



MUZEUM
PAMIĘCI
SYBIRU

EMYA2025

Annual Conference & Awards Ceremony

Remembrance and Solidarity for Collective Action

Programme

21-25 May 2025
Białystok, Poland



MUZEUM
PAMIĘCI
SYBIRU



DAY 1 WEDNESDAY, May 21 |

The Sybir Memorial Museum's Day

Venue: The Sybir Memorial Museum, Węglowa 1, Białystok

10.00 – 19.00 Registration and information desk

11.00 – 15.30 Permanent exhibition tour with the participation of Sybiraks

Language: Polish, English

Individual tours of the exhibition with audioguide are available during the same time.

No registration required.

Workshops:

- 13.00 – 14.00 – conservation of collections
- 13.30 – 14.30 – relationships with the local community
- 14.00 – 15.00 – accessibility
- 14.00 – 15.00 – international cooperation
- 15.00 – 16.00 – events and education
- 16.00 – 17.00 – scientific activity
- 16.00 – 17.00 – communication and marketing

No registration required.

Guided walking tours of Białystok (pre-registration required)

Meeting point:

Białystok Cathedral, Kilińskiego 16, Białystok

Duration:

11.00 – 14.00 (first group)

13.00 – 16.00 (second group)

15.00 – 18.00 (third group)

19.00 – 21.00 Reception and concert

Venue: Hotel Traugutta 3, R. Traugutta 3, Białystok

Welcome: Wojciech Śleszyński, Director of the Sybir Memorial Museum and Michał Wiśniewski, EMF Trustee

Concert of the "Czeremszyzna" local folk music band.

Its music refers to the place of residence of the musicians.

They perform traditional songs from Podlasie region and the Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian borderland.

DAY 2 THURSDAY, May 22 |

EMYA2025 Conference

Venue: The Podlasie Opera and Philharmonic
– European Art Center, Odeska 1, Białystok

08.30 – 18.00 Registration and information desk

09.15 – 09.50 Opening of EMYA2025

Hans Looijen, Chair a.i., European Museum Forum
Wojciech Śleszyński, Director of the Sybir Memorial Museum

Welcome:

Marta Cienkowska, Deputy Minister of Culture and National Heritage
Tadeusz Truskolaski, Mayor of the City of Białystok
Krzysztof Truskolaski, Member of the Polish Parliament, Vice-Chairman of the Polish Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Chairman of the Council of the Sybir Memorial Museum
Jacek Brzozowski, Voivode of the Podlaskie Voivodeship
Wiesława Burnos, Deputy Marshal of the Podlaskie Voivodeship

09.50 – 10.20 The Museum Empowering the Cultural Self-esteem of the Sámi People

Taina Máret Pieski, Director, Sámi Museum Siida, Inari, Finland, winner of EMYA2024

Introduction: Léontine Meijer-van Mensch, EMF Trustee

10.20 – 11.00 Keynote address: Museums as Spaces of Remembrance and Empowerment

Kaja Širok, Historian and Museologist

Introduction: Adriana Muñoz, EMYA Judge

The true potential of museums lies in their capacity to act as agents of change, forging connections and fostering unity, rather than serving as passive entities associated with the past. The museum of the future will be a dynamic space of shared memories where stories about our collective past are living narratives that connect generations and communities. This forward-looking museum will be a vibrant hub that actively engages visitors, encouraging participation and fostering a sense of continuity and shared understanding to create a bridge between the past, present and future.

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 11.45 Presentation of EMYA Nominees and Thematic Panels

Introduction: Amina Krvavac, Chair, EMYA Jury and EMF Trustee

11.45 – 12.45 Art for All: Transformative Engagement Practice in Museums

Chair: Friedrich von Bose, EMYA Judge

Museums foster inclusive environments and transformative practices through accessibility and community participation. We will explore recent engagement strategies that champion traditional museum models, aiming to create meaningful connections between art and diverse audiences for positive social change.

- Foundation Museum Ovartaci, Aarhus, Denmark
- Serralves Museum, Porto, Portugal
- Korsak's Museum of Ukrainian Modern Art, Lutsk, Ukraine
- Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, Istanbul, Türkiye

- 12.45 – 13.45 Time Travels: Museums on Science and Technologies**
 Chair: Zandra Yeaman, EMYA Judge
 Museums utilize science and technology to bridge the past, make sense of the present, and envision the future. We will examine how science-infused storytelling shapes new understandings and attitudes towards innovation in science and technology, as well as solidarity across disciplines and generations.
- Enter Technikwelt Solothurn, Solothurn, Switzerland
 - Museum of Photography in Kraków, Kraków, Poland
 - “Under the Swan” Pharmacy, Department of the Leon Wyczółkowski District Museum in Bydgoszcz, Bydgoszcz, Poland
 - Medical History Museum, Gothenburg, Sweden
 - Coastal Express Museum, Stokmarknes, Norway
- 13.45 – 15.00 Lunch**
- 15.00 – 15.30 Euskara (Basque Language), Goes Out into the World**
 Iurdana Acasuso Atutxa, Director, Euskararen Etxea, winner of the Council of Europe Museum Prize 2025
 Introduction: Mathieu Viau-Courville, EMYA Judge
- 15.30 – 16.30 Living Heritage: Museums and Communities Shaping the Present**
 Chair: Agnes Aljas, EMYA Judge
 Heritage is not static – it lives through the people who carry its traditions. Heritage also changes meaning depending on socio-political contexts. We will examine how museums actively engage with and support communities in safeguarding and (re)interpreting heritage to make it dynamic and relevant to addressing contemporary challenges and (re)shaping the future.
- Alvor Lifeboat Interpretation Center, Portimão, Portugal
 - Open Air Museum Het Hoogeland, Warffum, The Netherlands
 - Collective Memory Point, Vad, Romania
 - Euskararen Etxea. House of the Basque Language, Bilbao, Spain
- 16.30 – 17.00 Coffee Break**
- 17.00 – 18.00 Changing Urbanities: Expanding Democratic Spaces**
 Chair: Hans Looijen, EMF Chair a.i.
 Museums have the potential to strengthen urban democracy. They develop new practices to stay in touch with what life is like in the city – including the issues communities face and their hopes for the future. We will discuss how museums today continue their mission to serve as tools for civic engagement, enabling people to have more than just consultative power but also exercise and develop agency.
- Wien Museum, Vienna, Austria
 - Krzysztofory Palace, Museum of Kraków, Kraków, Poland
 - Manchester Museum, Manchester, United Kingdom
 - The House of Architecture, Madrid, Spain
- 18.00 – 18.30 Importance of Home in the Age of Climate Crisis**
 Ewa Socha, Head of Commercial Development, Museum of the Home, London, UK, winner of the Meyvaert Museum Prize 2024
 Introduction: Daniëlle Kuijten, EMYA Judge

20.00 – 22.00 **Welcome Reception**

Venue: **The Podlasie Opera and Philharmonic – European Art Center, Odeska 1, Białystok**

Reception host: Rafał Rudnicki, Deputy Mayor of the City of Białystok
Léontine Meijer-van Mensch, EMF Trustee

DAY 3 **FRIDAY, May 23** **EMYA2025 Conference**

Venue: The Podlasie Opera and Philharmonic
– European Art Center, Odeska 1, Białystok

09.00 – 17.00 **Registration and information desk**

09.30 – 10.30 **Bridging the Gap: The Role of Museums in Uniting Communities**

Chair: Joan Seguí, EMYA Judge

People see museums as keepers of local identities and collective memories. In times of social and political upheaval and increasing economic disparities in society, what impact do identity tensions have on museums' ability to bridge inequalities and promote understanding among diverse audiences and populations?

- National Navy Museum, Paris, France
- Museum of Amber, Department of Museum of Gdańsk, Gdańsk, Poland
- Ensérune, Oppidum and Archaeological Museum, Nissan-lez-Ensérune, France

10.30 – 10.50 **Coffee Break**

10.50 – 11.30 **Keynote address:**

The Role of European Museums in Defending Universal Human Rights and Democracy

Basil Kerski, Director,

European Solidarity Centre / Europäisches Solidarność-Zentrum

Introduction: Sharon Heal, EMF Trustee

What role do museums in Europe have in defending human rights and democracy? Basil Kerski will explore the current political context of the work of museums Europe. In the face of the instrumentalisation of memory to legitimise authoritarian politics, he will make a case for the defence of a democratic culture of remembrance and for museums as peaceful actors in the cultural and political conflicts over the future shape of Europe.

- 11.30 – 12.30 Innovating for a Sustainable Future**
 Chair: Michał Wiśniewski, EMF Trustee
 Museums have increasingly explored new educational and learning models related to environmental issues, including climate change. Here we explore recent socio-ecological approaches and perspectives and how museums are paying increased attention to topics such as the interplay between nature and technology, the connections between humans and non-humans, and new forms of collections and collection-making in light of emerging eco-decolonial perspectives.
- House of the Volcanoes, Lanzarote, Spain
 - Muzoo, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland
 - Glacier Garden Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland
 - Natural History Museum, Oslo, Norway
- 12.30 – 14.00 Lunch**
- 14.00 – 14.20 Kalamaja Museum – Created by People, for People**
 Kristi Paatsi, Head of the Kalamaja Museum, Tallinn, Estonia, winner of Silletto Prize 2024
 Introduction: Dominika Mroczkowska-Rusiniak, EMYA Judge
- 14.20 – 15.20 Enhancing Immersive Museum Experiences**
 Chair: Beat Hächler, EMYA Judge
 Immersive. Interactive. Experience-driven. We will dive into recent developments in immersive museum productions: What constitutes quality in an immersive design? What can other museums learn from such designs and experiences? What and where are the limits of a museum immersive project? What makes a museum a museum?
- Maria Callas Museum, Athens, Greece
 - House of Music, Budapest, Hungary
 - Salon Stolz, Graz, Austria
 - Carl Nielsen Museum, Odense, Denmark
 - Miffy Museum, Utrecht, The Netherlands
- 15.20 – 15.50 Coffee Break**
- 15.50 – 16.10 Museum, Culture, and Love: A Journey of Inspiration and Creation**
 Despina Kanelli, Manager, Salt Museum, Messolonghi, Greece, winner of Portimão Museum Prize 2024
 Introduction: Pedro Branco, EMF
- 16.10 – 17.10 Revisiting Legacies of Collectors and Collections**
 Chair: Zandra Yeaman, EMYA Judge
 Museums have been increasingly concerned with placing the history of their collections at the forefront of their institutional mission, enabling new conversations about the legacies of collecting, challenges in historical and contemporary collecting practices, and innovative forms of curatorship and collection management. We will examine recent efforts by museums to diversify the mission of collections and foster renewed dialogue around identity and inclusion.
- Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, United Kingdom
 - Isbank Museum of Painting-Sculpture, Istanbul, Türkiye
 - Museum Arnhem, Arnhem, The Netherlands
 - Central Museum of Textiles in Łódź, Łódź, Poland

17.10 – 18.10

Historical Narratives and Innovative Museum Techniques

Chair: Adriana Muñoz, EMYA Judge

Museums preserve and shape memory – they shape our understanding of and evolving attitudes toward the past. Museums have also been increasingly committed to raising the public's awareness that there is not one history but many. We will explore museums' recent strategies and techniques for exhibiting interwoven histories that enable visitors to question, engage with, and understand the world from different perspectives.

- Het Loo Palace, Apeldoorn, The Netherlands
- Savoisien Museum, Chambéry, France
- International Museum on the Reformation, Geneva, Switzerland
- Bodrum Underwater Archaeology Museum, Bodrum, Türkiye

18.10 – 21.00

Reception Dinner and Concert

Venue: **The Podlasie Opera and Philharmonic – European Art Center, Odeska 1, Białystok**

Reception host: Abby Coombs, Co-MD, Head of Creative Services at Event, Wiesława Burnos, Deputy Marshal of the Podlaskie Voivodeship

Concert featuring Maestro Chives, accompanied by the Orchestra of the Podlasie Opera and Philharmonic and special guests.

DAY 4 SATURDAY, May 24 | **EMYA2025 Conference** **and Awards Ceremony**

Venue: The Podlasie Opera and Philharmonic
– European Art Center, Odeska 1, Białystok

08.30 – 14.00 Registration and information desk

09.00 – 09.30 Ihor Poshyvailo, Ukraine, winner Kenneth Hudson Award for Institutional Courage and Professional Integrity 2024
Introduction: Hans Looijen, EMF Chair a. i.

09.30 – 10.30 **Panel discussion: Solidarity – Museums Standing with their Communities**

Chair: Sharon Heal, EMF Trustee

Many museums actively engage their communities and invite them into their spaces. But what happens when museums stand in solidarity with their communities and prioritize their needs? We will explore cutting-edge museum work that shifts the emphasis from buildings and collections to people and activism.

Speakers:

Matt and Jess Turtle, Co-founders Museum of Homelessness UK
Bernadette Lynch, Museum writer/researcher, Founder of the
International Solidarity Network and former EMYA Judge
Salma Jreige, Solidarity in Action Network

10.30 – 10.50 Coffee Break

10.50 – 11.10 Identity in Architecture. The Museum of Blessed Father Jerzy Popiełuszko in Okopy

Mirosław Nizio, Author of The Museum of Blessed Father Jerzy Popiełuszko in Okopy design
Introduction: Wojciech Śleszyński, Director of the Sybir Memorial Museum

11.10 – 11.30 Presentation of EMYA2026

11.30 – 12.15 Certificates Ceremony

The EMF will formally present certificates to all nominated museums
Presented by Dominika Mroczkowska-Rusiniak, EMYA Judge and
Andrzej Zugaj, EMF National Correspondent, Poland

Group Photograph of All Nominated Museums

12.15 – 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 14.15 Workshops by the EMYA2024 winners

How to Create a Value-led Retail Offer at Cultural Organisation
Facilitator: Ewa Socha, Head of Commercial Development,
Museum of the Home

Engaging the Community Through Creative Projects
Facilitator: Kristi Paatsi, Head of the Kalamaja Museum

Sound Heritage: From the Past to the Future
Facilitator: Despina Kanelli, Manager, Salt Museum

Registration for the workshops will take place onsite, at the
registration desk, and on a first-come, first-served basis.

Free afternoon for participants

18.00 – 20.00 EMYA2025 AWARDS CEREMONY

Dress code: semi-formal

Performance

Artistic arrangement directed by Max Fedorov, performed by the
musical ensemble "Projekt Zimne Dranie". Program: A Concert of Film Hits.

Masters of Ceremony: Daniëlle Kuijten and Mathieu Viau-Courville

Welcome: Hans Looijen, Chair a.i., European Museum Forum,
Hanna Wróblewska, Minister of Culture and National Heritage,
Tadeusz Truskolaski, Mayor of the City of Białystok

The Meaning of the Council of Europe Museum Prize

Presented by Constantinos Efstathiou, Cyprus, Committee Representative for the CoE Museum Prize, Council of Europe

Introduction to the Awards

Presented by Amina Krvavac, Chair, EMYA Jury

Special Commendation Certificates

Presented by Friedrich von Bose and Joan Seguí, EMYA Judges

Meyvaert Museum Prize for Environmental Sustainability

Presented by Serge Cappon, Head of Business Development, Meyvaert

Silletto Prize for Community Participation and Engagement

Presented by Sharon Heal, EMF Trustee

Portimão Museum Prize for Welcoming, Inclusion and Belonging

Presented by Dora Pereira, Head of the Culture Department, Portimão Municipality and José Gameiro, Portimão Museum's Scientific Director

Kenneth Hudson Award for Institutional Courage and Professional Integrity

Presented by Léontine Meijer-van Mensch, EMF Trustee

European Museum of the Year Award

Presented by Amina Krvavac, Chair, EMYA Jury

Group photograph of awards winners

21.00 – 23.00 EMYA GALA DINNER

Venue: Branicki Palace, Kilińskiego 1, Białystok

The Branicki Palace in Białystok is one of the most magnificent Baroque residences in this part of Europe, often referred to as the "Versailles of Poland". In the 18th century, Jan Klemens Branicki, one of the wealthiest magnates of the Republic of Poland, turned the former family seat into an impressive palace and garden complex that became the centre of cultural and social life. Today, the palace, which houses the Medical University of Białystok, delights visitors with its restored interiors and gardens, attracting tourists from all over the world.

DAY 5 SUNDAY, May 25 |

Local tours offered by the Sybir Memorial Museum

Optional tours in the Podlaskie region
Pre-registration required

Białystok – guided walking tours of Białystok

Duration:

9.00 – 12.00

Meeting point:

Białystok Cathedral, Kilińskiego 16, Białystok

Visit to the Białowieża Forest UNESCO Site

Białowieża – the heart of the Białowieża Forest – one of the oldest and best-preserved primeval forests in Europe

Duration:

8.00 – 17.00

Meeting point:

The Sybir Memorial Museum, Węglowa 1, Białystok

Supraśl – a picturesque town located in the a region of Knyszyńska Forest wit still functioning Orthodox monastery from the late 15th century

Duration:

9.00 – 14.00

Meeting point:

The Sybir Memorial Museum, Węglowa 1, Białystok



Internal EMF/EMYA meetings during the Conference:

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Venue: The Sybir Memorial Museum, Węglowa 1, Białystok

- 14.00 EMYA Jury and EMF Board of Trustees meeting
- 16.00 EMF Board of Trustees meeting

Saturday, May 24, 2025

Venue: The Podlasie Opera and Philharmonic – European Art Center, Odeska 1, Białystok

- 13.00 EMF National Correspondents, EMYA Jury and EMF Board of Trustees meeting
- 14.30 EMYA Jury and EMF Board of Trustees meeting
- 15.00 EMYA Jury meeting