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.

— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

2018 International Exchange Program Begins May 30th; Join us for the Welcome Reception on May 31st

We’re kicking off our 34th year of the International Exchange Program (IEP) by bringing ten young professionals to Washington, DC, for an orientation that will introduce them to each other, to US/ICOMOS and to the US historic preservation program.

As in years past, US/ICOMOS thanks you, our members, host organizations, donors and engaged board members for helping this invaluable program thrive. We are hosting a reception for the 2018 group on Thursday, May 31st from 6:30 - 8 pm, in the garden of the Heurich House, 1307 New Hampshire Avenue. To attend, please RSVP by clicking here. This is your chance to enjoy the company of fellow world heritage professionals and meet the participants, learn about their interests, and share your knowledge. Please join us!

Four of this year’s IEP participants hail from North America (three from the US, one from Canada) and will be heading to sites around the world to work on projects aligned with their skills and interests. South America, Europe, South Asia and Australasia are sending six participants to the United States to work on diverse projects such as the Nantucket Historic Interiors Inventory and helping San Antonio achieve the United Nations’ Sustainable City 2030 goals. All of the IEP participants, their home countries, destinations and projects are listed here:
US/ICOMOS Advocates for Expanded Funding for World Heritage Program

One of the course adjustments emerging from the US/ICOMOS November 2017 Leadership Forum was the elevation of advocacy as an important activity. As a direct result, US/ICOMOS is leading a team of important partners to raise our voices for enhanced support for World Heritage in the budget of the National Park Service (NPS). In concert with organizations including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Action, the Coalition for American Heritage, and the Ohio History Connection, communications have been directed to Ken Calvert, Chairman (R, CA), and Betty McCollum, Ranking Member (D, MN), House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies as they work to mark up the FY19 NPS budget. The letter reads in part:

As organizations dedicated to the preservation of the cultural heritage resources of the United States, we write today regarding the engagement by the United States in the World Heritage Program. We urge you to appropriate $1.5 million in FY19 to the National Park Service’s Office of International Affairs to ensure that the United States can robustly engage in and support the World Heritage Program. Congress allocated $972,000 for the program in FY17, and $966,000 in FY18. We believe that the current level of activity in and the importance of the World Heritage Program merit an increase to $1.5 million.

Please join with US/ICOMOS as we work to help ensure enhanced engagement of the US in the World Heritage Program, despite the impending US withdrawal from UNESCO. For more information contact bpencek@USICOMOS.org.

US/ICOMOS Seeks New Executive Director: Applications Due June 1st

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Bill Pencek is stepping down as Executive Director of US/ICOMOS on July 18. We encourage everyone reading this newsletter to share the call for applicants widely.

The Executive Director is responsible for management of the US National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS), reporting to the Board of Trustees. Working in concert with the Trustees, staff and volunteers, the Executive Director is charged to move US/ICOMOS forward in the development and implementation of internal and external goals reflecting the vision and mission of US/ICOMOS. The Executive Director is responsible for planning, organizational growth, financial oversight, fundraising and implementation of programs in the organization’s key focus areas of exchanging knowledge, organizational development and advocacy. The Executive Director serves as a credible and enthusiastic spokesperson for the stewardship of our cultural heritage. Along with the Board of Trustees, the Executive Director employs new and traditional communications techniques and media to advance the mission of US/ICOMOS. A comprehensive outline of the qualifications and responsibilities of the US/ICOMOS Executive Director can be found here.

Applicants should submit electronically a letter of interest, three professional references, and supporting documents addressing the qualifications and responsibilities specified to nominations@usicomos.org. Please indicate “Executive Director Recruitment” in the email subject line. Please submit all applications by close of business June 1, 2018.

#WorldHeritageUSA Celebration 2018 Review

We’re happy to announce that our second year of celebrating and publicizing World Heritage in the United States via social media was a success. We garnered more followers and likes for US/ICOMOS and helped publicize #Heritage4Generations, this year’s World Heritage Day theme, than last year.

For 24 days starting April 18th, we posted about each World Heritage Site in the United States, wrapping up on May 12th with select Tentative List sites. The Washington Post provided some help along the way with an enthusiastic and well-timed article entitled “23 breathtaking UNESCO World Heritage destinations in the U.S. and why you should visit them.”

If you’re not following, liking and sharing our posts on Facebook and Twitter, please follow the links to do so. Social media is the easiest way to learn about what US/ICOMOS and allied organizations are doing to promote World Heritage, heritage conservation and international educational exchange. Join the conversation!

ISC In Depth: ISC20C

Throughout 2018, we 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 IS20C, the International Scientific Committee on 20th Century Heritage, described by ISC20C President Gunny Harboe.

1. Tell us your name, occupation, employer and few words about your interest in ISC20C.

Gunny Harboe, FAIA, F.US/ICOMOS. Architect. President of Harboe Architects, PC. I have long been interested in the conservation of modern architecture. I was a founding member of Docomomo US back in 1996 and still serve on its board. I was also a founding member of ISC20C created in 2005 and was its interim Secretary General. I then served as Vice President and I am now its President. In my practice we specialize in the conservation of modern architecture including many modern masterpieces by Mies van der Rohe and Frank Lloyd Wright.

2. Tell us about the work of ISC20C in a few sentences.

ISC20C is focused on raising awareness and celebrating the importance of 20th Century cultural heritage in all its forms, including not limited to, architecture, cultural landscapes, industrial heritage, city planning, great civil works, etc. We spend a significant amount of effort on our Heritage Alert program where we advocate for threatened cultural heritage sites all over the world. We also have created a benchmark document called the “Approaches for The Conservation of Twentieth-Century Cultural Heritage” AKA, the “Madrid-New Delhi Document”. We are currently engaged in a very exciting EU-funded research project called “InnovaConcrete” led by the University of Cadiz in Spain. ISC20C is part of a consortium of 29 international partners investigating conservation treatments for historic concrete using nanotechnology.

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

Expert Members may be nominated by national ICOMOS committees, ISCs, or may be self-nominated. If self-nominated [as is typical for members from the US], two supporting letters of recommendation from ICOMOS members who know the nominee are needed. In addition, nominees are to submit a letter of interest and their CV. Applications will be assessed by the Committee’s Secretary General and two other members. Expert members must demonstrate competency in the subject through a minimum of ten years professional experience, relevant education and training, and most importantly, they must commit to actively participate in the work of the Committee. Expert members must be ICOMOS members, and agree to abide by the Ethical Commitment Statement for ICOMOS Members, Madrid 2002.

We are particularly interested in getting Emerging Professionals to join the committee as Associate Members. These are ICOMOS members who wish to build up their interest and expertise in Twentieth Century Heritage conservation. Associate members will generally be younger practitioners willing to actively participate in the work of the Committee. Associate members are conditionally accepted for a period of three years, after which time their contribution to the Committee will be evaluated for possible elevation to be an expert member. Associate members are accorded no voting rights. CVs invited but not required.

4. How do members participate in ISC20C (meetings, online conversations, etc.)?

ISC20C is an active committee with a number of ongoing projects. We strongly encourage our members to attend our annual meeting in person which is held in venues around the world. In 2018 it will be in Trento, Italy on September 2nd and 3rd. There are also opportunities to participate in some of our projects via online communications.

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

ICOMOS members who are interested in joining ISC20C should do a little research on our website to see the types of activities we are engaged in and contact the people who are leading them. Most of our initiatives are led by a Vice President or other Bureau member and everyone is looking for support from the membership.

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

I recommend you check out our website membership page and our Facebook page.
2018 US/ICOMOS Symposium: Abstracts Due May 15th!


The Symposium Program Committee invites abstracts for papers to be shared that explore the growing understanding that cultural and natural heritage are inextricably linked in many landscapes and waterscapes. Effective and long lasting conservation of these places depends on better integration of these ‘entangled dimensions.’ More information and submission details can be found here. The deadline for abstract submissions is May 15th. We look forward to your participation.

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 usicmos.org.