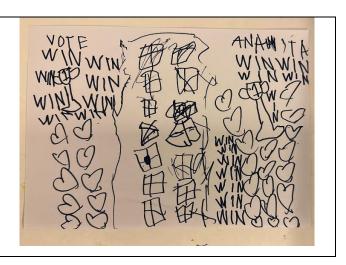
## Gurmeet S Rai IND 21852 Post: President

P.S- the enclosed drawing is the mascot for my post as the President in this election. The artist is Anahita, a 5 year old little girl, who expresses that love is the basis for all good work!!



## **Statement of Purpose**

Dear all, after the elections of 2020, once again, I find myself contesting the elections of ICOMOS India for a position in the executive committee.

Many of you may wonder why I stepped back from active engagement with ICOMOS (India and international) post elections of 2020 especially after a hugely engaging role I had the opportunity to play in ICOMOS India as the Vice President during which period we hosted a very successful '19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of ICOMOS' in New Delhi, India. It was during this period that I could lead the initiative to raise funds for the institution from Government bodies (National and States) and private sector which, till date, continues to financially sustain the organisation.

The last three years (2020-2023) was for the elected ICOMOS executive committee to steer the organisation into a direction that they sought important for heritage of the people of India and the profession. These three years gave me new insights while observing the concerns of ICOMOS membership and learning from my professional work while engaging with several, diverse institutions more specifically in the domain of heritage and climate action, paradigm of inclusive urban development in India, training and education in heritage studies and last but not the least, World Heritage in India, an area which is the key mandate of ICOMOS national committee.

I am of firm view that the able body of ICOMOS India comprising all its members can hugely contribute to the challenges and possibilities that face us in the cultural heritage sector today. I also believe that given the current conditions of unprecedented global challenges being posed by impact of climate change and even conflict, and new demands on humankind across the world, we, professionals, and conscious citizens have a role and possibilities to contribute and provide meaningful insights into various sectors from the standpoint of culture that upholds universal values of integrity and authenticity.

Further, as a dynamic institution ICOMOS India can continue to reinvent itself aligned with the collective wisdom of all its members captured in "Delhi Declaration on Heritage and Democracy" the document that emerged as an outcome of the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly held in New Delhi in 2017 where in it states that - .

## 'This Declaration reflects the commitment by ICOMOS to Heritage and Democracy as key ingredients in a people-based approach to sustainable development. Heritage is a

## fundamental right and responsibility of all. It is a starting point for a meaningful and equitable future that secures and celebrates diversity, social engagement, equality and justice for all cultures.'

This we can achieve through collaborations and forging new partnerships between rights holders and duty bearers, that ensures that our voice is heard and recognised to impact the future of heritage in our great country.

I look forward to all your support to take this vision forward.

Thank you

519 words