



US/ICOMOS at Work

February 2018 E-News



Welcome to “US/ICOMOS at Work” e-news blast, a monthly update on what US/ICOMOS is doing to preserve and promote world heritage and international knowledge exchange on preservation topics. We share these brief communications monthly with our members and supporters.

Pictured above: Slave dwellings at Magnolia Plantation, part of the Cane River Creole National Park and National Heritage Area. A complex of 8 of 24 slave dwellings and a slave hospital are extant as part of one of the largest and most intact plantation complexes in the US.

— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

US/ICOMOS Urges US Leaders to Continue Engagement in the World Heritage Program

US/ICOMOS has produced a [resolution](#) urging “the President and Congress of the United States, through the United States Departments of the Interior and State, to remain robustly engaged in, and supportive of, the World Heritage Program and to provide funds to both support World Heritage nominations of sites in the United States and contribute payments to the World Heritage Fund in order to demonstrate leadership in, and support for, the important work of ensuring global peace through the mutual respect of heritage of outstanding universal value.” The resolution was inspired during the closing plenary session of the US/ICOMOS Leadership Forum on November 30, 2017.

We are currently soliciting sign on by our national preservation partners and encourage our members to encourage organizations they belong to to sign on with US/ICOMOS. Next steps also include:

- Formally transmitting the Resolution to the appropriate contacts at the White House, in Congress (especially select members from states with non-NPS sites on the US World Heritage Tentative List), and in the Departments of Interior and State
- Working with National Partners to include a World Heritage bullet in the talking points that will be used by preservation advocates during [Advocacy Week meetings with members of Congress, March 12-14](#). See below for more information about Advocacy Week.

[Please share the resolution widely!](#)



[Join Us for "Interpreting and Representing Slavery" Conference, March 19-21 in Charlottesville, VA](#)

Registration is now open for a three-day conference on "[Interpreting and Representing Slavery and its Legacies in Museums and Sites: International Perspectives](#)" at the University of Virginia and at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, March 19-21 (pictured above, slave dwelling at the Monticello World Heritage Site) sponsored by [Thomas Jefferson's Monticello](#), the [University of Virginia](#), US/ICOMOS in collaboration with the UNESCO [Slave Route Project: Resistance, Liberty, and Heritage](#).

Interpretation of slavery at museums and sites has varied greatly over recent decades, and continues to vary regionally as communities grapple with the tension between history and memory. Identifying resonant approaches to communicate this shared history - portraying the horrors of slavery as well as the feelings, thoughts, resistance, creativity and resilience of enslaved peoples - remains a challenge. This conference will bring together international experts to discuss this challenge and ways to move forward.

Attendance is limited: [please register now](#).

Puerto Rico Heritage Update: Post-Hurricane Maria Recovery

To get a better sense of the challenges confronting those working on the front lines in Puerto Rico and to identify how US/ICOMOS and ICOMOS might assist, [ICOFORT](#) President and US/ICOMOS member Milagros Flores Roman recently arranged a series of meetings and site visits for US/ICOMOS Executive Director Bill Pencek.

Below are some images documenting the meetings and just a few of the many challenges facing historic preservation in Puerto Rico.



Meeting participants included (left to right): Bill Pencek, Milagros Flores Roman, Carmen Maria Lopez from the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña (ICP); Marel del Toro Cabrera, Carlos Rubio and Gloria Ortiz from the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).



Left: ICP Subdirector Freddy Velez, Milagros and Carmen discussing the contractor proposals for work at the 16th-century Casa Blanca, one of the most important of the 20 or so sites managed by ICP across the island. Although the structures at the Casa Blanca complex survived fairly intact, the gardens were devastated.



Right: This extensive rooftop solar panel installation at Cuartel de Ballaja, managed by ICP, was destroyed by Hurricane Maria. The visionary green adaptation led by the SHPO just a few years earlier must be one of the most ambitious green retrofits of a public historic building in the Americas and Caribbean.



Left: The collection of drawings at ICP was damaged in the hurricane as were the offices in the colonial-era Spanish Welfare House. Here the drawings are layered for drying awaiting the arrival of new flat files and digitization.



Right: Milagros views the archeological survey database with the ICP Director of Archeology. The importance of digitization as a conservation and recovery strategy was reinforced by the hurricane.

Incredible work has already been accomplished by the resourceful Puertorriqueños, but there is more to do to ensure a resilient future for the remarkable heritage resources of the island. If you would like to contribute, please contact the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña on [Facebook](#) or via Twitter [@icppr](#).

[Contribute Now to Support the International Exchange Program \(IEP\)](#)

For more than three decades, the IEP has built bridges between nations by promoting mutual

understanding and trust among heritage professionals.

2018 continues our tradition of advancing the next generation of heritage professionals via the IEP. The US/ICOMOS IEP Committee, led by Trustee Mr. Brian Michael Lione ('99, Jordan), requests your financial assistance to help underwrite the considerable costs of this program, including international transportation, insurance, lodging and stipends.

Your support underwrites experiences such as these:



"I was fortunate enough to work with a group of people that answered my questions and permitted deep dialogues about the underlying values of historic preservation. I also had the opportunity to learn about a culture by experiencing it, which is why the International Exchange Program is so much more than just an internship."

Ashley Wheeler
IEP '17 Alum, USA to India



"3D digital documentation is a technology that hasn't yet been introduced to my country. Therefore this internship has introduced a technology to a country by way of teaching me how to utilize it. I will definitely employ this method once I get back to my home country to document historic houses."

Etsegenet Kebede
IEP '17 Alum, Ethiopia to USA



"I've had a terrific summer! I've met so many incredible people and learned so much about preservation in Lithuania. I can't thank ICOMOS enough for making this experience possible."

William Canup
IEP '17 Alum, USA to Lithuania

Your generosity will help determine how many talented young professionals participate in 2018. [Our past and future IEP interns appreciate your generous support!](#)

ISC In Depth: [ISCARSAH](#)

Throughout 2018, we will feature one International Scientific Committee (ISC) per month in *US/ICOMOS at Work* in order to highlight the work of the ISC and provide potential members with information about how to join. Please note that in order to be considered for ISC membership, you must first be an International member of US/ICOMOS. If you have not yet joined ICOMOS for 2018, [you can join here](#).



This month's ISC is ISCARSAH, the International Scientific Committee on the Analysis and Restoration of Structures of Architectural Heritage, described by Stephen J. Kelley, FAIA, SE, F.USICOMOS and Secretary-General ISCARSAH.

1. Tell us your name, occupation, employer and few words about your interest in ISCARSAH.

My name is Stephen Kelley. I am a registered architect and structural engineer with my own technical preservation consultancy firm in the Chicago area. I was previously a principal with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates. I am a founding member of ISCARSAH which was formed in 1997 and am a co-author of the *Principles for the Analysis, Conservation and Structural Restoration of Architectural Heritage*

that were ratified in 2003. ISCARSAH is a collection of international engineers, architects and scientists with extensive knowledge and experience with the technical preservation of historical monuments. I served as the president of ISCARSAH from 2008 to 2014. I was Vice President until 2017 and am presently Secretary-General.

2. Tell us about the work of ISCARSAH in a few sentences.

ISCARSAH provides a forum to share and disseminate information in the field of conservation engineering and technical heritage conservation. We meet one to two times each year and our meetings have taken us to Belgium, Turkey, South Korea and India since 2016. Expert members have performed numerous desktop reviews for UNESCO and the World Monuments Fund, and there have been field missions to places as disparate as Barcelona, Mozambique and Haiti. An expert database is kept of all Expert and Associate Members so that the most suitable candidates can be presented to ICOMOS when calls for participation in UNESCO projects are announced. We are also developing a training program that will be presented in Isfahan, Iran in the fall of 2018.

3. What are the qualifications for membership in your committee and how should potential members apply?

Potential Expert members need to present their credentials describing their experience and expertise in the areas of research and/or practice of heritage conservation. Younger members who may not meet these requirements are considered for Associate Membership and may become Expert members based upon their career development or participation in committee work.

4. How do members participate in ISCARSAH?

ISCARSAH as a committee meets 1 to 2 times per year. In 2018 we will hold an inter-ISC conference on 9-11 July in Kastamonu, Turkey. We will also be meeting during the International Conference on Structural Analysis of Historical Constructions (SAHC 2018) in Cuzco, Peru on 11 - 13 September as many of our members will be presenting there. We provide online participation at these meetings when we are provided with the technology. ISCARSAH has a Newsletter that is published three times per year and presents peer-reviewed articles from members around the world. Articles have been published in English, Spanish and French. ISCARSAH has a listserv with over 100 participants. All members can request information and take part in discussions through the listserv.

5. Once they have been accepted, how do you recommend new members get involved?

We like members to be involved! The best way to meet members of ISCARSAH is to attend a meeting. No one would be obligated to attend every meeting because of the cost, but attendance in 1 to 2 meetings would be a great difference. We also meet at the ICOMOS General Assembly and will therefore be meeting in Australia in 2020. We will try to make online attendance to meetings available for those who cannot travel. Finally, members are obligated to contribute to the newsletter to keep their membership current.

6. Is there anything else that you would like prospective members to know?

Unlike many of the other ISCs in ICOMOS, ISCARSAH is not an advocacy group. Though we have acted as advocates to save monuments such as Schukhov Tower in Moscow (saved for now) and the Vierendeel truss bridge in Bruges (lost) our focus is on raising the standards in the evaluation, conservation, strengthening and seismic retrofit of heritage structures by technical professionals.

— OF NOTE —

[Register for National Historic Preservation Advocacy Week](#)



Preservation Action and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers are pleased to announce Advocacy Week 2018 will be held **March 12-14** at the Hamilton Hotel in Washington, DC.

One of the most effective ways of sharing information with Congress is through direct meetings, and Advocacy Week is our annual opportunity to have a mass impact on opinion leaders and policy makers. Your voice is needed now more than ever. Learn more and [register to participate here](#).

Beauty and the Beasts: Why Terrorists Target History

NATO Review Magazine has produced an excellent video documenting how terrorists use attacks on historic sites for control and funding. We highly recommend it for all members concerned with the destruction of heritage across the globe. [View the video here.](#)

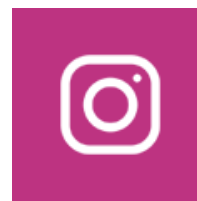
Young Professional Opportunity: Ishibashi Foundation Summer 2018 Fellowship in Japan

The University of East Anglia Centre for Japanese Studies invites applications for an intensive three-week postgraduate level Summer School in Japanese Arts and Cultural Heritage. With the support of the Ishibashi Foundation, UEA offers full funding to all successful applicants. Applications are invited from any country from advanced undergraduate and postgraduate students with a demonstrable interest in the field. The application deadline is March 31st. [More information and application information can be found here.](#)

Have you renewed your membership for 2018?

Click here to renew now.

Join the Conversation on Social Media



and Please Forward this Newsletter to Friends and Colleagues!

US/ICOMOS is a US historic preservation nonprofit whose mission includes both supporting the UNESCO World Heritage program and promoting international exchange in the cultural heritage field. You can learn more about us at usicomos.org.