



Mayor of Barcelona

February 2023

European Museum of the Year Awards (3-6 May 2023)

Greeting from the Mayor of Barcelona

On behalf of myself and the city council, it is a pleasure to welcome all of you who are here in the city for the annual EMYA 2023 (*European Museum of the Year Awards*) conference and awards ceremony. This is the first time the event will take place in Barcelona, transforming the city into the European capital of museums for a few days.

Accompanied by the *European Museum Forum*, acting under the auspices of the Council of Europe, and with collaboration from the Barcelona Institute of Culture, the Barcelona History Museum (MUHBA)—celebrating its 80th anniversary this year—is organising and hosting this time-honoured event, bringing together 33 delegations from across Europe and over 300 outstanding professionals from the museum sector.

Under the motto *Democracy and Democratization: Urgent Challenges Today*, this gathering will set the stage for international, top-flight professional debate on the role of museums as important institutions in our cities, supporting democracy and a public commitment to the cultural and social values they embody.

Barcelona is a city of dynamic, innovative museums that spark the interest of both local residents and visitors. It is also a unique outward-looking city, brimming with life and Mediterranean character. It is a modern city with an important historical and architectural heritage. The EMYA's presence in our city is a huge opportunity for everyone to celebrate and share the wealth of culture in Barcelona for the benefit of all.

I am convinced that your participation in this event will be exceptionally rewarding. In addition to the activities on the official programme, I would also like to encourage you to wander our streets and squares, enjoy our architecture, good weather, gastronomy, culture and privileged urban environment, and particularly discover our local hospitality.

I wish you all a happy stay in Barcelona, as well as a fruitful few days for both the present and future of our museums.

Kind regards,

Ada Colau Ballano