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US/ICOMOS at Work

May 2020 E-News



Taliesin West sunset by Foskett Creative; Courtesy of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation

Welcome to "US/ICOMOS at Work," 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. Image: May is National Preservation Month in the United States. In honor of the month and since historic sites and museums are currently closed, Frank Lloyd Wright World Heritage and other sites are sharing virtual tours. [Learn more here](#). Pictured above is Taliesin West. Credit: Foskett Creative, Courtesy of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.

— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

Healing the Wounds from COVID-19 with World Heritage: Your Expertise Needed

By Douglas C. Comer, Ph.D.
US/ICOMOS President

We are reminded each day that we are in the midst of not just a health, but an economic crisis.

Now is the time to demonstrate how World Heritage has brought benefit to the United States, socially and economically at home, and how it has built bridges to the other nations

of the world. We have many examples to draw from, and here we ask for your assistance in taking the opportunity to tell the stories of these sites using digital technology. We have stunning images to broadcast, but as importantly, we have US/ICOMOS members who can speak about each of our World Heritage Sites. In presenting a site, it is axiomatic that nothing is more effective than people talking to people. In the past this has been done face-to-face, now we must develop engaging ways to do this using technology.

Time is of the essence. To make our case, to engage and increase the membership of US/ICOMOS so that we can do this, I ask for those who can assist to step forward. **Two types of assistance are very clearly needed:**

- Representatives and advocates for specific World Heritage Sites in the U.S. who have video material such as virtual tours and are willing to enhance this with a personal narration, to talk about how the concept of Outstanding Universal Value applies to the site, the stories of the people who are associated with it, and to recap the preservation challenges presented by the pandemic and possible mitigations.
- Those who have expertise to increase the production value of video presentations. You are there, can we ask for your advice and counsel?

We invite and encourage those interested in working this way to contact the US/ICOMOS Board of Trustees by emailing me at president@usicomos.org.

[Read President Comer's Entire Letter Here](#)

IEP 2020 Update

By Brian Michael Lione, Chair, on behalf of the US/ICOMOS IEP Committee

The International Exchange Program (IEP) Committee continues to monitor the effects of COVID-19 / coronavirus in the U.S. and around the world. At this time the 2020 IEP is still on hold pending an update from the U.S. State Department concerning a 'pause' on all new J-1 exchange visitor visa applications (needed for IEP interns inbound to the U.S.). The IEP is also on hold pending the lifting of travel restrictions in many of the countries hoping to host IEP interns outbound from the U.S.

New information about the J-1 program from the State Department is expected in mid-May, at the end of a 60-day waiting period announced on 12 March 2020. Should the State Department decide to restart the J-1 program, the IEP Committee will work with hosts and inbound interns to determine if internships can go forward in 2020. We will also continue to monitor travel restrictions that currently impact our outbound interns and determine what options we have for outbound placements as those restrictions are lifted.

We on the IEP Committee appreciate the continued patience on the part of host organizations and interns, and we are thankful to those of you who have [donated to support the IEP](#) in these difficult times. We are committed to continuing the important work of the IEP. For 35 years, the IEP has facilitated the training of hundreds of young and emerging professionals in the cultural heritage field in the U.S. and in over 70 countries around the world. The simple delay of the program in 2020 already means that the 36th IEP cohort will be different from those that preceded it. We look forward to a time when we can resume a 'normal' program, but until then we will consider other options to ensure that the IEP endures and continues to connect people and ideas around the world.

More information on the IEP can be found [on our website](#). Questions about the program should be directed to me at IEP@usicomos.org.

ISC In Depth: [ICIP](#), the International Scientific Committee (ISC) on Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites

US/ICOMOS at Work occasionally features ICOMOS ISCs in order to highlight their work 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 this year, you can join here](#)

Today we're featuring ICIP, described by U.S. member and ICIP Vice President Anne Ketz.

1. Tell us your name, occupation, company and a few words about your interest in ICIP.



I am Anne Ketz, one of the owners of the 106 Group, a consulting company that has guided the planning, management, and interpretation of natural, historical, and cultural resources for over 27 years. My career in heritage management and planning extends over 30 years and three continents. I firmly believe that good interpretation is key to sustainable heritage management. In this modern world, people's connections to a place and their community are often detached. The culture, nature, and history that define these places is forgotten or never learned. It's hard to imagine the prairie before the metropolis, the wheat before the bread, or the world before today. Interpreters are responsible for inspiring this kind of imagination and helping people understand the value of a place's story. Stories connect people to a specific place, providing them with distinct experiences and stronger links to the community. These connections and unique stories are a critical part of sustainable heritage management practices. ICIP plays a key role within ICOMOS and beyond to ensure a strong future for our heritage for

generations to come. I am honored to serve my second term as vice president for this organization.

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

Within ICOMOS, ICIP's role is to develop the theory and practice of heritage interpretation in relation to cultural heritage.

The ICIP Board has been working towards implementing the current ICIP Strategic Plan, particularly focusing on working closely with other interpretation organizations to foster partnerships and collaborate on joint projects. We continue to advance the ICIP partnership with [Life Beyond Tourism](#), run by the Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco® in Italy, to collaborate in developing new models for sustainable tourism that include interpretation. ICIP President Sue Hodges and I played key roles at the Life Beyond Tourism's General Assembly in Florence in 2019. Sadly, the cancellation of the conference in March this year meant we could not continue that physical presence.

We continue to find ways to promote the goals for the [Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites in all our work](#).

We need to ensure we are relevant; interpretation is a key tool in connecting people, place, and time. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at anneketz@106group.com (www.106group.com).

[CONTINUE READING THE ENTIRE INTERVIEW ON OUR WEBSITE: https://usicomos.org/isc-in-depth-icip/](#)

Introducing Courtney Piper, US/ICOMOS Summer Intern



Although the status of the 2020 International Exchange Program (IEP) is still undecided, US/ICOMOS is fortunate to have one intern working with us remotely for the next month: Courtney Piper, a full time student pursuing a Master's degree in International Cultural Heritage Management at Durham University in the UK. Courtney is from Jacksonville, Florida, and attended Florida State University for her undergraduate studies in Anthropology and Museum Studies.

Courtney will be assisting us with advancement research and social media and other communications projects. Welcome to

US/ICOMOS, Courtney!

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE: https://usicomos.org/introducing-courtney-piper-us-](#)

— OF NOTE —

2019 Annual Report

U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites Nomination

The Georgia State University World Heritage Initiative spent 2019 advancing the Serial Nomination of U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites by submitting to the World Heritage Centre a draft document expressing the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and Justification for Inscription under World Heritage Criteria and then waiting for an “upstream evaluation” by the International Council on Monuments and Sites while also preparing individual management plans and other components of the dossier.

Read more here: <https://worldheritage.gsu.edu/2020/05/05/eblast-05-05-2020-annual-report-for-2019/>



How are other ICOMOS National Committees Addressing the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic?

ICOMOS Nepal has been one of the first to assess the current situation and present ideas for moving forward. Read their report here:

<https://icomos.es/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Culture-and-Pandemic-ICOMOS-NEPAL-18APRIL2020.pdf>

Photo credit: Bhaktapur, 2020 © Onlinekhabar

Notre Dame to Reopen on Schedule in 2024

Despite Covid-19 related delays, the Cathedral of Notre Dame of Paris, announced that it plans to reopen on schedule.

Notre Dame suffered a serious fire on April 15, 2019. Read more here about the World Heritage site's repair and reopening:



Notre Dame Cathedral ablaze in Paris on April 15, 2019. (manhhal/Flickr)

Calling Institutional Members!

Is your organization or firm an Institutional member of US/ICOMOS? If so, would you like your organization to be featured on the US/ICOMOS website, in an upcoming newsletter and via social media? Write jspreitzer@usicomos.org to let Jenny Spreitzer know and she will contact you with more information.

If you are NOT a member currently, but would like to join, please do so here: <https://membership.usicomos.org/>

Institutional membership is a cost-effective way to promote US/ICOMOS membership within your organization or firm, allowing you to designate up to four staff, faculty, trustees or other individuals associated with your organization for the International membership. Standard Institutional Membership costs \$700 and underwrites the many programs of US/ICOMOS.

Join the Conversation on Social Media



*and Please Forward this Newsletter to
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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 usicomos.org.

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