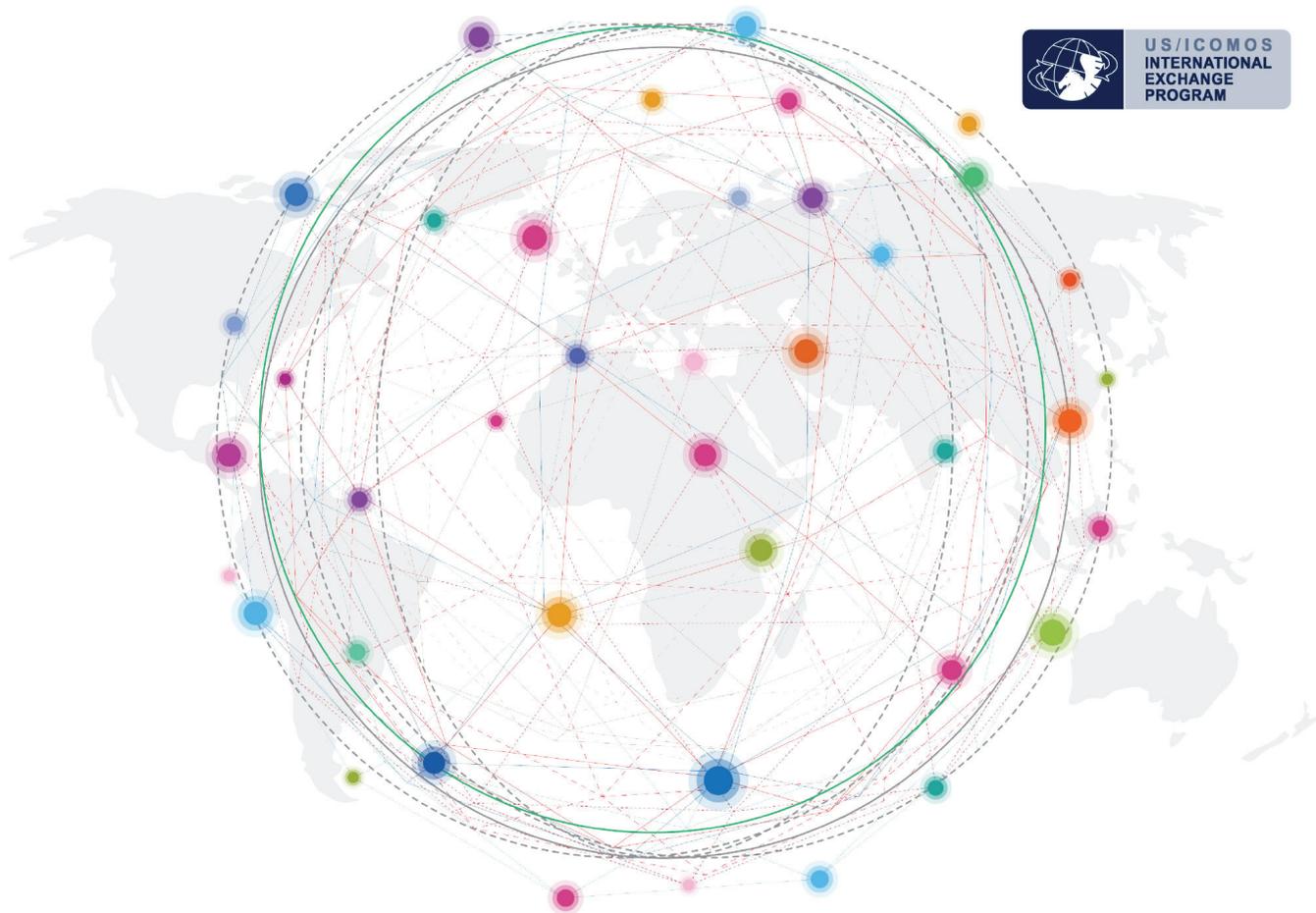


2016

US/ICOMOS 2016 Annual Report to Members and Supporters



Introduction

Today we find ourselves in a world where the work of ICOMOS and US/ICOMOS has never been more important. By now the word globalization has been used in so many ways the meanings associated with the word since it first emerged have become vague.

The original concept suggested the international exchange of ideas, products and worldviews driven by rapidly emerging technologies. Ironically, we have found that technology can also be used to erect barriers, ideological and physical ones. Technology allows us to exchange ideas and opinions only with people who agree with us and collect information from sources we know will reinforce the ideas and beliefs we already hold.

These barriers to communication and understanding present an obvious threat, the kind that led to the development of the Moscow-Washington hotline during the height of the Cold War. What ICOMOS offers the world

today is analogous: the ability to maintain communication, clarify intentions that might first be perceived as threatening, and in general promote an atmosphere where relationships are established that permit engagement in a productive rather than disruptive manner.

US/ICOMOS is one of the largest and most robust of the ICOMOS national committees. A centerpiece of US/ICOMOS has long been the International Exchange Program, which provides opportunities for young preservation professionals from the U.S. to work over the summer with organizations in other countries, and for young professionals from other countries to spend a like amount of time on preservation projects here in the US. In the coming year, US/ICOMOS will embark upon a new program in which we join with other well-established national committees from other countries to provide support in various ways to State Parties to the World Heritage Convention who are in the process of forming national committees, identifying sites that might eventually be nominated to the World Heritage List, vetting those lists, and advising on the nomination of sites in ways that clearly present the Outstanding Universal Value that they might have and that provide for feasible and sustainable management of those sites.

These are challenging times of great global transitions. We hope that you will continue as a member and supporter of our very important work in 2017 and in the future.



Left to right: 2016 IEP Participant from India Anushi Garg, US/ICOMOS Chair Doug Comer, his son Jake Comer, and wife Elizabeth Comer at the 2016 IEP Welcome Reception.

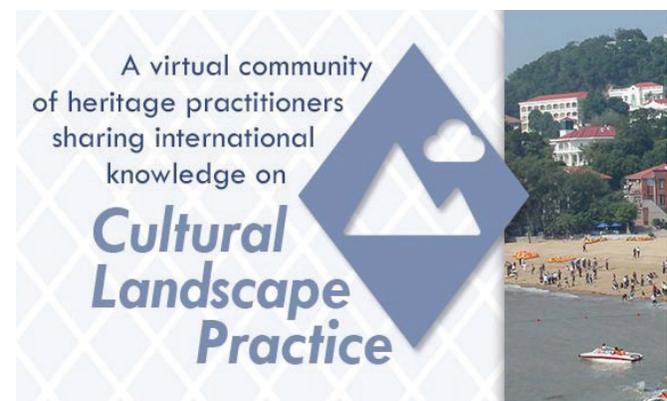
Exchanging Knowledge

In early 2016, US/ICOMOS made major progress in completing the design, implementation and launch of KnowledgeExchange. This initiative was designed to add additional international information to the scientific and technical foundation of the heritage management and policy development for preservation partners across the United States.

KnowledgeExchange aims both to equip a wider circle of U.S. preservationists and cultural resource managers with more international tools that will help them solve the challenges their communities face, and to harness new technologies to break down the cost and time barriers to international collaboration.

The KnowledgeExchange initiative is centered on virtual communities of heritage practitioners sharing international cultural resources knowledge on specific themes—Knowledge Communities or KC's. The first KC's include (1) Heritage in Times of Conflict and Disaster, (2) Climate Change and Heritage, (3) World Heritage Management (4) Cultural Landscape Practice, and (5) Helping Diverse American Communities Tell Their Stories. These KCs generally also map to the work of existing ICOMOS international scientific committees or to sustainability-related cross-cutting concepts. The work completed in 2016 included:

- Completing design and launching the overall KnowledgeExchange concept based on an analysis of the most impactful and cost effective means of adding international information to the scientific and technical foundation of the heritage management and policy development in the US.



- Defining the initial KC's. The initial KC's were selected based on analysis that focused on (1) the relevance and importance of the topic to current U.S. cultural heritage management, (2) the relative state of practice and science abroad, and (3) the existence of a well-developed network of U.S. heritage experts/ICOMOS members with good connections to international actors and also a deep engagement with domestic issues.
- Developing an informal network of subject matter experts to advise on design and implementation, including U.S. members of ICOMOS International Scientific Committees that map to the initial KC's, as well as NPS subject matter experts. NPS SMEs consulted include:

- *Heritage in Times of Conflict and Disaster:*
Jenifer Eggleston, Marcy Rockman
- *Climate Change and Heritage:*
Marcy Rockman, Leigh Welling
- *World Heritage Management:*
Steve Morris, Jon Putnam, Phyllis Ellin, Tim Davis
- *Cultural Landscape Practice:* Susan Dolan
- *Helping Diverse American Communities Tell Their Stories:*
Barbara Little, Caridad de la Vega, Megan Springate,
Stan Bond, Donna Graves, Luis Hoyas, Franklin Odo
- The website design firm that developed and launched the KnowledgeExchange platform with dedicated micro-sites for each Knowledge Community—each served by a suite of online tools including a curated stream of customized content, resource libraries, and events calendars—suddenly announced in late 2016 that they would no longer be in business. Work began immediately to identify and secure the services of a new internet technology design firm capable of assisting the continued development, enhancement and sustainability of KnowledgeExchange. A new firm is expected to be on board in January 2017.

While US/ICOMOS has proceeded in tandem with aspects of KnowledgeExchange development for all the initial KC's, the main proving ground for the design of the initiative has been in the context of cultural landscapes. To continue to develop the Cultural Landscapes Knowledge Community in 2016 US/ICOMOS sought a university part-

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ner to collaborate with on development and implementation. The University of Massachusetts, Amherst was selected and US/ICOMOS and the University executed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to govern the collaboration.

Under the MOA, a Cultural Landscapes Advisory Committee has been set up to provide oversight, peer review and quality control for collaboration. The Advisory Committee is comprised of the two University Principal Investigators, three representatives of US/ICOMOS (selected by US/ICOMOS in cooperation with the U.S. members of the ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes or "ISCCL") and a representative of the National Park Service. The Advisory Committee Chair is Ms. Brenda Barrett and the other two initial US/ICOMOS members are US/ICOMOS Executive Director Bill Pencek and Dr. Nora Mitchell, the U.S. ISCCL voting member. The University Principal Investigators are Professor Elizabeth Brabec and Professor Ethan Carr. The NPS participant has been Ms. Susan Dolan, Manager, NPS Cultural Landscape Program.

3

U.S. World Heritage Gap Study

In March 2016, US/ICOMOS released its World Heritage Gap Study Report, providing an expert analysis intended to help guide the United States' future World Heritage nominations.

The Study was undertaken with the support of the U.S. National Park Service and the J.M. Kaplan Fund in parallel with the plan to update the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List later in 2016. This would be the first update to the U.S. Tentative List since the current one was submitted to the World Heritage Committee in 2008.

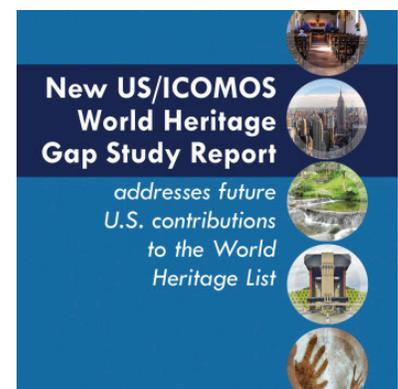
The US/ICOMOS Gap Study is the product of a series of consultations that took place from August to December, 2015. US/ICOMOS is grateful to the hundreds of heritage professionals and experts who participated in this process as well as the numerous volunteers that aided in the drafting of the Report. Drawing from the Consultation feedback, the Study identifies categories of U.S. cultural resources with potential universal and national significance that could both represent the breadth of U.S. heritage and also fill gaps in the World Heritage List previously identified by international experts.

Given the limited number of properties that can be added to the Tentative List in 2016, an important object of US/ICOMOS in preparing this Report was to bring forward a manageable, short list of such themes for consideration by the NPS. The Report ultimately identifies twelve specific themes, illustrated by sample properties for each thematic type.

The preparation of the Gap Study also surfaced a number of areas for future improvement. For example, a key source of the existing imbalance in the World Heritage List is the incomplete inventory of cultural heritage in many regions of the world. The Study found that the U.S.

is not immune to this problem and that the need for more diverse U.S. National Historic Landmarks was in turn affecting the U.S.'s ability to help fill World Heritage gaps. The Study also found a need for better federal support of the efforts of local communities to develop World Heritage nominations and for increased efforts to address the inter-linkages of natural and cultural heritage, among other recommendations.

A country's Tentative List is the key indicator of the sites it hopes to nominate to the World Heritage List in the future. The preparation of a Tentative List thus has significant consequences for the communities that aspire for World Heritage status. More broadly, its compilation is one of the most important expressions of cultural heritage a nation can undertake. For that reason, US/ICOMOS was honored to have been invited by the NPS to assist in the updating of the current U.S. list.



4

The Role of Cultural Heritage in Disaster Planning

This stakeholder engagement project and exchange was undertaken as a conference at the NCSHPO annual meeting in March 2016 in Washington, DC and entitled “Protecting Cultural Heritage from Disaster Training Program” or “The Role of Cultural Heritage in the New Disaster Planning Paradigm: What State and Local Historic Preservation Officers need to know regarding the US’s Implementation of the Sendai Framework.”

Led by USICOMOS, but conducted as a partnership between NCSHPO, NPS, and the Historic Preservation Education Foundation (HPEF), the extensive two day program was guided by project managers Dr. Rohit Jigyasu, UNESCO Chair Professor at the Institute of Disaster Mitigation for Urban Cultural Heritage, Ritsumeikan University, Chris Marrion, PE, ICOMOS ICORP Vice Chairperson, and then-USICOMOS Executive Director Andrew Potts.

The U.S. government signed on to the new international model for disaster planning known as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework or SDFRR) in March 2015. The Framework has important implications for both the protection of historic resources from disasters, and the role of heritage in community resilience. The workshop provided a basic introduction to the Sendai Framework. It discussed the roles the SDFRR assigns to historic preservation and the shifts that they may trigger in existing approaches to protecting cultural heritage from disasters. The goal was to give state and local preservation officers tools for engaging in the national process of migrating federal disaster planning to the Sendai Framework and a head start on contemplating parallel state processes.

Participants included representatives of the heritage offices of the states, commonwealths and territories as well as invited guests representing tribal, national and municipal heritage organizations and agencies. Speakers included international representatives of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction organization (UNISDR) in Geneva, Switzerland and the President of the ICOMOS International Scientific committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP), Dr. Jigyasu.



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5

Climate Change

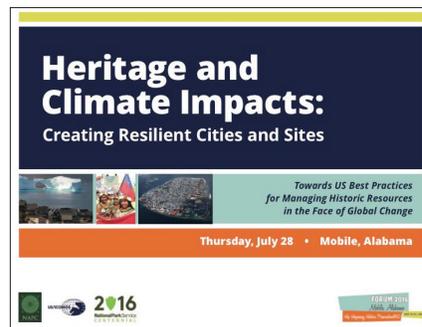
In July 2016, the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions and US/ICOMOS teamed up to present “Climate Impacts: Creating Resilient Cities and Sites and Towards U.S. Best Practices for Managing Historic Resources in the Face of Global Change,” a sequence of programs at the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions FORUM 2016 in Mobile, Alabama.

The track was designed to engage those working on the front lines of historic preservation in conversation on best practices and model strategies for managing and preparing historic resources for the eventual impacts of climate change.

Participants included state and municipal preservation officers as well as volunteer municipal heritage commissioners, historic site managers, and other professionals and consultants involved in preservation planning. The track provided participants an overview of some of the climate change challenges they can expect in the next years. Climate change impacts know no national boundaries, with otherwise-unconnected communities facing common climate change risk profiles. Desertification threatens places as divergent as China, Africa and the United States while coastal communities across the globe face a common threat from sea level rise. This dynamic places an enormous premium on cultural heritage professionals who can share learned experiences internationally. As a result, the Track aimed to weave international responses to heritage and climate change into the U.S. domestic conversation on climate change.

State and municipal preservation officers and volunteer commissioners, historic site managers, and consultants involved in preservation planning attended to learn how to address the challenges of climate change since it has

become a requirement for competency in the cultural heritage field; knowing how historic properties in your community can be made more resilient is key to public support



The conference room was packed for sessions addressing heritage and climate impacts in Mobile



and economic relevancy. Through a partnership with the US/ICOMOS Climate Change and Heritage KC, the sessions highlighted international responses to heritage and climate change into the U.S. domestic conversation on climate change in order to help attendees benchmark their work against peers abroad. Speakers included:

- Dr. Brenda Ekwurzel, Union of Concerned Scientists
- C. Elliott Perkins, Executive Director, New Orleans Historic District Landmarks Commission
- Lisa Craig, Historic Preservation Officer, City of Annapolis
- Prof. Andrew Rumbach, University of Colorado/
Prof. Doug Appler, University of Kentucky
- Ann Marie Chischilly, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
- Anne Garland, PhD., R.P.A. Applied Research in Environmental Sciences Nonprofit, Inc. and DHS CREATE
- Dr. Marie-Yvane Daire, French National Centre for Scientific Research, CreAAH (Centre de recherches en archéologie, archéosciences, histoire), Rennes, France
- Jeffrey P. Hebert, Chief Resilience Officer, New Orleans

Desertification threatens places as divergent as China, Africa and the United States while coastal communities across the globe face a common threat from sea level rise. This dynamic places an enormous premium on cultural heritage professionals who can share learned experiences internationally.

- Iain Hyde, Deputy Director, Colorado Resiliency and Recovery Office
- Andrew Potts, Executive Director, US/ICOMOS
- Nell Ziehl, Maryland Historical Trust
- Alfonso Rafael Cabrera Cruz, Chief of Cultural Heritage, Cartagena, Columbia

6

Leadership

In 2016, a significant shift in the leadership of US/ICOMOS took place as Andrew S. Potts passed the Executive Director's baton to William J. Pencek on August 1, and Jan C.K. Anderson handed the Chairmanship to newly elected Douglas Comer on September 29.

A new Executive Committee was installed on September 29 as well, including Rachel Jacobson (Vice-Chair), Darwina Neal (Treasurer) and Ellen Delage (Secretary). The level of ambition and accomplishment of US/ICOMOS during the period of Anderson and Potts—which included the observance of the 50th anniversary of the organization—will be very challenging to maintain and match. With your help we hope to build on the significant momentum generated.

US/ICOMOS Chair Doug Comer expresses heartfelt thanks to immediate past Chair Jan C.K. Anderson at the annual benefit gala.



7

The Nature Culture Journey

In partnership with NPS and International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), US/ICOMOS (and especially Andrew Potts, as focal point for ICOMOS) conducted a track on the inter-linkages of natural and cultural heritage at the September 2016 World Conservation Congress (WCC) and helped arrange nature-culture WCC session proposals that brought together U.S. and international practitioners from both the natural heritage and cultural heritage realms.

The work culminated in *Malama Honua—To Care for Our Island Earth*, a statement of commitments from Nature-Culture Journey participants. Follow up sessions and activities are planned for the 2017 Triennial General Assembly of ICOMOS in Delhi.

US/ICOMOS secured a major victory in 2015 by securing a commitment from the IUCN to include this content in the 2016 World Conservation Congress (WCC). This quadrennial IUCN meeting brought together 15,000 leaders and decision-makers from government, civil society, indigenous peoples, business, and academia, with the goal of advancing conservation of the environment and harnessing the solutions nature—and culture—offers to meeting global challenges. US/ICOMOS, as the ICOMOS national committee for the



Left to right: Mectild Rossler, UNESCO World Heritage Center; Joseph King, ICCROM; Peter Phillips, ICOMOS; Peter Shadie, IUCN; and Kristal Buckley, Australia ICOMOS.

2016 WCC host country, worked for more than a year with the major U.S. stakeholders planning the WCC (including the Hawaii SHPO and NPS) to explore the possibility of utilizing the WCC as a platform for this dialogue. US/ICOMOS also consulted extensively with IUCN, via both its North American office in Washington, DC and the Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland. Tim Badman, director of IUCN's World Heritage program, was a major champion. US/ICOMOS also assembled international support for the event, including from Mr. Steve Brown of Australia, ISCCCL President.

As a result of these efforts, the WCC included a "Nature-Culture Journey," jointly curated by IUCN and US/ICOMOS. More than 50 Nature-Culture sessions were offered. The Journey was a premium selection of events addressing the interconnected character of natural and cultural heritage. The Journey expanded on the strengthening evidence that natural and cultural heritage are closely intertwined in most landscapes and that conservation of such places depends on better integration of philosophies, policies and procedures regarding their management. It was created with the purpose of bringing together the natural/cultural heritage community of practice among the thousands of Congress delegates, and to provide them with an easier way to plan their participation in the Forum. It also aimed to catalyze thinking and action around emerging heritage conservation issues.

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US/ICOMOS Trustees Brenda Barrett (standing) and Nora Mitchell at one of the Nature-Culture Journey sessions.

8

International Exchange Program

Since the establishment of its International Exchange Program (IEP) in 1984, US/ICOMOS has placed nearly 700 people—representing 70 nationalities—in three-to-four month programs in the U.S. and around the world.

One hundred and thirty organizations in 33 countries have hosted American IEP participants abroad. And here in the US, 51 organizations (comprised of federal, state, and local private and non-profits) have welcomed hundreds of foreign participants. Throughout, the aim of the program has always been to promote an understanding of international preservation policies, methods, and techniques and to enable interns to make professional contacts and form personal friendships that will ensure a continuing dialogue between countries.

The program is currently driven by the US/ICOMOS Committee, led by US/ICOMOS Trustees Mr. Brian Michael Lione (IEP Alum'99, USA/Jordan) and Mr. Troy Thompson (IEP Alum'92, USA/Lithuania), who work to expand the program to support more internships as well as to form new strategic partnerships with other national committees of ICOMOS, International Scientific Committees, and private and public organizations around the world. The application process has been modernized by requiring online



Twelve IEP participants from the U.S. and abroad at the 2016 closing reception with IEP Committee Chair and US/ICOMOS Trustee Brian Lione, US/ICOMOS Chair Doug Comer, and Executive Director Bill Pencek.

submissions for both prospective hosts and participants and by requiring earlier deadlines for applications. These small changes streamline the process and allow for faster, and earlier, placement decisions.

With a World of Heritage So Rich

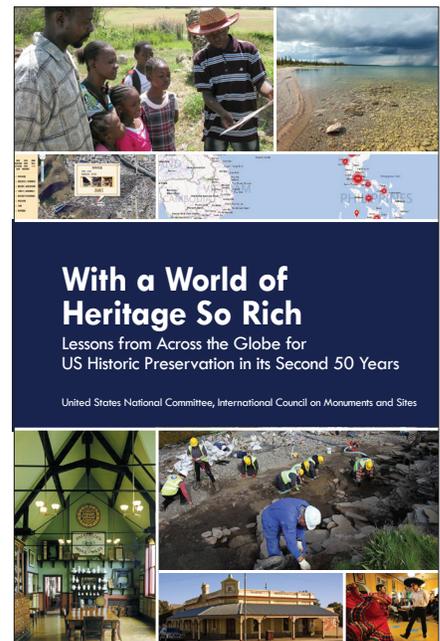
In 1966, the seminal report *With Heritage So Rich* issued a call to action to respond to the rising tide of destruction of the nation's patrimony. The result was enactment of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), the foundation of the current national historic preservation program.

The drafting of *With Heritage So Rich* was preceded by a search for international precedents to guide the development of a new national approach to historic preservation in the U.S. Indeed, the drafters of *With Heritage So Rich*, known as the Rains Committee, first toured eight European countries to examine other national approaches.

Fifty years later, the preservation movement in the United States has much to celebrate. Yet we also face new and urgent challenges and opportunities unheard of in 1966. What can and should U.S. preservation law and federal programs look like for the next 50 years? Just as the Rains Committee sought out the best international examples of historic preservation law, policy and practice when it crafted the NHPA, so too should we gather and consider case studies in preservation excellence across the globe. To this end, US/ICOMOS, in collaboration with the U.S. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), conducted a Virtual Rains Committee International Tour to solicit short essays describing interesting and useful approaches to heritage law, policy, program strategy, and related preservation challenges from abroad that can help point the way to innovations in U.S. heritage practice over the next 50 years.

In December 2016, US/ICOMOS was pleased to publish the eight most promising ideas in *With a World of Heritage So Rich*. These essays featured ideas developed and put

into practice in Australia, Canada, China, and the United Kingdom, as well as ideas from the United States that have been implemented here and abroad. These essays address the inter-related and globally pressing themes of climate change, disaster response, the challenges of preserving intangible heritage, and insufficient heritage funding worldwide. At the same time, they offer positive and promising ways to foster community and indigenous involvement in heritage conservation; better preserve intangible heritage; crowd source information in response to disaster; share open source software development; and better fund and manage heritage at the local level.



World Heritage Tentative List Update

A Tentative List is an official list, required by the World Heritage Committee and developed by each signatory to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, of properties that are believed by a country to meet the criteria for World Heritage listing and from which a country may make nominations to the World Heritage List.

Only properties included on the U.S. Tentative List are eligible for nomination by the Department of the Interior. Inclusion on the Tentative List does not, however, guarantee future nomination.

The current U.S. Tentative List is a combination of some properties placed on the list in 2008, and others that were added in early 2017. It now includes 20 properties or groups of properties, 12 of which are cultural heritage sites and eight of which are natural heritage sites. The current Tentative List is intended to be the source of U.S. World Heritage nominations for approximately the next 10

years. There are, in addition, some initiatives underway to develop nominations consisting of properties in more than one country that could potentially include U.S. properties. If any of these initiatives progresses to a suitable point, the Department of the Interior may consider adding a very limited number of properties to the Tentative List to participate in such a multi-country nomination effort.

The properties on the Tentative List were identified through processes that incorporated the advice of a wide range of subject-matter experts, and provided for public suggestions and comment at several stages. The properties added in 2008 were selected from among those that submitted voluntary applications; those added in early 2017 were identified by an expert Working Group established as a sub-committee of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO, a Federal Advisory Committee for the U.S. Department of State. The Working Group was chaired by US/ICOMOS Chair Doug Comer, and included the member agencies of the Federal Interagency Panel on World Heritage, which advises the Department of the Interior on World Heritage matters. Decisions on which properties to include on the Tentative List are made, after considering public comments, by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.



The Great Hall, Ellis Island.

Cultural Sites

- Brooklyn Bridge, New York
- Central Park, New York
- Chicago Early Skyscrapers, Illinois [other properties may be added]
 - The Rookery
 - Auditorium Building
 - Monadnock Building
 - Ludington Building
 - Marquette Building
 - Old Colony Building
 - Schlesinger & Mayer (Carson, Pirie Scott) Department Store
 - Second Leiter Building
 - Fisher Building
- Civil Rights Movement Sites, Alabama [other sites to be considered for inclusion]
 - Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, Montgomery
 - Bethel Baptist Church, Birmingham
 - 16th Street Baptist Church, Birmingham
- Dayton Aviation Sites, Ohio
 - Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park
- Ellis Island, New Jersey and New York
- Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, Ohio
 - Fort Ancient State Memorial
 - Hopewell Culture National Historical Park
 - Newark Earthworks State Historic Site
- Jefferson (Thomas) Buildings, Virginia (an extension to the Monticello and the University of Virginia Historic District)
 - Poplar Forest
 - Virginia State Capitol
- Moravian Bethlehem District, Pennsylvania (an extension to Christiansfeld, a Moravian Church Settlement, Denmark)
- Mount Vernon, Virginia
- Serpent Mound, Ohio
- Wright (Frank Lloyd) Buildings
 - Taliesin West, Scottsdale, Arizona
 - Hollyhock House, Los Angeles, California
 - Marin County Civic Center, San Rafael, California
 - Frederick C. Robie House, Chicago, Illinois

- Unity Temple, Oak Park, Illinois
- Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York
- Price Tower, Bartlesville, Oklahoma
- Fallingwater, Mill Run, Pennsylvania
- Taliesin, Spring Green, Wisconsin
- Herbert and Katherine Jacobs House, Madison, Wisconsin

Natural Sites

- Big Bend National Park, Texas
- Central California Current, California
 - Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary
 - Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
 - Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
 - Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge
 - Point Reyes National Seashore
 - Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- Marianas Trench National Monument, U.S. Territory, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam
- National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa/Rose Atoll National Marine Monument (Formerly Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary)
- Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Georgia
- Pacific Remote Islands National Monument, U.S. Territorial Waters
- Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona
- White Sands National Monument, New Mexico



The Great Hall, Ellis Island; *top: early 20th century; bottom: today.*

Murtagh/Graham Prize

Kathryn Gardner was the inaugural winner of the Murtagh/Graham Prize for her thesis entitled “A Bitter Truth: Astringent Persimmon as a Bio-Alternative to Standard Wood Preservation Treatments.”

Named to honor William R. Murtagh, Ph.D., and Roy Eugene Graham for their many contributions to preservation education and cultural heritage stewardship, the prize was established by US/ICOMOS in 2016 with generous support from the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training of the National Park Service to recognize outstanding student scholarship in the area of historic preservation technologies.

In recognizing her scholarship, one member of the prize committee lauded the work, recognizing that, “this thesis enriches the discipline and practice in two ways. The first is in terms of providing a sustainable, bio-alternative to the use of very toxic and not always effective products in current use. The second is the author’s exploration of traditional methods and products in an almost anthropological way. In so doing, she opens up new avenues of research into products.”

Ms. Gardner, a recent graduate of Columbia University, was awarded \$2500 and was recognized at the US/ICOMOS Gala and World Heritage Celebration held at the Cosmos Club in Washington D.C. on December 7, 2016. The runner-up in the competition was Cesar Bargas of the University of Pennsylvania. He received an award of \$500. Other finalists included Fanglan Chen of the University of Georgia, Sabrinna Cox of the Savannah College of Art and Design and Amanda Phelps of the University of Texas, San Antonio. The Murtagh/Graham Prize Committee included Erica Avrami, Wayde



Kathryn Gardner is presented the inaugural Murtagh/Graham Prize by Doug Comer, US/ICOMOS Chair at the 2016 Gala

Brown, Justin Gunther, Morris Hylton III, and Donald W. Linebaugh. US/ICOMOS Trustee Professor Jeff Eley of Savannah College of Art and Design is lead volunteer coordinator for the program.

2016 Benefit Gala and World Heritage Celebration

In 2015 US/ICOMOS turned 50 and celebrated with significant initiatives including an especially glittering gala, an important source of operating funds for the organization.

In 2016 the United States National Park Service turned 100, and friends and guests joined US/ICOMOS to honor the 18th Director of NPS, Jonathan B. Jarvis in December.

Jarvis began his career with the NPS in 1976 as a seasonal interpreter in Washington D.C. Jarvis's 40-year career took him from ranger to resource management specialist to park biologist to superintendent of parks such as Craters of the Moon, North Cascades, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Mount Rainier. Before being confirmed as the 18th Director of the NPS in 2009, Jarvis served as the regional director of the bureau's Pacific West Region. Until retiring in January 2017 he was responsible for overseeing an agency with more than 22,000 employees, a \$3 billion budget, and more than 400 national parks that attract more than 280 million visitors every year who generate \$30 billion in economic benefit across the nation.

NPS brings the park idea to virtually every county in America. Grants from the Land and Water Conservation and Historic Preservation Fund help communities preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Since 1976, the Service's tax credit program has leveraged more than \$60 billion in private investment in historic preservation to help revitalize communities across the country. Jarvis reinvigorated NPS's role as an international advocate for protected areas and recognized world leader in cultural and natural resource management. The U.S. World Heritage Tentative List was updated for the first time since 2008. Managing NPS in its centennial year he maintained an inclusive, future focus. "America's



William A. Bell Sr., Mayor, Birmingham, Alabama, and guests at the 2016 US/ICOMOS benefit gala, supporting the World Heritage nomination for the Civil Rights Movement Sites.

National Park System is a gift from past generations to this and succeeding generations," said Jarvis. "And while the challenges we face today- like climate change, shrinking open space, habitat destruction, non-native species, and air and water pollution- could not have been imagined when this agency was established in 1916, our mission remains the same: to preserve this nation's natural and cultural heritage, unimpaired for the enjoyment of this and future generations."

2017 International Symposium

Planning began in earnest in 2016 for the 2017 International Symposium. The core group of partners working to plan and implement the conference so far include UNESCO (Dr. Ali Moussa Iye, Chief, History and Culture Section, Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue), the Thomas Jefferson Foundation (Leslie Bowman, President), the National Museum of African American History and Culture (John W. Franklin, Director of External Affairs, Partnerships and International Programs), the University of Virginia and US/ICOMOS.

The convening, of at least 250 cultural heritage practitioners, would be scheduled to coincide with the first US-located meeting of UNESCO's International Scientific Committee of the Slave Route Project.

As currently envisioned, the conference would be entitled "New Approaches in Interpreting and Representing Slavery in Museums and Sites" and would be held in Charlottesville Virginia and feature the World Heritage Sites Monticello and the University of Virginia at Charlottesville. Over the last three decades, museums and sites of memory in Europe, Africa, the Americas and the Caribbean have developed approaches to representing the slave trade, slavery and emancipation in



Dr. Ali Moussa Iye, Chief, History and Culture Section, Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue, UNESCO, discussing researching and interpreting the legacy of slavery at Monticello.

their respective collections, exhibits, publications, promotional and educational materials and websites. Such sites which seek to preserve, commemorate and interpret the tangible and intangible natural and cultural heritage linked to this human tragedy include several types like interpretive historic sites, trails, routes (groups of related sites), waterways etc.

These representations of slavery in public commemorations, popular media and new digital multimedia resources are increasingly shaping the expectations and experiences of museum and site visitors, who are demanding more complete and updated portraits of people, places and objects that are connected to this painful past and to its legacies.

These representations of slavery in public commemorations, popular media and new digital multimedia resources are increasingly shaping the expectations and experiences of museum and site visitors, who are demanding more complete and updated portraits of people, places and objects that are connected to this painful past

and to its legacies. Beyond the various perspectives and means used in different regions of the world to tell this tragedy to the general public, developing the appropriate interpretation and media to address this sensitive issue is much more challenging than generally expected. Professionals working on these issues are confronted with complex questions. It is to respond to these questions that the UNESCO Slave Route Project: Resistance, Liberty, Heritage, in close collaboration with the US/ICOMOS and the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, will organize the conference. The main objectives of the conference will be to:

- Assess the global impact of the slave trade and the legacies of slavery in the 21st century on health, education, political, economic and religious status;
- Exchange the experiences and best practices on representing and interpreting slavery from different regions of the world;
- Explore the roles of the arts and humanities and the new possibilities offered by ICTs/ digital multimedia technology to interpret and represent the memory and history related to the slave trade, slavery and their legacies;
- Define guidelines for the elaboration of a handbook on new approaches in interpreting and representing slavery in museums and sites;
- Explore opportunities and possibilities for partnerships among participants and with UNESCO Slave Route Project.

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