



Les Lumnuits by La Samaritaine, Montreal. Photo Courtesy of Montreal en Lumière



Les Pokéas® by Tilt Light Designers, France. Photo courtesy of Tilt



INTERNATIONAL LIGHT FESTIVALS ORGANIZATION (ILO) Events at the Crossroads of Entertainment, Design, Technology and Art

By Charlotte J. DeWitt, CFEE

The International Light Festivals Organization (ILO) is a worldwide network of light festivals and light festival experts sharing expertise, inspiration, and information on an international level; encouraging networking and exchange of knowledge, experience and information; and creating a platform for co-production, research and communication. The aim is to enhance quality, strength, and artistic content for member festivals and create awareness for light festivals and light art worldwide. Members regularly host “Behind the Scenes” tours of their festivals to foster both professional growth and the growth of the International Light Festivals Organization.

More information on the International Light festival Organisation (ILO) in The Netherlands can be found at <http://international-lightfestivals.org/>. Email: Info@international-lightfestivals.org.

Recent Behind the Scenes conference hosts include Eindhoven, Ghent, Montreal, and Baltimore.

GLOW Festival, Eindhoven, The Netherlands

November 11-18, 2017

(ILO conference: November 11-13, 2017)

*Agenda 2027: The Future of Festivals
of Light*

*The conference was in co-operation with
and initiated by GLOW Founder
Philips Lighting.*

Eindhoven, home of Philips Lighting, is a city with the perfect combination of lighting history and its effect on celebrations and installations using light. The Eindhoven GLOW Festival hosted members of ILO with three days of intensive networking, discussions, and walking tours of the festival and the light museums and exhibits surrounding the core festival area.

One of the most exciting aspects of the Eindhoven ILO gathering was the realization that we were all witnessing and participating in the growth of an organization that started as an ad hoc group

of people working with light as the newest “big” thing in the field of celebration. Thinking back to stories of the founding of organizations like the International Festivals and Events Association with a handful of people meeting in one small hotel room in 1955 in New York City, one can only imagine the potential of ILO as it matures.

Conference Take-Aways

Working committees left Eindhoven with commitments to move ILO to the next level in time for more formal discussions at the ILO meeting at the Ghent Light Festival in February 2018. In the spirit of open exchange of information for the improvement of all ILO members, eleven subcommittees were formed to address an open and accessible email list, calendar of festivals of light, and other communication tools.

In the realm of skills development, light festival curators would develop a “circle of recommendations” and on-site residencies at light festivals, while the “Light to Go”

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group would focus on disseminating information on booking gallery works on tour. Committees were formed to further explore large and small-scale projects with EU cooperation, ranging from a global celebration of the UNESCO Day of Light on May 16th, to smaller projects involving training in projection mapping and in programming based on the use of light in the art of indigenous cultures.

ILO was expected to announce proposals for re-setting its policies in time for review prior to the ILO conference during Ghent Light Festival in early February.

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Lichtfestival Gent / Ghent Light Festival, Belgium **January 31-February 4, 2018**

ILO Conference: *Organizational visions for ILO*

Ghent looks just like you would imagine a historic Medieval city to look like... except for the extraordinary, high tech illuminations, video projections, and projection mapping lighting up the cityscape in the middle of the night during the Ghent Light Festival.

Also known as Gent Lichtfestival, the event featured 37 light art pieces along a 6.6 km./4.1 mile walking route in the inner city this year. A GPX-format list of the artworks could be downloaded to exchange GPS data in Google Maps or other applications and create an innovative, self-guiding map of the circuitous Light Festival walk for use on smartphones. The 2018 event attracted 835,000 people over five days, up from 640,000 people over four days during the previous edition of the festival in 2015, so it was essential that everyone walk in one direction along the route.

Some 48 light festival producers, artists, curators, and city officials representing 37 light festivals attended a special general meeting of the International Light Festivals Organization (ILO) to discuss legal statutes, membership, and visions of the future direction of the growing organization. Up for consideration: an annual conference in a different country each year and observance of the UNESCO International Day of Light on May 16, 2018.

For further information on the Ghent Light Festival, contact: Tijs Vastesaegeer, Co-Director, Ghent Light Festival, and

ILO conference host at Email: Tijs.Vastesaegeer@stad.gent; and Kaat Heirbran, Co-Director, Ghent Light Festival, and ILO conference host at Email: Kaat.Heirbrant@stad.gent or go to: www.lichtfestival.be/en.

Montréal en Lumière, Canada **February 22- March 4, 2018**

The opening night of Montreal en Lumière's *Illuminart* outdoor art exposition on February 22nd drew visitors to the city's Rue des Spectacles to view thirteen light installations over an eight-day period. The 19th edition of the festival ended March 4th with *Nuit Blanche*, the festival's 24-hour, non-stop party.

Concurrent with *Illuminart* was the *I.A.rt conference on Artificial Intelligence*, the collaborative effort of Montréal Joue, Université du Québec à Montréal, and the Quartier des Spectacles Partnership, with special emphasis on how data and artificial intelligence can contribute to new artistic and creative experiences for public spaces. Welcome to the intersection of light, art, and technology!

For further information on Montréal en Lumière, contact Mikaël Frascadore, Vice President President, Event Production, Programming for *Illuminart*, L'Équipe Spectra, producers of Montréal en Lumière in Montréal, Québec, Canada, at Phone: +1 (514) 525-7732 x 4512, Email: Mikael.Frascadore@equipespectra.ca or go to: <http://www.montrealenlumiere.com/en> <http://experienceilluminate.com/en-CA#> http://www.quartierspectacles.com/en/media/colloque-i-a-rt_2018

Toolbox

US\$1 = CS1.29015= 0.812601 EUR
Exchange rates as of April 2, 2018.

Charlotte J. DeWitt, CFEE, is President of International Events in Boston, MA, where she has served as a cultural ambassador and events architect in some 30 countries since 1979, designing and producing over 150 waterfront festivals and international events. Charlotte has represented Light City Baltimore as their ambassador to International Light Festivals Organization (ILO) conferences since 2017. Charlotte is Past Chairman of IFEA/World (IFEA) and founder/ past President/CEO of IFEA Europe. She lived in Sweden from 1994-2004. Charlotte was inducted into the IFEA Hall of Fame, the industry's highest honor, in 2009. Charlotte can be reached at: Phone: +1 617 513 5696 or Email: charlotte@internationaleventsltd.com.