Nature-Culture Journeys: Exploring Shared Terrain


This thematic issue of the Forum provides a closer look at some of the most critical topics where nature and culture merge and is a must read for those who recognize the urgency of taking a holistic perspective for a sustainable future.

“Nature-Culture Journeys: Exploring Shared Terrain” brings together a variety of perspectives on the connection between nature and culture from contributors who participated in the 2016 Nature-Culture Journey at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, including many distinguished US/ICOMOS members and leaders, such as current Executive Director Bill Pencek and former Executive Director Andrew Potts.

The contributing authors tease out key issues, reflect on areas of progress, and point to new directions indicating that working together across cultural and natural heritage professions results in more effective conservation. The contributing authors provide a rich overview of the many challenges—and opportunities—of integrating nature and culture in conservation. Some recurring themes include:

- the central role of the World Heritage Convention as the international framework that continues to define the standards for heritage conservation;
- the need to build capacity of practitioners;
- the sacred and spiritual dimensions of nature;
- the role of traditional ecological knowledge; and
- the contribution of agricultural heritage landscapes to ensuring resilient food systems.

To read all of the articles in Nature-Culture Journeys: Exploring Shared Terrain immediately, you will need to become a member of the George Wright Society. However, selected content from this issue is available now and all the content will become available to all readers on line after the publication of the next issue of the Journal. Articles available now are:

- Building Capacities in Asia and the Pacific: The Experience of the UNESCO Chair on Nature-Culture Linkages at the University of Tsukuba, Japan by Maya Ishizawa, Nobuko Inaba, and Masahito Yoshida
- An Urgent Journey: Realizing the Potential of Integrated Nature-Culture Approaches to Create a Sustainable World by Andrew Potts

Members interested in learning more about integrated approaches to conserving nature and culture in
We encourage you to join the next Culture-Nature Journey at the ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium in Delhi, India, December 11-15, 2017. Registration is open until October 15th.

Board of Trustees September 2017 Meeting at Grand Canyon National Park

The US/ICOMOS Board of Trustees met with managers and friends from Grand Canyon National Park (GRCA, World Heritage Site inscribed 1979) and Chaco Culture National Historical Park (World Heritage Site inscribed 1987) September 17-19, 2017, at the Horace M. Albright Training Center on the southern rim of the Grand Canyon.
Park and tribal representatives discussed conservation challenges, including the Grand Canyon Escalade Project, which has proposed a large development on the Canyon rim including a tramway to the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers inside the Canyon. Above left, Willy Longreed and Roger Clark of the Grand Canyon Trust describe the project and its impacts to trustees. At right, Renae Yellowhorse, a Navajo tribe member and Save the Confluence representative, shares information.

Ben Tobin, GRCA hydrologist, and Jan Balsom, GRCA deputy chief for science and resource management, describe uranium mining and its potential impacts on the world heritage site to assembled trustees Archer Harvey, Doug Comer and Brenda Barrett.
Trustees learned about conservation efforts at the Desert View Watchtower from Angelyn Bass, lead conservator. The Watchtower was built in 1932 and designed by Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter, who is often described as the Architect of the Southwest. She drew inspiration for her work from the ancestral Puebloan people of the Colorado Plateau. This tower was modeled on the Round Tower of U.S. World Heritage site Mesa Verde and towers at Hovenweep National Monument.

US/ICOMOS wishes to thank our welcoming hosts at GRCA and the Albright Training Center and the many individuals and organizations who made this such an informative and inspiring trip.

What Did You Do Last Summer?

We're proud of our International Exchange Program participants' posts to the US/ICOMOS Instagram feed. They're informative, lively and sometimes breathtakingly beautiful. Below is just a small sampling of posts from Summer 2017. Visit https://www.instagram.com/us_icomos/ to see and read more.

Above Left (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago): “The news takeover continues... Kara Roopsingh (IEP Alum, Nantucket ‘14) and Natalia Sanchez (IEP, Trinidad & Tobago ‘17) visit Loop to talk about the 200 Anniversary of the Queen’s Park Savannah and the Woodford Square Heritage District!”

Above Right (Jaipur, Rajasthan): “The Gatore Ki Chhatriyan is the final resting place for the Maharajas of Jaipur, Rajasthan. Each leader has their own cenotaph and they are all uniquely decorated based on the person.”
Above Left (Magnolia Plantation, Louisiana): “Eight cabins are all that remain of the homes of the Magnolia plantation’s enslaved people. Of the original 70 cabins, 24 were likely brick and rest were wood located along the river. Day labourers after Emancipation continued to live in the cabins until the early 1970s.”

Above Right (Annapolis, Maryland): “Today Lisa Craig and I were interviewed by #annapolisgreen on 1430 WNAV, talking about the US #ICOMOS IEP and the City’s Cultural Heritage Hazard Mitigation Plan. Thanks for having us!”

**ICOMOS News**

Register before October 15th for the **ICOMOS Triennial General Assembly and Scientific Symposium** in New Delhi, India, December 11-15.

*Heritage and Democracy* is the theme of the Scientific Symposium organized for New Delhi. According to the Symposium co-chairs Nupur Prothi Khanna and Sheridan Burke, “the central idea of this Symposium is inspired by a recent, marked shift in heritage discourse globally towards a genuine people-centric engagement. …. How do we facilitate the multiplicity of perceptions that challenge, reject, renegotiate or simply ignore the dominant discourse on heritage? How can we identify, acknowledge and collaborate with owners, stakeholders and custodians of heritage from within our diversity? And then, how do we negotiate particular challenges to collectively safeguard our past?”

As described above, the Symposium will also continue the Culture-Nature journey begun in 2016. [Learn more and make plans to participate in New Delhi here.](#)

**Get Involved**

**2018 International Exchange Program (IEP) Preview**

by Brian Michael Lione


I'm pleased to report that the 2017 International Exchange Program was a great success. We on the IEP Committee--and everyone at US/ICOMOS--are both proud and thankful. We're proud of all thirteen IEP interns from 2017 who ably represented the U.S. and five other nations and furthered their budding professional careers while fostering international collaboration and understanding. We're also thankful to our primary sponsors, the MARPAT Foundation and the Keepers Preservation Education Fund, and all the individual donors who contributed. Together, they made the 2017 IEP possible. It was an amazing group and an exciting year!

For 2018, we're hoping to again expand the program. We'll be releasing both the Call for Participants and the Call for Host Organizations on or before 1 November. To support those calls, we will be working with the ICOMOS Secretariat and the ISCs to get the call out around the world. We will also advertise the program in a breakout session at the November US/ICOMOS Leadership Forum in Washington and at the General Assembly in Delhi in December. Deadlines for applications will be in mid-January.

The US/ICOMOS IEP is the only program of its kind. It's also 100% driven by donations, so the more we are able to raise, the bigger the program can be. We will send out our annual fundraising appeal on Valentine's Day 2018. Of course, you can donate directly to the IEP at any time on our webpage.

Won't you help us continue to build bridges of understanding and inspire the next generation of cultural heritage professionals?


Join your fellow US/ICOMOS members and international heritage experts for a deep dive into the current structure of the World Heritage Program and an opportunity to assess the current and future role of the US and US/ICOMOS at home and abroad in stewarding the heritage assets of the world. Click here to learn more, see a complete event schedule and register.

Pictured above: the newly restored auditorium at the Department of the Interior where the Forum will be held.

Have You Renewed Your Membership for 2018?

2018 renewal season is underway. As our longtime International members know, ICOMOS membership
runs from January 1 - December 31 annually, so it’s important to renew in October and November in order to receive your 2018 membership card as soon as it is available in early January. ICOMOS cards are shipped to us from the Paris ICOMOS office in batches. We will do our utmost to send your card on to you as soon as we receive it in Washington.

Membership prices remain the same as in 2017. Here is a brief overview of membership levels and benefits:

$210 **International Membership**: includes the ICOMOS card and opportunity to participate in ICOMOS International Scientific Committees

$70 **Young Professional Membership**: all the benefits of International membership for students and professionals under 30 years of age

$140 **National Affiliate Membership**: support the organization, participate in our events at a discounted rate, and receive all of our communications

[Renew your membership here.](#) If you need assistance retrieving your email login, please contact Jenny Spreitzer at Jspreitzer@usicomos.org.

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.