



US/ICOMOS at Work

October 2017 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.

Above: The 58 members of UNESCO's Executive Board have elected Audrey Azoulay, former Cultural Minister of France, as the next Director General. The election of the Executive Board's nominee is expected to take place on 10 November and the new Director-General is scheduled to take office on 15 November, succeeding Irina Bokova (Bulgaria) who will have served two four-year terms at the head of UNESCO.

— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

United States Announces 2018 Withdrawal from UNESCO

It is very unfortunate, but not a total surprise, that we find ourselves confronting [the likely prospect of the United States withdrawing from UNESCO as of December 31, 2018](#). It may not be much consolation, but we have been here before between 1984 and 2003, and we have survived and prospered.

The US/ICOMOS Executive Committee and Board will be working with ICOMOS and legal experts to understand the full range of implications. For now, nothing has changed with regard to US/ICOMOS as a 501(c)(3) organization recognized as the U.S.

National Committee of ICOMOS and fully engaged with ICOMOS as a voting member looking forward to the General Assembly in Delhi. We will continue to aggressively solicit renewing and new members and our relationships with other National Committees--activities which have been made more important in light of Secretary Tillerson's announcement.

These events have also brought additional relevance to our [Leadership Forum scheduled for November 29-30](#), to which Secretary Tillerson and Secretary Zinke have been invited to join Marie-Laure Lavenir, (Director General of ICOMOS) and Mechtild Rossler (Director, World Heritage Center, via teleconference). Please plan to attend.

At times like this one looks for any hopeful signs. Such a sign can be found in the words of [the State Department release](#):

The United States indicated to the Director General its desire to remain engaged with UNESCO as a non-member observer state in order to contribute U.S. views, perspectives and expertise on some of the important issues undertaken by the organization, including the

protection of world heritage, advocating for press freedoms, and promoting scientific collaboration and education.

[Irina Bokova, current Director-General of UNESCO, has released a statement regarding U.S. membership that you can read on our website.](#) We will work to keep you informed of any significant news or developments as we learn them.



LEADERSHIP FORUM AND BENEFIT

November 29–30, 2017
Washington, DC

Your Participation Needed: Learn From Experts and Contribute to the Conversation at the [2017 US/ICOMOS Leadership Forum and Benefit](#)

What can heritage professionals and friends of the world heritage movement expect as the U.S. withdraws from UNESCO? What can we do to keep world heritage relevant and moving forward in these unsure times? The 2017 US/ICOMOS Leadership Forum and Benefit will address these issues and more. Highlights of the Forum include:

Welcoming Plenary Session: The state of world heritage today and the current and future role of the US and US/ICOMOS

- Remarks by Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson (invited)
- Presentations and discussion with Marie-Laure Lavenir (Director General, ICOMOS), Mechtild Rossler (Director for UNESCO Division for Heritage and UNESCO World Heritage Center), and Kristen Walker, Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, IUCN.

Plenary Session II: American leaders in world heritage and recommendations for directing U.S. and US/ICOMOS efforts

- Presentations and discussion with John Fowler (Executive Director, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation), and representatives of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the U.S. State Department Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, and NPS Associate Director for Cultural Resources

Facilitator-led breakout sessions that address the following questions:

- What do we need from ICOMOS, the World Heritage Center, International Scientific Committees and peer National Committees to be more effective in our work?
- How could the U.S. international and domestic heritage preservation framework be enhanced for better outcomes?
- What should US/ICOMOS do to better serve its mission and members?

[Read the entire tentative schedule here.](#) The [2017 US/ICOMOS Leadership Forum and Benefit](#) will take place in Washington, D.C. at the U.S. Department of the Interior Headquarters, November 29-30.

[Support our Work by Attending the Benefit Gala](#)

Did you know that although US/ICOMOS works closely with U.S. governmental entities such as the National Park Service and the Department of State, our primary source of support is contributions from our members and patrons? As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, we can't do what we do without you.

We hope that as you are making plans to attend the Forum--and even if you're unable to attend the Forum--you will consider attending the Benefit Gala on November 30th. This Reception, Dinner and Awards event serves as US/ICOMOS's principal fundraiser of and sustains the important work of the organization. This year, we are providing more opportunities to participate than ever before. Guests may choose to purchase tickets for the Cocktail Reception only (6:00-7:30 pm), or for the reception and dinner (dinner, 7:30-10:00 pm).



The Benefit Gala will be held at the Cosmos Club, pictured at left, in Washington, D.C., on November 30th. Winners of the 2017 Murtagh-Graham Prize, the Ann Webster Smith Award, and new US/ICOMOS Fellows will be announced.

We are offering significant discounts for Members (see below) and Young Professionals. Anyone who is a 2017 or 2018 member of US/ICOMOS is eligible for the member discount. [Please make plans now to join us!](#)

Africa Initiative Discussed at International Scientific Committee on Archeological Heritage Management (ICAHM) Meeting in Bagamayo, Tanzania



Doug Comer, President of US/ICOMOS and ICAHM, recently led ICAHM's 2017 meeting in Bagamayo (Dar-es-Salam), Tanzania, on the theme "Sub-Saharan Africa and International Trade Routes." Bill Pencek, US/ICOMOS Executive Director, attended as well and Grant Gilmore, US/ICOMOS Board Member, presented "Back to Africa, The Trade in Ceramic and Aluminum Coalpots in the Atlantic World" during a session devoted to trade routes.



During the meeting, Doug Comer led the first of two substantive discussions about an initiative in which well-established national committees from around the globe assist sub-Saharan African nations to formulate national committees or strengthen these where they already exist. Participants from longtime national committees will provide guidance on protocols, successful programs and initiatives, and ideas for funding sources. Beyond moving world heritage management and designation initiatives forward in sub-Saharan Africa, the initiative will provide a rare forum for national committees new and old to share ideas that can be utilized by all nations to strengthen the World Heritage movement.

2018 MEMBERSHIP ALERT:
join or renew now!

Receive the Lowest Rates for the Forum and Benefit by Joining or Renewing Now

2018 membership registration is underway! Individuals and Institutions who join or renew enjoy discounted member rates for the 2017 Forum and Benefit (not to mention the many other benefits of membership!). [To learn about membership options, read here.](#)

- **Current members:** [rejoin here.](#)
- **Past members:** [rejoin here.](#) If you don't know the email address that you registered with initially, please contact jspreitzer@usicomos.org for assistance.
- **New members:** [join here.](#)

For those of you who work for larger organizations, we encourage Institutional membership. For more information about institutional membership benefits and options, please [click here and scroll down to the "Institutional Membership" section.](#)

Thank you for your support!

Join the Conversation on Social Media



*and Please Forward this Newsletter to
Friends and Colleagues!*

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.