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US/ICOMOS at Work

June 2020 E-News



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: The Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, is infamous as the site of a police assault on peaceful demonstrators in 1965. Credit: Alabama Department of Tourism.

— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

Statement by US/ICOMOS: Opposition to Racial Prejudice and Condemnation of Enabling Political Rhetoric

Written in 1945, the preamble to UNESCO's constitution states, "since wars begin in the minds of [humans] it is in the minds of [humans] that the defenses of peace must be constructed." Seventy-five years later this same logic profoundly applies to the tragic events that have recently overtaken the United States. The World Heritage Convention, the guiding light of US/ICOMOS, is based upon the ideas that all peoples and races are equal, that all deserve respect, and that embracing these ideas is essential to the sustainability of humankind. To reject them can only lead to disaster.

US/ICOMOS grieves for George Floyd who died in a horrendous way, and for Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and countless others who have been senselessly and hatefully

killed. We convey our heartfelt sympathy to their families and friends, to their communities and also to all those who have suffered injustice because of mindless prejudice. We condemn the racism that continues to be manifest in America and we call for an end to police violence against peaceful protesters calling for justice while exercising their rights under the United States Constitution.

[Continue Reading Here](#)

How U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites and World Heritage Relate to Today's Protests

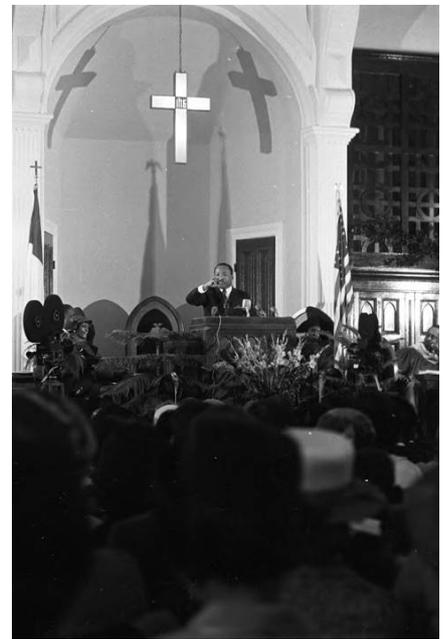


**By Glenn T. Eskew, Director, Georgia State University World Heritage Initiative
Professor of History, Georgia State University,
Atlanta, GA**

Recent protests across the United States over continued white supremacist violence and police brutality recall the demonstrations of the civil rights era a half-century ago that are memorialized at such sites as the Three Alabama Churches on the Tentative List for World Heritage [Pictured at left: Conclusion of the Selma to Montgomery March with Dexter Avenue Baptist Church to right and Alabama State Capitol at center, 1965]. While racism persists, much has changed over the years following the removal of legal racial segregation symbolized by black political empowerment through the election of African Americans to local and national offices. Although today “the fires of discord are burning in every city,” (President John F. Kennedy, 1963) now the calls for reform by such groups as Black Lives Matter are echoed by millions of people—multi-racial, multi-religious, multi-generational—nonviolently marching in the streets.

During the 1950s and 1960s, civil rights activists challenged the structural problem of white supremacy evident in the very built environment with “white” and “colored” entrances to public buildings, racially separate and unequal accommodations, segregated schools, parks, neighborhoods, and churches. Jim Crow architectural design and town planning reinforced the racist attitudes of white segregationists.

The Serial Nomination of U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites finds its statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in the interchange of ideas surrounding nonviolent protest that removed racial proscriptions from structures and landscapes so that these places became accessible to all regardless of the social construct of race—or as applied through the 1964 Civil Rights Act—ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. The events of global significance that occurred at these U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites inspired similar nonviolent protests the world over that altered the built environment elsewhere and affirmed the universal values of equality, democracy, and human rights. [At right: Dr. Martin Luther King Dr. King preaching from the pulpit of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery. Credit Alabama Archives.]



The Serial Nomination properties are all the more important today as venues of racial reconciliation. When the Mayor of Atlanta--an African American woman named Keisha Lance Bottoms--spoke out against the violence that erupted at the CNN Center during the recent protests, she recalled the city's native son, Dr. Martin Luther King, and his advocacy for nonviolence as the appropriate way to protest grievances. These historic places connected to the earlier struggle for racial equality teach the power of nonviolent social change, hence too their global significance as potential World Heritage Sites.

[Read Professor Eskew's entire essay here to learn more about the World Heritage nomination and the selection of sites.](#)

IEP 2020 Update

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

The IEP Committee regrets to announce the cancellation of the 2020 International Exchange Program.

The IEP Committee does not make this decision lightly or without disappointment. We have done everything we can to determine how we could safely implement the IEP this year. In the past months we have carefully tracked the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic using factual data from the US Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization. We have also looked closely at visa, travel, and movement restrictions in the US and around the world, particularly in the seven US states and the four countries internationally where the internships would take place. After several months of review, we are now no closer to

defining a safe path forward to hold the IEP in 2020 and must unfortunately make the decision to cancel.

In the coming month the IEP Committee will work closely with the host organizations and selected interns for 2020 to determine if we can make the same placements in 2021. To do this we will take the opportunity to reflect on the 36-year history of the IEP and plan to bring the program back even stronger next year. We will also work with other committees and the leadership of US/ICOMOS, IEP alumni, and US/ICOMOS members to highlight the IEP and its international impact via webinars and social media events.

As we move forward we will work hard to reconnect with former interns and hosts. If you are an intern alum or represent a host organization of the US/ICOMOS IEP (aka 'Summer Intern Program'), please get in touch on social media, drop us an email at IEP@usicomos.org, or [complete the alumni network form on our website](#). We would love to hear from you and share your IEP story. See also the brief article below about a series of "IEP: Where Are They Now?" videos that we need alumni assistance with to produce!

US/ICOMOS Launches New Emerging Professionals Network

We are pleased to announce the establishment of the US/ICOMOS Emerging Professionals (EP) Network, created in response to ICOMOS's call for an expanded Emerging Professional (EP) membership base within national and scientific committees. The US/ICOMOS EP Network aims to facilitate communication and exchange between EPs in the United States and their global counterparts and to create opportunities for collaboration.



In the coming months, co-chairs Caroline Cheong (pictured right above) and Zoe Leung (left) will work closely with ICOMOS EP Working Group (EPWG) and U.S. preservation organizations to solidify details of the Network and engagement opportunities. Please write to epwg@usicomos.org with questions and inputs. We look forward to hearing from you and keeping you posted on new developments!

Institutional Member Focus: Kent Diebolt and Vertical Access

VERTICAL
access

This is the first essay in a series about US/ICOMOS Institutional Members and Supporters. We're very pleased to begin the series with Kent Diebolt (pictured below); [Vertical Access LLC](#), the company he founded; and [1% for the Planet](#), the philanthropy through which Kent supports US/ICOMOS.

Among [US/ICOMOS institutional members](#), one organization is absolutely unique: that organization is Vertical Access, founded by Kent Diebolt in 1992 to utilize lightweight rigging systems—i.e. climbing harnesses and ropes—to conduct condition surveys on all types of structures. Vertical Access provides specialized building inspections and condition reports for architects, engineers, and conservators utilizing efficient, lightweight rigging systems. This unique approach to architectural investigation offers quick, “hands-on” access without expensive scaffolding, cranes, and boom lifts.

Kent founded Vertical Access after learning about the use of lightweight rigging systems to conduct condition surveys from a former fellow graduate student from England, where the practice was already highly developed in the 1980s. More recently, Vertical Access has ventured into the use of drones to conduct surveys as well.

Vertical Access has been an Institutional Member of US/ICOMOS since the mid-1990s. Kent explained how he came to join and support US/ICOMOS: “When I founded Vertical Access in 1992, our primary focus was on the investigation and documentation of monumental historic buildings. Accordingly, my nascent company joined a number of professional and heritage organizations, including US/ICOMOS and The Association for Preservation Technology International (APTI). During a two-year stint as APTI Board liaison to US/ICOMOS, I became more familiar with the mission, finances and operations of both organizations.”



In addition to contributing as an Institutional Member, Kent also supports US/ICOMOS through [1% for the Planet](#). 1% for the Planet donors commit to setting aside 1% of their annual gross income in support of a wide array of approved not-for profit

organizations with a focus and impact on environmental issues. This support has been very meaningful to US/ICOMOS over the years. We are honored to be among these recipients. We also encourage you and your organization to learn more about 1% for the Planet, which offers giving programs for both organizations and individuals: <https://www.onepercentfortheplanet.org/>. We hope that our other members will consider joining Kent and Vertical Access in their support of environmental non-profits and US/ICOMOS. Thank you, Kent and Vertical Access for your continued support.

[Read more about Kent, Vertical Access and 1% for the Planet here](#)

Calling All International Exchange Program Alumni: Your Assistance Needed with a Social Media Video Project

We're saddened by the fact that there will be no International Exchange Program this summer, but we're using this opportunity to reconnect with alumni and learn what you are doing now.

As most of you hopefully know, we have posted a wonderful series of photographs of our IEP's activities in the field on our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) feeds over the past three summers. This summer, we're trying something new: a series of "International Exchange Program: Where Are They Now?" videos featuring any and all alumni who wish to participate. Our lone summer intern - [Courtney Piper](#), working remotely -- came up with this fantastic idea and will be handling all production work from her home in Florida.



Curious about what these videos will look like? Our very first 'Where are they now' video features Brian Lione, IEP alumnus and Chair of the US/ICOMOS IEP Committee. [Click here to see Brian's video on our YouTube channel](#). We'll also post a one-minute version of this on our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) feeds. We're calling on all IEP Alumni to make videos of their own that we will share on our social media. Interested? Drop an email to IEP@usicomos.org with your name and year of IEP (also known as the Summer Intern Program) and we'll send you instructions on how to make and submit your video. Thanks for participating!

NPS Launches "[Twenty & Odd](#)" Exploring 400 years of the African American Experience

Set against 400 years of suffering, healing, and strength, with a backdrop of our nation's most storied lands, the innumerable contributions of African Americans to the foundation of the United States are recognized in this short film. "Twenty & Odd" serves as a visual tool to inform and highlight and to educate the nation as a whole about the trauma, resilience, and beauty of the African American experience in our country through the lens of sites stewarded by the National Park Service.



Culture 2030 Goals: Culture and Covid



With the world facing the COVID-19 pandemic today and the need to rebuild our societies tomorrow, culture should be at the heart of the response. Culture brings inspiration, comfort and hope into people's lives. Cultural events, sites, and institutions such as museums are enormous economic drivers and can play a major role in the social and economic recovery from the pandemic. To harness this potential, the Culture 2030 Goal movement, in the context of its engagement in the United Nations 2030 Agenda, calls on UN agencies, governments and all other stakeholders to act.

[Read the Declaration Here](#)

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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