



FIVA Culture & Youth Commission – 2025 Activity Report

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1. Introduction

The year 2025 marked a period of consolidated progress for the FIVA Culture & Youth Commission, characterised by the promotion of cultural heritage narratives, the advancement of youth engagement structures, and the strengthening of FIVA's position within international heritage networks. Through exhibitions, conferences, research collaborations, and global partnerships, the Commission continued to affirm that historic vehicles represent living cultural heritage—preserved not only through conservation, but also through use, skills transmission, and historical interpretation.

These activities align with FIVA's strategic identity, as presented in its public communications, including on www.fiva.org, where the organisation's mission highlights education, cultural recognition, sustainability awareness, and intergenerational continuity.

The group continues to grow and its network continues to expand. This year, we were strengthened by new contributors: **Carl A. Harbitz-Rasmussen** from Norway, **Malin Erilfeldt** from Sweden, **Riaan Hanekom** from South Africa, **Ivan Chan** from Hong Kong, and **Christian Hauptmeier** from Germany. All are associated members who support the Commission as part of its working groups. We are very pleased to have them on board, as they bring expertise in culture, preservation, and art from their respective countries.

It is not possible to highlight every project completed in the past year, or every individual who was more active than another, because as a team we support each other and fulfil our shared mission. FIVA Newsletters, issued by the FIVA Office, clearly show how active the Commission is, and the articles on the webpage highlight the activities of our members and our projects.

One person I would particularly like to thank this year is **Rony Karam**. Despite the difficult and challenging circumstances in his country, he never missed a meeting. Most importantly, he has mentored **Vincent Introvigne**, and together they now work actively in the UNESCO field. They are an excellent example of how development within FIVA should take place—across all commissions. If we want young people involved, we must support them, mentor them, help them, and embrace them.

Below is an overview of the year's activities:

2. Cultural Activities and Public Heritage Engagement

In 2025, the Culture & Youth Commission focused on strengthening cultural understanding, promoting social heritage, and expanding international cooperation. Through exhibitions, research dialogue, and recognition programmes, we emphasised that historic vehicles are not merely technical objects, but part of living cultural identity, memory, and community values.

The initiatives presented below demonstrate how culture connects people, tells human stories, and preserves heritage in motion.

2.1 “Heart of the Race” Exhibition – Brescia, Italy

In collaboration with Museo Mille Miglia and MoCa Brescia, the Commission supported the photographic exhibition *Heart of the Race* by **Elizabeth Ann Kahane** (<https://www.fiva.org/en/post/heart-of-the-race-a-new-photographic-tribute-to-the-unsung-heroes-of-the-mille-miglia>) focusing on the cultural significance of the mechanics of the Mille Miglia. This initiative emphasised that preserving historic motoring heritage includes recognising human experience, craftsmanship, and the intangible knowledge behind operating and maintaining historic vehicles.

The exhibition achieved enormous success—thanks also to the work, dedication and energy of photographer Kahane—and preparations are now underway for presentations in the **USA** and **Hong Kong**, still under the patronage of the FIVA Culture Commission.

2.2 “Donne e Motori”

With hundreds of thousands of visitors and more than 50 exhibition venues over the past 12 months, the third edition of the travelling photographic exhibition **“Women and Motors? Nothing but Joy”** (www.museofratellicozi.com) has confirmed itself as one of the most important Italian cultural projects in the automotive world dedicated to the promotion and recognition of women.

Conceived by **Elisabetta Cozzi**, President of the Museo Fratelli Cozzi and the Friends of Museo Fratelli Cozzi ETS, and created with photographs by **Camilla Albertini**, the exhibition travelled across Italy—from Maranello to Turin, Bologna to Rome, Milan to Imola—engaging museums, institutions, schools, universities, international fairs, and leading companies.

The programme addresses:

- Women as drivers, mechanics, competitors, and cultural figures
- Automotive mobility and gender identity in the 20th and 21st centuries
- Representation, perception, and media narratives in automotive culture

This initiative enhances cultural inclusivity and broadens heritage interpretation beyond technical and ownership-based narratives.

2.3 Participation in International Heritage Dialogue

The Commission actively contributed to key international discussions relating to industrial and mobile heritage:

- **European Coal and Steel Heritage Symposium – Katowice**
The Commission advocated for the continued use of historic vehicles and other machines as a way to safeguard authenticity. Youth Working Group member **Marcelo Bodini** represented FIVA and did an excellent job.
- **TICCIH World Congress – Kiruna**
FIVA contributed to debates on cultural memory, community identity, and heritage in transition, including new proposals for working groups focusing on automotive heritage narratives. **Carl Harbitz-Rasmussen** delivered talks and presentations. TICCIH is a global professional network of more than 1,000 members across 50–60 countries.
- **A Working Group for Industrial Heritage** —comprising FIVA, TICCIH, ERIH, Europa Nostra, and Federacrail—continues to advocate for the protection of industrial and mobile heritage through lobbying, events, forums, and shared initiatives. **Tiddo Bresters** will remain an associated member of the group, ensuring continuity in the work already begun.

2.4 Cultural Award Development and Recognitions

Work continued on improving the clarity and structure of the **FIVA Culture Awards**, including refining categories and guidelines to ensure consistent evaluation.

A) Winners of the 2025 FIVA Culture Awards

Education, Training & Raising Awareness – StarterMotor, Austria

Recognised for its youth-centred, hands-on approach, offering half-day sessions where young people learn the basics of historic vehicle technology and even experience riding or driving. Around 10 activities per year engage 20–30 participants per event, meaning 200–300 young ambassadors annually. A comprehensive “how-to” playbook supports clubs wishing to replicate the programme.

Research – Swedish Motor History Archive (SMA)

Awarded for safeguarding automotive knowledge by identifying at-risk materials, rescuing them, and making them accessible. Since 2012, more than 30 archives have been secured. Thousands of images have been digitised and made available to researchers and the public.

Dedicated Service (Clubs) – Next Generation Driver (U30), Germany

Recognised for outstanding work engaging young drivers through shared vehicle use, safety training, workshops, and strong digital presence. Membership among U30s more than doubled—from 33 to 92—with 24% female participation.

B) TICCIH–FIVA Recognition Awards 2025

Thanks to the support of Marco Pigossi and the Brazilian ANF, FIVA successfully advanced its collaboration with TICCIH in Brazil and expanded the award overseas as well.

This year two institutions received recognition:

Europe – DAF Museum (Eindhoven, Netherlands)

Honoured for its integration of historic industrial architecture with a well-curated automotive collection.

Global – General Motors do Brasil, São Caetano do Sul Plant

Recognised for preserving early 20th-century industrial architecture within an active production environment.

C) Special Culture Recognitions were also awarded to:

Museo Nicolis (Italy), MAUTO (Italy), Walter Martins Pereira Junior (Brazil), Salvador Díaz Espejel (Mexico), René Flameng (Mexico), and Therese Rotschne (Austria).

3. Youth Engagement and Capacity Building

3.1 FIVA Youth Forum – Prizren, Kosovo

Organised in cooperation with the Prizren Historic Vehicle Club, the Youth Forum “**Driven by the Future**” (end of May 2025) provided opportunities for learning, practice, and exchange, including hands-on workshops and discussions on sustainability and careers in heritage preservation.

Young participants were not merely observers, but active contributors to the historic vehicle community.

Feedback on social media was excellent and increased engagement among young and new audiences.

3.2 Youth in Action

In 2025, the Youth Working Group actively represented FIVA through:

- Participation in the **NGO–UNESCO Liaison Committee Youth Working Group**
- Presence at the **22nd Session of the UNESCO Executive Board**
- Diplomatic meetings with the **EU Delegation**

The group continued cooperation with ESACH, organised youngtimer and charity events in their respective countries, coordinated the Youth Forum in Kosovo, wrote articles for FIVA webpage as well for national associations, and increased youth visibility at events.

Preparations also advanced for **FIVA International Youth Day**, reinforcing youth involvement as a core pillar of FIVA’s long-term sustainability.

4. Preparations for the 2026 Conference of Automotive Historians

Work continued on the Pan-European Conference for Automotive Historians, to be held in **Norway in September 2026**, following the intellectual foundations shaped by the late Anders Ditlev Clausager and Thomas Ulrich. Preliminary information on the conference is already available on our website.

Topics will include:

- Industrial transition and cultural memory
- Sustainability perspectives in mobility history
- Cross-disciplinary research in automotive heritage

We were deeply saddened by the passing of **Anders Ditlev Clausager** on 27 July at age 76. A highly respected author, historian, and archivist, he contributed profoundly to automotive history. The Commission had planned a special recognition for him; this will now be presented posthumously to his partner after the General Assembly.

6. Museums Are Part of Our Curriculum

For 2026 finally the collaboration with **automuseums.info** is planned. We will offer FIVA-affiliated museums:

- A secure place in the global cultural network of mobility heritage
- Greater international visibility
- Enhanced visitor engagement
- Long-term support and connection with the wider community

7. Conclusion

Throughout 2025, the Culture & Youth Commission strengthened its role in cultural interpretation, international cooperation, and youth empowerment, reaffirming FIVA's leadership in recognising historic vehicles as global cultural heritage. The year's activities strengthened FIVA's identity as an organisation promoting heritage that is technical, social, cultural, and human—rooted in memory, skill, and shared tradition.

The Commission enters 2026 with consolidated foundations and a clear strategic direction.

8. Thank You!

My sincere thanks go to all members and associated members of the Commission for your dedication, expertise, and enthusiasm throughout the year. Your commitment, your ideas, and your willingness to collaborate are what make our work meaningful and successful. Together, we continue to strengthen FIVA's cultural mission and ensure that our shared heritage remains alive, visible, and valued.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey!