

Call for interest: Mentorship Programme Michael Culture Association Youth.Heritage.Europe.

— July 2026



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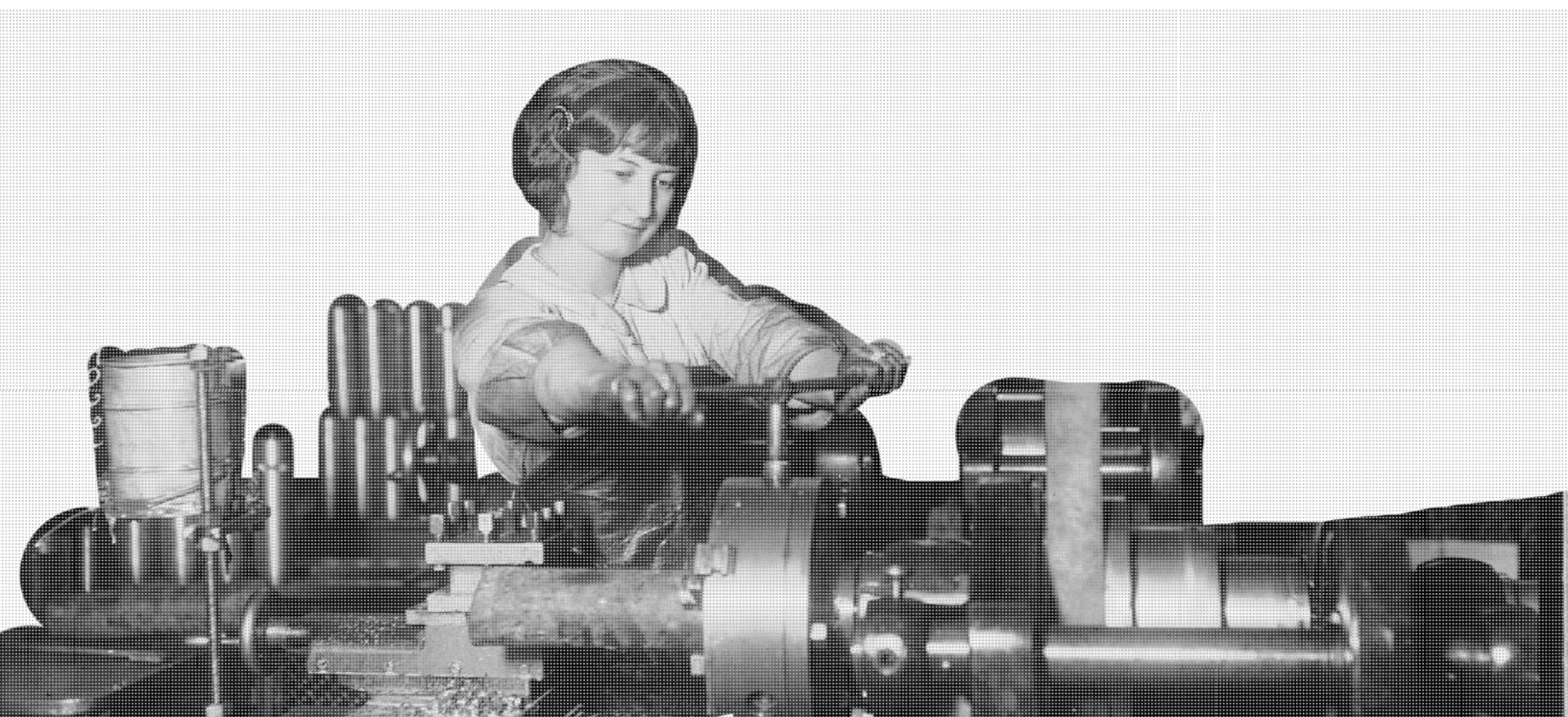


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Youth.Heritage.Europe. and **Michael Culture Association (MCA)** are opening a mentorship programme that pairs young heritage professionals with experienced practitioners from across Europe. If you are starting out in the cultural or digital heritage field and would like to learn from someone who knows the sector well, this is an invitation to apply.

—— What this mentorship is

The programme connects **8 young heritage professionals as mentees with 8 senior professionals from the MCA membership as mentors for a one-to-one exchange over several months.** Mentors are professionals working in museums, ministries, universities, research labs and cultural agencies across Europe, with backgrounds ranging from curatorship and museum research to linked open data, AI for heritage, digitisation, EU project management, heritage policy, the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural goods and more. You will find their profiles listed after this call.

The relationship is meant to be practical and personal. Rather than a course or a set curriculum, it is a chance to talk regularly with someone in the field, ask the questions that matter to you, and get a clearer picture of how the sector works and where you might fit in it. **The exchange goes both ways:** mentors take part because they want to understand the perspectives of people entering the field, and some of these connections may continue well beyond the programme.

—— Objectives

The programme aims to build knowledge exchange between generations working in cultural heritage. For you as a mentee, it is an opportunity to:

- Get to know how the cultural and digital heritage sector works in practice, and where the current priorities lie.
- Develop your understanding of a topic you care about, guided by someone with direct experience
- Build a professional connection you can rely on, and widen your network within European heritage.
- Bring your own questions and ideas into a conversation with established professionals, and be heard.

How it works

Once you are matched with a mentor, the two of you agree on how and when to meet. The shared framework is simple:

- At least two one-to-one meetings with your mentor between late September 2026 and May 2027, held online or in person.
- One collective session with all the other pairs, to share what you have learned and hear from others. The date is set together according to the group.
- The option to meet more often, or in person, whenever you and your mentor both want to.

Mentees are selected by MCA and Youth.Heritage.Europe. together, based on the applications received through this call. **MCA, together with Youth.Heritage.Europe., coordinates the programme throughout**, provides guidelines to each pair, guides the participants in the conversation, ensures participants' wellbeing and organises the collective session, so that taking part stays straightforward for everyone involved.

When you apply, you can tell us which topics interest you most and what you hope to get out of the mentorship. This helps us pair you with a mentor whose experience fits what you are looking for, whether that is heritage storytelling, digital collection management, funding and grant writing, project management, advocacy and policy, sustainability in heritage, digital tools for outreach, or ethical and inclusive approaches to heritage work, among others.

Timeline

When	What happens
23 July 2026	The Call for Interest opens. YHE members can apply to take part as mentees.
6 September 2026	Applications are closed. They are reviewed and mentors and mentees are matched into couples.
Late September 2026	Couples are introduced and the first one-to-one meetings begin.
October 2026 – May 2027	The mentorship runs: at least two one-to-one meetings per couple, online or in person.
To be scheduled together	A collective session brings everyone together to share experiences and insights.

How to apply

Fill in this survey, answering with honesty and practicality.

We invite you to not use Generative AI to answer these questions, that have the purpose of letting you present as a person and as an early-career professional. We are not looking for someone with specific expertise or experience, but people who are interested and have a knowledge in the subjects our mentors are expert in.

This mentorship does not count as an internship or professional experience. A good level of English (B2) is required to be able to interact in common meetings and in the case the mentor you are coupled with does not speak your same language. Previous experience in the different domains proposed will be positively valued, but not required.

By applying, you commit to actively participating in the various proposed meetings (3 minimum), which will be organised according to the availability of the different parties. The organisers reserve the right to cancel the participation of mentors or mentees should the conditions of mutual respect not be upheld.

People with specific needs may specify it at the end of the survey. MCA and Youth.Heritage.Europe. teams will do their best efforts to make sure your needs are addressed.

If you have any questions, please send a message to: marco.fiore@michael-culture.eu and jasna.popovic@youthheritageeurope.org.

Biographies

Dr. Julia Katona

Museum of Fine Arts / Museum of Applied Arts, Budapest



Area of expertise: Art history, curatorship, museum research

Júlia Katona is the president of Michael Culture Association. She is an art historian, researcher, and curator. Currently, she is working as the Secretary of Research at the Museum of Applied Arts, Budapest. In parallel, she is Head of the Schola Graphidis Art Collection in Budapest. Her fields of interest span across (1) research: ornamental art, pattern books, plaster cast collections, history of nineteenth–twentieth-century architecture, history of art education, and (2) museum studies: museum informatics, integrated collection management systems, digitisation, process management.

Language spoken: English, Hungarian

Digital collection management Project management Scientific Research (art history).

Marie-Véronique Leroi

Ministère de la Culture (France)



Area of expertise: Semantic web, linked open data, cultural heritage policies

Marie-Véronique Leroi is in charge of the Linked Open Data strategy, aggregation of cultural data, and European projects at the French Ministère de la Culture, working as a project manager in the Department of Digital Cultural Policies. She is the Vice-President of Michael Culture Association. She is now responsible for updating and implementing France's national strategy on the semantic web for cultural data, manages the national Europeana aggregator, and represents France in the European Commission's CEDCHE expert group.

Languages spoken: English, French

Heritage Storytelling Inclusive and ethical approaches to heritage work
Building capacity in digital transformation for GLAMS

Prof. Stefanos Kollias

National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)



Area of expertise: Machine learning, deep learning, multimedia analysis, computer vision, medical informatics, cultural heritage AI

Stefanos Kollias, a Fellow of IEEE (FIEEE) and Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA), has been a Professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) at the National Technical University of Athens since 1997. His research spans machine and deep learning, multimedia analysis, search, retrieval and recognition, vision, cultural heritage, human-computer interaction, and affective computing. He is a leading figure in applying AI and multimedia technologies to cultural heritage digitization projects across Europe. He is the designer of the current EU AI Factory in Pharos.

Language spoken: English, Greek

Digital collection management Building capacity in digital transformation for GLAMS
Use of AI frameworks in CH sectors and GLAMS

Corinne Szteinszneider

Michael Culture Association



Area of expertise: European cultural heritage policy, digital heritage networks, EU project coordination, networks

Corinne Szteinszneider is Director of Michael Culture Association, with more than 20 years' experience in EU policy and projects, designing and directing numerous EU projects (Horizon Europe, Creative Europe, Erasmus+). She coordinates the advocacy and policy work of MCA. She is also a member of the Steering Group of the Europeana Aggregators Forum.

Languages Spoken: English, French

Project management Inclusive and ethical approaches to heritage work
Advocacy and policy engagement in cultural heritage

Prof. Marinos Ioannides

Cyprus University of Technology



Area of expertise: Digital cultural heritage, 3D reconstruction, digitization technologies

Dr. Marinos Ioannides has been director of the Digital Heritage Research Lab at the Cyprus University of Technology in Limassol since January 2013. In 2017 he received the prestigious UNESCO Chair Award on Digital Cultural Heritage, the only such chair in the world in this field, plus the EU Innovation Award at the Innovators in Cultural Heritage Fair in Brussels, and in 2018 the EU ERA Chair award on Digital Heritage with €2.5 million in funding.

Languages spoken : English, Greek

Digital collection management Proposal and grant writing Heritage Storytelling

Marc Hernández Güell

La Tempesta



Area of expertise: Digital strategy for the cultural sector, immersive/XR heritage experiences

Marc Hernández Güell is the director at La Tempesta, a Barcelona-based agency connecting digital-for-culture projects with GLAM institutions (galleries, libraries, archives, museums), archaeological sites, monuments, and cultural tourism, offering services from 3D digitization and virtual tours to AI-driven heritage dissemination. He connects cultural institutions with digital tools for preservation and public engagement, including recent digital exhibition projects for the Dalí Foundation.

Languages spoken: English, Spanish, Catalan, French

Heritage Storytelling Project management Digital tools & communication for heritage outreach

Pier Giacomo Sola

Michael Culture Association



Area of expertise: EU project management, cultural/educational innovation, transnational project coordination

Pier Giacomo Sola is Senior Project Manager at the Michael Culture Association in Italy, with expertise in the design, evaluation, and technical assistance of complex transnational projects in education, culture, innovation management, and regional socio-economic development. He has long experience coordinating the administrative, and managerial aspects of transnational projects with national, regional, and local public administrations.

Languages Spoken : English, Italian, French, Spanish

Project management Proposal and grant writing
Heritage education & public engagement strategies

Benjamin Omer

Researcher — Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3



Area of expertise: Illicit trafficking of cultural goods, cultural heritage protection, research & networks.

Benjamin Omer is a researcher specialized in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural goods, based at the École française d'Athènes (EFA) in Athens. He has been closely involved with the NETCHER project and the ANCHISE Project (Horizon Europe), European projects developing tools and networks to combat looting and illegal trade in archaeological and cultural artifacts. He has contributed to publications on heritage protection, including work featured in "From Risk to Response — How the Heritage Sector Addresses Illicit Trafficking," and collaborates with figures across Europe on anti-trafficking and heritage-safeguarding projects.

Languages spoken : English, French, Spanish

Project management Networks Research-to-practice translation

— Let's keep in touch!



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Email: contact@michael-culture.eu

Linkedin: Michael Culture Association

BlueSky: [@michaelcultureasso.bsky.social](https://bsky.social/@michaelcultureasso)



Website: www.youth-heritage-europe.org

Email:

Linkedin: Youth.Heritage.Europe.

Instagram: [youth.heritage.europe](https://www.instagram.com/youth.heritage.europe)



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