US/ICOMOS International Exchange Program

Orientation began in the US/ICOMOS Conference Room in the Heurich House, where Director Donald Jones provided an overview of ICOMOS, the role of ICOMOS National Committees, and the programs and activities of US/ICOMOS. The interns were then joined by representatives from the US/ICOMOS co-tenants in the Heurich House—Preservation Action and Scenic America—who each provided overview of their organization’s mission, programs, and activities. Following a box lunch, the interns then went downstairs for a tour of the Heurich House Museum. With the remainder of the afternoon free (and available for finalizing last-minute logistical details), the director interns reconvened for a welcome dinner at Thunder Grill in DC’s historic Union Station.

On Thursday, the director and US/ICOMOS interns were privileged to attend a preparatory meeting of experts at the World Bank on Agra, one of the largest Bank-funded heritage tourism projects in India. The meeting was followed by lunch in the renowned World Bank cafeteria. From the World Bank, the director and interns traveled by foot across President’s Park and a photo op in front of the White House, eventually arriving at the offices of the National Park Service on Eye Street. There, the interns were given a presentation by Stephen Morris, Chief, Office of International Affairs, about that agency’s international programs, including US participation in preparing and submitting nominations of US sites to the World Heritage List.

On Friday, back at the US/ICOMOS Conference Room, the interns met with two representatives of the US Department of State’s Cultural Heritage Center. Martin Perschler gave an overview of the program he directs—the Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation—and Allison Davis, Cultural Property Officer, talked about the State Department’s role in helping to prevent illicit trafficking in antiquities. Afterward, all went to a final lunch at Teddy & The Bully Bar, and the interns then had the remainder of the afternoon free before leaving for their internships the following day.

Below is a list of the interns and their host organizations for 2014 –

Florence Declaveillere (France)
Host: National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, DC

Ignacio Pons-Sorolla Casanova (Spain)
Host: The Presidio Trust, San Francisco, California

Kara Roopsingh (Trinidad and Tobago)
Host: Preservation Institute: Nantucket on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts

Katherine Jacob (USA)
Host: International National Trusts Organization, London, United Kingdom

Emily Vance (USA)
Host: The Historic Trust for Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland
US/ICOMOS Interns touring the Heurich House

US/ICOMOS Interns attending a meeting at the World Bank

Final lunch with Martin Perschler and Allison Davis (US Department of State) following their presentations on cultural property protection and the Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation

Pride in Preservation

Paul Maynard (USA)
Host: Falmouth Heritage Renewal, Falmouth, Jamaica

Jaime Young (USA)
Host: Falmouth Heritage Renewal, Falmouth, Jamaica

Daniel Ysique (USA)
Host: Volunteer South America, Ecuador

In addition, US/ICOMOS is hosting Zoe Leung (Hong Kong) who is attending the Savannah College of Art & Design. She will assist with a variety of activities, including inventorying additional organizational documents to be donated to the UM Libraries Special Collections Unit, helping to prepare for activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of US/ICOMOS in 2015, and expanding the social media capacity of US/ICOMOS.

The interns will return to Washington in mid-August for the final program, presentations, and reception. The reception will be held in the Heurich House museum and garden the evening of Wednesday, August 13.

Celebrating the National Park Service’s LGBTQ Initiative

As part of the National Park Service’s attempts to broaden the agency’s commitment to telling the full and inclusive history of America, NPS has developed a number of initiatives to identify and nominate sites to the National Register of Historic Places and as National Historic Landmarks. One of these initiatives seeks to “explore how the legacy of lesbians, gays, bisexual, transgendered, and queer/questioning individuals can be recognized, preserved, and interpreted for future generations” (see the NPS website at http://www.nps.gov/heritageinitiatives/LGBThistory/).

As part of this effort, Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis in partnership with Philanthropist and Founder of the Gill Foundation Tim Gill announced a new commitment to recognize the contributions of the LGBT community in American history. (See article at http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/30/us-national-park-service-marking-lgbt-historic-sites)

US/ICOMOS, in partnership with the Heurich House, Preservation Action, and Scenic America, is hosting Pride in Preservation: Cocktails at the Castle on June 5 in the Heurich House museum and garden. The event will promote the National Park Service’s efforts to include the LGBTQ history as an integral part of the “full and inclusive history” of America.

For more information on the event and to purchase tickets, please visit the event’s Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/events/842890845725799/842954519052765/?notif_t=like

Carol Shull, US/ICOMOS Fellow, Receives US Department of Interior’s Distinguished Service Award

A number of National Park Service employees and partners were recognized at the Department of the Interior’s 69th Honor Awards Convocation in early May. One of these, Carol Shull, is a long-time US/ICOMOS member, a US/ICOMOS Fellow, former member of the US/ICOMOS Board of Trustees, and a long-time support of the US/ICOMOS International Exchange Program.

According to the announcement,

Ms. Shull, Interim Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, received the Department of Interior’s Distinguished Service Award. As described in the announcement,

“Carol Shull is a tireless proponent for history and preservation values. Since 1972, she has overseen the development of regulations that defined programs and broadened them to be representative of the diversity of our communities. She has also served as the Interim Keeper of the National Register for the last five years. (For a full list of honorees, please visit http://www.nps.gov/applications/mr/printer-friendly.cfm?date=05%2F12%2F2014)”

US/ICOMOS is proud to acknowledge Ms. Shull’s long-time support and congratulates her on this award.
Pride in Preservation will be held June 5 at the Heurich House (Brewmaster's Castle)

18th ICOMOS General Assembly Program and Hotel Information Available

The preliminary program schedule and information on hotel accommodations is now available on the ICOMOS website at http://icomos.org/en/about-icomos/governance/general-information-about-the-general-assembly/18th-general-assembly-florence-2014

Conferences and Other Opportunities

Historic Preservation in America’s Legacy Cities, June 5-7, 2014, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland State University and the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs are convening an interdisciplinary meeting to discuss the role of historic preservation in revitalizing America’s Legacy Cities. This is the first event to bring together key stakeholders and decision-makers from cities where entrenched population loss and economic decline present difficult challenges for the future of the urban built environment. Urban planners and policymakers understand that demolition is a very pressing reality and often argue that it is the best course of action, yet these cities retain astounding historic resources and significant heritage. At this crucial juncture, there are difficult questions about what role preservation can and should play in shaping the future of Legacy Cities, how to identify and leverage historic assets, what benefits and impediments exist in integrating preservation into community and economic development, and how we make decisions about what we save and what we destroy.

For more information and the call for presentations, please visit http://urban.csuohio.edu/conference/LegacyCityPreservation

Florence, Italy, site of the 18th ICOMOS General Assembly (Photo: Bgervais)