



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Olympic Studies Centre

Cultural Commission

Fonds list

Overview of the content of the archives concerning the history, missions and activities of the Cultural Commission for the period from 1969 to 1988

November 2014



© 2014 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Cultural Commission

Reference: CH IOC-AH B-ID04-CULTL

Dates: 1969-1988

Level of description: Sub-series

Extent and medium: 0.4 l.m. Text documents

Name of creator

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Administrative / Biographical history

At the IOC Executive Board meeting held in Mexico City (Mexico) in September and October 1968, IOC President Avery Brundage recommended the creation of a commission to strengthen the ties between the sports movement and the world of culture. Proposals to this end were made by the Cultural Commission at the 10th IOC Congress in Varna (Bulgaria) in 1973.

The Cultural Commission was tasked with studying and analysing the cultural programme created for each edition of the Olympic Games in order to enrich it with cultural and artistic elements focusing on presenting and highlighting the value of the cultural and artistic heritage of the country hosting the Games.

It also sought information on the various cultural projects run by the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in their respective countries, with a view to supporting them and encouraging them to develop their own cultural activities and work with people from the worlds of art, culture and science in their countries, thereby strengthening the links between Olympism and sport and the vast area of culture.

It also worked on specific projects, like the creation of a new Olympic Museum in Lausanne in the 1970s, or the creation of an Olympic arts medal to be awarded to an athlete for particularly creative achievements, based on the proposal of Mr De Navacelle.

It was thereby looking to enhance the links between sport, art and culture, and to encourage artistic and cultural activities on sports-related themes in the areas of Games organisation, and within the NOCs and IOC.

In 1970 and 1971, the Cultural Commission sent the NOCs a questionnaire to find out about the cultural activities with which they were involved.

At the 79th IOC Session in June 1977 in Prague (Czechoslovakia), IOC President Lord Killanin announced that the Cultural Commission's terms of reference were to be redefined and expanded. The Commission Chairman reported to the Session several times during the following years, but there seem to have been no meetings of the Commission itself between 1977 and 1980. As of 1981, it was composed of new members and relaunched its work in order to develop closer relations between sport, art and culture.

In 1981, the Cultural Commission launched an international children's drawing competition on sports themes, with a view to observing how children in different countries viewed the Olympic Games and, through their drawings, to arouse their interest in the world of sport. This contest was held in two phases: a national stage in which the NOC selected 10 drawings, and an international stage, when the IOC made a final selection and organised a travelling exhibition. This contest was held for many years.



It seems that the first meeting of the Cultural Commission was held in April 1969 in Rome (Italy)¹. The Commission was chaired by Polish IOC member Włodzimierz Reczek until 1980. He was succeeded by Italian member Giulio Onesti in 1981. After Onesti died the same year, Mexican member Pedro Ramírez Vázquez became Chairman of the Commission, which was composed of IOC members.

Following the recommendations of the IOC 2000 Commission², the Cultural Commission merged with the IOC Commission for the International Olympic Academy (IOA) and in 2000 was renamed the Commission for Culture and Olympic Education. At 1 March 2014, this Commission was still active.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer

The sub-series was received by the IOC Historical Archives in 1993, following the construction of the new Olympic Museum in Ouchy.

Scope and content

The sub-series records the main activities of the Cultural Commission, which are essentially linked to the Olympic Movement's relations with the world of culture and art. It also covers the cultural activities engaged in during the Olympic Games and within the NOCs. In addition, it provides information about the children's drawing competition on sports themes created by the Commission in 1981.

It includes correspondence on the composition, organisation and holding of meetings of the Commission and its various activities. It also contains circular letters no. 541 of 19 February 1970 and no. 642 of 8 July 1971 concerning the cultural activities organised by the NOCs.

For the children's drawing competition on sports themes, the sub-series contains correspondence, several circulars from between 1983 and 1989 and the minutes of the meeting of the jury on 29 November 1989.

It also contains a draft report to the 69th IOC Session in June 1969 in Warsaw, a memorandum between the Cultural Commission and a delegation of the Commission for the Olympic Museum Extension Programme for the meeting on 5 October 1970, an extract of the speech by Jean-François Pahud on the art competition at the Olympic Games (1986?) an intermediate report by the Commission received by the IOC on 12 May 1969.

The sub-series also contains documents linked to meetings of the Commission, namely minutes, roll calls and working documents. The minutes from 1970 are available. For the meeting in 1969, only an intermediate report exists. The Commission did not meet in 1971, 1973 and 1975, nor between 1977 and 1980.

It would seem that there was an unofficial meeting of the Commission on 24 May 1982³.

The meetings of the Cultural Commission meetings have been digitised and are accessible on site in electronic format.

The sub-series contains conservation copies of the minutes of the meetings of this Commission (incomplete collection).

Accruals

Yes

System of arrangement

The files are classified by subject, by document type or by activities in alphabetical order. The documents in the files are classified chronologically, from latest to earliest.

¹ Report by the IOC Cultural Commission to the 69th IOC Session in June 1969 in Warsaw (Poland) (annex 23).

² The IOC 2000 Commission was created as a result of the decision on 18 March 1999 by the 108th IOC Session in Lausanne. The task of this Commission was to prepare and propose to the IOC Session all the recommendations it deemed necessary in terms of changing the IOC's structures, rules and procedures. Source: Report by the IOC 2000 Commission to the 110th IOC Session in Lausanne, on 11 and 12 December 1999

³ Based on minutes dated 24 May 1982. Source: IOC Archives / B-ID04-CULTL/006 (SD4)



Conditions governing access

The documents are freely accessible, subject to the provisions established by the IOC to this effect.

Language / scripts of material

The documents are in French and English.

Additional sources

Internal sources

IOC members – files of the members of this Commission: B-ID05

IOC Congresses – Varna 1973: B-ID06-10VAR

IOC Congresses – Baden-Baden 1981: B-ID06-11BAD

NOCs: D-RM01

Olympic Games – files concerning the cultural programme: C-J01 and C-J02

Notes

The contents of this sub-series, including the Olympic identifications, are the property of the IOC.

Rules or conventions

Description complies with ISAD(G).

Date(s) of description

July 2014