WH-list, the WMF and the WH-Center. I was consultant for heritage related projects for different institutions such as the ministry of Heritage (Oman), the prefecture of Osaka and the Japan Heritage consultancy office.

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**PLATFORM / PLATE-FORME / PLATAFORMA**

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My intention to stand for the ICOMOS board's the elections comes after four (4) years of active membership in the organization, where I became acquainted with its goals, procedures and principles. Over these past years, I have been active in the scientific committees I am member of and participated in several desk reviews, including one where I monitored an emerging professional. My will to be more involved in the organization is greater today as I developed more knowledge which I would like to put into practice and share with my colleagues for the protection and fruition of the heritage in the world. For I consider that our shared heritage is a mean to preserve the mutual understanding and appreciation in this world. People feel appreciated when their culture is respected and celebrated by others, and the UNESCO and ICOMOS are the best channels to foster this recognition. By being in the ICOMOS board, I would like to better serve the Council and provide more perspective in its activities and projects. Being a female, Arab academician and practicing architect, I consider that this combination will be a real asset in the representativity of the ICOMOS board. I am bilingual (Arabic-French) and fluent in English. I know the French culture and came to close contact with the German, Italian and Spanish cultures as well. Through my professional activity and involvement with the ICOMOS, I built an effective network of contacts from most of the nationalities of the world. I collaborate regularly with most of them.

Should I be elected, I will actively contribute in the ICOMOS priorities for the near future which includes the protection and raising awareness about the cultural heritage under the threats of armed conflicts, terrorism or natural disasters. I am very interested to contributing in the updating of the existing regulations and laws and suggest new ones to protect such heritage. I am also keen to actively contribute in the development of proper strategies, protocols and action plans to be

implemented at several levels for the protection of the cultural heritage when it comes under such threats. I will also work in the field through the identification and diagnosis of the most urgent cases and work to develop an adaptable method and procedure to protect such vulnerable heritage. My cultural background as well as the area where I reside make it relatively easy, and economic, to reach most of the sites under such a threat. Mastering the classical Arabic and all its spoken dialects is an essential asset that will grant the realization of such initiatives. Furthermore, being able to communicate and report to the ICOMOS board or other related organizations, in French, and English as well, will secure the accuracy of the information and rapidity of communication and action.

On the other hand, community awareness, empowerment and involvement in the protection and development of the cultural heritage is another priority that I think should be addressed by the ICOMOS board in the near future. I am aware that many actions are being planned and realized by ICOMOS and its partners to achieve this goal. But I believe that developing the work and cooperation with the local communities, especially in the Arab region, should be more systematic, regulated and facilitated by ICOMOS. A heritage that is not considered by the very community that inherited it, and of which it is the actual holder, cannot be protected, managed and developed in a sustainable manner. The communities should be supported, by ICOMOS and its partners, to acknowledge the value of its heritage and the importance of preserving and safeguarding it, even while using it for their own interests (see my publications about this subject: (Benkari, 2018, 2019).

Moreover, and from my position of researcher and university professor, I will contribute to consolidate the connection and cooperation between academia and the world heritage center through ICOMOS. I consider that the principles defended by ICOMOS should be incorporated as part of the curricula in heritage related disciplines such as: architecture, urban planning, history, education, law, tourism, media... etc. This integration will only happen through academicians, such as myself, who are part of the ICOMOS and believe in its goals, projects and principles.

Finally, I consider that being part of the ICOMOS board is a real honor and privilege and I will comply with the organization's Ethical Principles and responsibilities set out in its Statutes. I will adhere to the institutional positions and will act in accordance with the objects of the association and the best interests of its members. I understand the legal duties of the ICOMOS board members and their work ethics to which I commit to adhere and respect in all my activities and declarations.

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

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My name is Naima Benkari (Algerian). Architect by training, I specialized in the built heritage in the MENA region. I hold a PhD in Urban planning from the University Pierre Mendès France (France), as well as a Postgraduate certificate in History of architecture from the school of Architecture in Grenoble. Since 2000, I held different academic and administrative positions in several universities in Tunisia, Algeria, UAE and Oman. I am currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Architecture at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU). From my research, I published a book and several articles in refereed journals. Among my teaching duties, I am responsible for the "heritage related studies" in the program of Master degree in Architecture offered by SQU. In this context, I developed and am teaching a Master level course dedicated to the international and local legal framework regulating the Built heritage conservation and management.

I was a consultant for the ministry of Heritage and culture for the documentation and management of vernacular settlements in Oman. I was also part of the consultant team that assisted the prefecture of Osaka and the Japan Heritage consultancy office for the preparation of the nomination dossier of the Mozu-Fruichi Kofun Group.

Since 2016, I joined the ICOMOS and have been involved in several desk reviews for the World Heritage list, the World Monuments Fund and the World Heritage Center. As an expert and voting member in two of the ICOMOS scientific committees: ICOMOS-IFLA-CIAV and ISCCCL, I have participated in several projects with both committees. I was also the coordinator for the report requested by the WH Centre about the state of registration efforts and policies in the Arab region. I am currently advisor for the UNESCO committee in Oman for the preparation of their nomination dossiers.