

Alicja Barbara Knast MA, HAE culture manager, museologist, musicologist graduated from Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, currently completing PhD at London Metropolitan University - School of Art, Architecture and Design. During her professional career as museum professional she managed, curated or collaborated in over one hundred temporal exhibitions. Her area of specialisation is capital projects in museums, programming, policies and strategies. She led and completed Chopin Museum's permanent exhibition, POLIN Museum's core exhibition and Muzeum Śląskie's new seat and revitalisation projects. Currently she works as a consultant for the Museum of Polish History, Royal Castle Wawel, City of Rybnik, Museum of Great Poland Uprising, Sybir Memorial Museum. Alicja Knast has published articles on museology, cognition, psychology, and organology.

### Work experience

July 2014 – June 2020

Role: General Director, Muzeum Śląskie in Katowice

Multidisciplinary museum founded in 1929, run by Silesian Voivodship and Ministry of Culture and National Heritage; 180 members of staff, with the new seat opened in 2015 in the former historical coal-mine closed in 1999; capital investment of 60M EUR with 6000 sq m of exhibition space, 7ha of post-industrial infrastructure which was a subject of revitalisation processes; after the grand opening the attendance increased from average 20 000 per year to 240 000 visitors per year (visitors of the garden not included); museum become most recognized regional museum in Poland (surveys in 2018 and 2019); with budget of 8M EUR, the Museum became not only a cherished cultural institution but an important workplace for an additional 200 people working on the basis of outsourcing, notably employing former coal miners and becoming a symbol of regional transformation; the institution worked mostly to bring

European standards of museum programming and management while remembering and acknowledging the uniqueness of the region and its industrial heritage, heavily impacted by air and soil pollution and debilitating economy during the transformation period of the 1990s. While holding the post, the Museum won a few dozen awards in the domains of museology, education, architecture, activism, and for challenging behaviour and learning disabilities, given at local, regional, national, and European levels. The most important are the SYBILLA Grand Prix 2015, SYBILLA Award (2015 and 2017), EMYA (2017), ŻIVA (2017), TOP PUBLIC INVESTMENTS (2019), ICEBREAKER (2018 and 2019), LEADER of CULTURE (2018), and GLORIA ARTIS Gold Medal for Merit to Culture (2019).

July 2014 – April 2016

Role: General Director, Upper Silesia Museum in Bytom. Regional multidisciplinary museum founded in 1911, run by Silesian Voivodship; 65 members of staff and two sites; the post was combined with the Muzeum Śląskie in Katowice as the local government wished to join them, but in 2016 the idea was abandoned.

2013 – 14

Role: Lead Consultant for the project of Multimedia Centre for LNG Technology in Świnoujście.

Employer: Polskie LNG S.A.

Responsibilities: leading the work of 7 consultants working on preparation of feasibility study, audience development, interpretation, and functionalities.

January 2012 – June 2014

Role: Chief Executive Officer, Core Exhibition Museum of the History of the Polish Jews.

Employer: Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of

Poland.

Responsibilities: overseeing the project of the Core Exhibition of 4,200 sq m; total exhibition cost 35M EUR; directly responsible for budget of 20M EUR and for 40 members of staff, reporting to the Association Board only; overseeing all processes related to the Core Exhibition i.e. preparation and execution of detailed graphic design, concept production and implementation of audio-visual content, exhibition content and hardware management system, communication, fundraising, national and international relations, public engagement, liaising with museum management (public entity), responsible for relationships with public partners (government, and local authorities).

January 2009 – December 2011    Role: Curator-Project Manager

Employer: Chopin Museum in The National Institute of Fryderyk Chopin in Warsaw.

Management of all processes connected with the content and scenario execution in a form of permanent exhibition on 900 sq m, and total cost, including building refurbishment, 18.7M EUR; supervision of all processes related to budget distribution, tendering, coordination; preparation and implementation of visitor experience, management of three branches of the Museum Ostrogski Palace, Chopin birthplace in Żelazowa Wola and Drawing Room in Warsaw (Krakowskie Przedmieście); policies, programs, strategies for branding and public relations, collection management, development, and strategies for educational activities

2005-2008

Role: Research Assistant

	Employer: Centre for Theoretical and Computational Neuroscience, University of Plymouth, UK.
	Project: Emergent Cognition through Active Perception founded by European Commission FP6-IST.
2005-2006	Role: Part-time lecturer
	Employer: London Metropolitan University, The Sir John Cass Arts, Media & Design Department.
2000-2006	Role: Adiunkt (Curator)
	Employer: National Museum Poznan, Dept. Museum of Musical Instruments
	Curatorship of collection of professional European musical instruments
1995-2000	Role: Assistant
	Employer: National Museum Poznan, dept. Museum of Musical Instruments
	Assisting the curator of collection of professional European musical instruments.

#### Fellowships, grants and stipends

2004-2005	The Metropolitan Museum of Art New York: Sylvan C. Coleman and Pamela Coleman Memorial Fund Art History Fellowship
2003	London Metropolitan University Honorary Research Fellowship
2002	Dora Metal, Czarńków
2000	Museums Association The Netherlands
1999-2001	Komitet Badań Naukowych KBN1H01E00715

## Extra-curricular activities and public engagement

2019-2020	Council Member of the Academy of Fine Arts in Katowice
2019-2023	Council Member of Malbork Castle Museum
2018-2022	Chairman of the Museum Council of The Municipal Museum of Tychy
2016-2019	Program Committee Member of the "Rondo Sztuki" Art Gallery
2016-2019	Council Member of The Castle Museum in Pszczyna
2015-2019	Council Member of the Museum of Polish History in Warszawa
2015-2021	Council Member of Museums and National Places of Remembrance advisory board to the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Polish Republic
2014-2016	Steering Committee Member of The National Institute of Museums and Public Collections
2001-2007	Advisory Board Member, Committee of Museums and Collections of Musical Instruments ICOM (CIMCIM - ICOM)
1998 until now	Member of The International Council of Museums (ICOM)

## Personal Awards and Distinctions

2020	Illuminations! Category: visual arts, together with Szymon Kobylarz, award by ONET.pl
2019	Gloria Artis Bronze Medal for Merit to the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage Polish Republic
2019	Poland Now Award: Promoter of Poland, award by the Foundation Poland Now
2016	Pearl of the Gentlewoman: Culture, Art & Passion
2014	Distinction of The Merit by Ministry of Culture and National Heritage Polish Republic
2011	Cyprian K. Norwid Award in the music category for the Chopin Museum, awarded by Mazovia's Marshall
2011	Red Dot Award, Essen together with Ico Migliore and Margherita Servetto for the Chopin Museum
2011	First-Class Rank Royal Order of the Polar Star, awarded by Gustav King of Sweden