On April 18, in celebration of World Heritage Day, US/ICOMOS and the National Park Service (NPS) will announce a new initiative to bring more attention to sites in the United States that are on, or in the process of seeking listing on, the World Heritage List.

Every year since 1983, ICOMOS and its National Committees have celebrated the “International Day for Monuments and Sites”—or, World Heritage Day-- on April 18. The aim of World Heritage Day is to encourage local communities and individuals throughout the world to consider the importance of cultural heritage to their lives and to promote awareness of its diversity, vulnerability and the efforts required to protect and conserve it.

In 2017, the World Heritage Day theme is “Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Tourism”, chosen to reflect the United Nations International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. Working with U.S. World Heritage Sites, NPS, the National Council of State Tourism Directors and others, US/ICOMOS will go live with a new microsite, www.worldheritageusa. The microsite will highlight sites in the U.S. on the World Heritage List and link to online resources that have enriched content. It will highlight the role of the U.S. in the creation of the global list, the advantages of listing, the best ways to plan visits to and connect with U.S. sites, and encourage support of US/ICOMOS. A coordinated social media campaign will involve all 23 listed U.S. sites and sites on the U.S. Tentative List. Be on the lookout for www.worldheritageusa, @worldheritageusa and #worldheritageusa.

Managing the Past, Engaging the Present: An Interview with Douglas C. Comer, President, ICAHM (ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management)

The March edition of American Anthropologist features an interview of Dr. Douglas Comer by longtime US/ICOMOS member Helaine Silverman. In addition to serving the United States National Committee as Chairman, Dr. Comer—or Doug, as he is known within the organization—is also president of ICAHM, the international body that advises ICOMOS and UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee on archaeological sites and landscapes, and works with professionals and associations around the world to advance the field of archaeological heritage management. Read Doug’s thoughts on cultural heritage management and World Heritage inscription today.
US/ICOMOS Partners with the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield

US/ICOMOS has signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing to future partnership and collaboration with the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield (USCBS). USCBS and US/ICOMOS share common goals of protecting and preserving tangible cultural heritage. However, USCBS—named after the blue shields used as emblems for marking protected cultural property—specifically promotes the protection of cultural property during armed conflict. USCBS works closely with armed forces worldwide to educate and provide emergency support before, during, and after armed conflicts that threaten cultural property. We are looking forward to collaborating with our new partner. Pictured are James Reap, F.US/ICOMOS, and Nancy Wilkie, President, U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield, signing the Memorandum of Understanding in Washington, D.C.

Trustee and Alum Brian Lione Promotes the US/ICOMOS International Exchange Program (IEP)

Trustee Brian Michael Lione recently visited the Historic Preservation Planning Program at Cornell University to speak with students about US/ICOMOS and the IEP. During the visit, Lione (IEP '99 to Jordan) was pleased to catch up with IEP alum Jenny Rowan (IEP '16 to Turkey) and to meet Maryam Rabi of Pakistan, who is scheduled to participate in the 2017 IEP program in San Antonio, Texas.

If you would like to help a young preservation professional participate in a life-changing experience, consider making a tax-deductible donation here: usicomics.org/internship/donate.

Read About Our 2016 Successes in the US/ICOMOS 2016 Annual Report

From playing a central role in updating the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List to partnering with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for “A Nature-Culture Journey” at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawaii, 2016 was a dynamic year for US/ICOMOS.

To learn about our many successes, read the full annual report here.
ICOMOS India is proud to organize the 19th triennial ICOMOS General Assembly in Delhi, India from December 11-15, 2017. The theme, fitting for the setting in the world’s largest democracy, is “Heritage & Democracy”. More than 1,500 delegates from around the world are expected to attend the events, which will provide great opportunities to promote international co-operation and strengthen understanding and communication in the field of heritage. It is an exceptional occasion to meet hundreds of heritage professionals with diverse skills—archaeologists, architects, urban planners, engineers, curators, building conservation professionals, art historians and more. The meetings of the International Scientific Committees are set for December 8-10. Make your travel plans today!

There is still time to submit abstracts for session proposals: the deadline is April 15.

 Participate in our Member Survey

Help US/ICOMOS leadership prioritize and plan for the next three years by participating in this anonymous 15-minute survey: US/ICOMOS Member Survey.

We anticipate many new opportunities for US/ICOMOS to serve its membership and to advance our mission of fostering heritage conservation and historic preservation at the national and international levels in 2017 and beyond!
Nominations Sought for US/ICOMOS Trustees

The US/ICOMOS Nominating Committee welcomes US/ICOMOS member nominations of candidates to fill four trustee positions. US/ICOMOS members are urged to forward nominations of qualified persons to the Committee at nominations@usicomos.org by April 15th. The nominations should include: (1) an email from the nominator, (2) the nominee’s short biography (not to exceed one page), and (3) the nominee’s statement of goals if elected and a description as to what makes him or her a qualified candidate (not to exceed 250 words). The Nominating Committee will then prepare a slate of candidates for consideration by the Board, and the approved slate will be sent to the membership for their vote. Information on the necessary qualifications for trustees can be found here. In selecting trustees, US/ICOMOS strives to maintain a diversity of backgrounds, experiences and geography.

Follow us on social media for real-time reporting on calendar items and deadlines, upcoming conferences and events, and breaking news.

US/ICOMOS is a U.S. 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.