

[View this email in your browser](#)



US/ICOMOS at Work

October 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: Bats over Carlsbad Caverns National Park and World Heritage Site. Please read more below about advocacy efforts regarding this site.

— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

A Message from President Douglas C. Comer, Ph.D.

We hope that this October newsletter finds you in good health and looking forward to the final months of 2020. This was not the year we anticipated. We're proud of the resilience and adaptability that we have all displayed in the face of the novel Coronavirus pandemic and its many impacts on daily life. It has been a year of greatly expanding our organization's reach and enhancing our advocacy for World Heritage, with a renewed emphasis on common dignity, human rights, and the international and inter-cultural understanding that form the foundation on which World Heritage rests.

We just completed our 4th World Heritage Webinar on October 15th: "Live from Chicago: Frank Lloyd Wright's Frederick C. Robie House." If you missed it, you can find a recording of it along with all of our other webinars [on our Youtube channel page](#). The World Heritage Webinar series was a new program for us in 2020 and we're very proud of it. Response to the webinars has been outstanding and it has been a great pleasure working with the people and organizations who helped bring these to life. We have formed relationships that will last

far into the future and we want to support them and their goals from this point forward. We look at each webinar as a beginning.

We have two exciting events planned for November and December. Read about our Virtual International Conference and Symposium (Nov 12-13) with the overall theme of social justice and our Virtual Celebration of World Heritage (December 19) below. We hope to see you at each event.



Finally, please make a plan to vote in the U.S. federal election if you are a citizen and have not voted yet!



[2020 Virtual International Conference and Symposium](#) will Feature Kickoff Plenary with **Lonnie G. Bunch III and Robert Stanton**

We are thrilled and honored to announce that Lonnie G. Bunch III, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, has agreed to Keynote our Conference and Symposium on the theme of social justice in a conversation with Director Robert Stanton, former National Park Service (NPS) Director and current Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Expert Member. Secretary Bunch oversees 19 museums, 21

libraries, the National Zoo, numerous research centers, and several education units and centers. This will be a compelling conversation between two long-time leaders who have spent their careers engaged in promoting social justice in cultural heritage, the National Parks and society as a whole. Please make plans now to join us!

[Registration is open for the Symposium.](#) We have many options to make attendance accessible to students; and emerging, established and institutional members. Member Institutions are invited to register as many affiliated attendees as you wish at the discounted member price. See our preliminary agenda below and check your email for notices as we update our list of speakers.

Day One

Social Justice, Civil Rights & Slavery

November 12, 2020: 1 – 5 pm EDT

1 – 1:30 PM Plenary Session: a Conversation with Lonnie G. Bunch III and Robert Stanton

1:40 – 2:40 PM International Examples of Monuments Associated with Oppression

2:50 – 3:50 PM World Heritage Sites and Slavery

[4 – 5:00 PM](#) Interpretation of Civil Rights Sites

Day Two

Social Justice and Indigenous Peoples

November 13: 1 – 6:30 pm EDT

[1 – 1:30 PM](#) Plenary

[1:40 – 2:40 PM](#) World Heritage and Indigenous Peoples' Struggles for Social Justice

[2:50 – 3:50 PM](#) Interpreting Indigenous Homeland World Heritage Sites

[4 – 5:00 PM](#) Diversifying & Decolonizing World Heritage

[5 – 6:30 PM](#) Cocktail Hour/Mixer: Virtual Networking and post-Symposium discussions in breakout rooms

**REGISTER
NOW**

Save the Date for the 2020 Virtual Celebration of World Heritage 2020

We have reimagined our annual gala into the Virtual Celebration of World Heritage, which will feature illustrious speakers and greetings from World Heritage Sites in the U.S. and around the world. The Celebration will also feature a festive gift package sent to your home.

*Virtual
Celebration
of
World Heritage*
19 December 2020

Please save the date of Saturday, December 19, and look for more information from US/ICOMOS soon.

Ronald Lee Fleming Challenge Grant 2020: [Donate Now](#) to Maximize your Impact and Help us Reach our \$200,000 Goal



2020 has been a challenging year. Luckily, we have a very generous donor, US/ICOMOS Fellow Ron Fleming, who will DOUBLE all contributions made to US/ICOMOS this calendar year. There are also [2020 tax incentives](#) that might prove an added incentive and we have opened a brokerage account if you wish to donate securities.

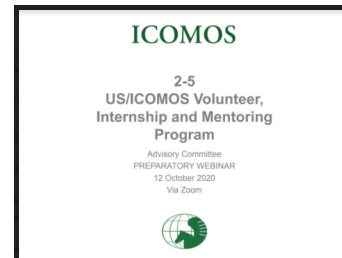
To meet Ron's \$200,000 challenge grant, your gift is essential! We have raised more than usual since announcing the Challenge in July, but we have a long way to go to reach our \$200,000 goal. If we can meet this challenge, US/ICOMOS will emerge ready to operate successfully in a changed post-pandemic world. Please contribute now to double the impact of your fully tax-deductible contribution by clicking on the button below. If you have questions

about making a donation via brokerage account, please email us at Membership@usicomos.org.

Donate Now to Double Your Contribution

US/ICOMOS Volunteer Program Presented to ICOMOS Advisory Committee

US/ICOMOS President Douglas C. Comer presented information about our Volunteer, Internship and Mentoring program at the ICOMOS Advisory Committee Preparatory Webinar on October 12th. Doug's goal was to encourage other national committees to set up similar programs in their countries and to provide a starting point for their organization.



Many thanks to Nicole Ursin, US/ICOMOS Membership Manager, for designing this program and implementing it within the United States. We encourage all of our members and friends to think about how we might expand this effort during the winter semester that will begin in the new year. If you are affiliated with a university, please consider joining US/ICOMOS as an Institutional Member and helping us identify virtual internship opportunities. You can contact Nicole at membership@usicomos.org.

Advocacy Update and Alerts: Chaco Culture and Carlsbad Caverns World Heritage Sites in New Mexico



CHACO CULTURE: The many local, national and international comments and protests to proposed leasing of lands near Chaco Culture National Historical Park and World Heritage Site, have resulted in the U.S. Bureau of Land Management announcing that a 10-mile zone of federal land around Chaco Culture National Historical Park will be excluded from energy leases until the end of 2020.

This is a brief reprieve. The [Albuquerque Journal reported that U.S. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt stated that it's up to Congress to make the buffer zone permanent](#). Unless there is movement in Congress or a change in administration, it is very likely that leasing will

begin next year and the Chaco Culture World Heritage Site and sacred historic landscape

will continue to be at risk. [You can read comments submitted by several conservation and tribal organizations, including US/ICOMOS, here.](#)

PROPOSED LEASING NEAR CARLSBAD CAVERNS: The Bureau of Land Management is preparing to lease more federal public land to the oil and gas industry in southeast New Mexico and is seeking public input now for an auction in April of 2021. This leasing has been protested due to its proximity to [Carlsbad Caverns, a natural World Heritage Site](#) that comprises over 80 recognized caves in a fragile karst landscape. The caves are outstanding for their size and the profusion, diversity and beauty of their mineral formations which continue to form today.

The [Coalition to Protect National Parks](#) wrote a letter to Secretary Bernhardt calling for a halt on any new lease sales during the pandemic. The letter notes that "An upcoming lease sale within 10 miles of Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico will not only jeopardize critical species habitat, it will endanger the irreplaceable natural and cultural resources at the park. Caves have a fragile ecosystem. Oil and gas drilling on nearby lands could leak gas or fluids into the cave's passages, destroying the delicate balance that exists within the walls of the cave. In addition, oil and gas development could compromise the dark skies and scenic beauty that draws so many visitors to New Mexico."

If you would like to provide input on potential impacts of the sale on the Carlsbad Caverns World Heritage Site, please [contact Secretary Bernhardt online](#) or write to him at:

The Honorable David Bernhardt
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW Washington, DC 20240

— ICOMOS NEWS & EVENTS —



UN Issues [Report on Cultural Rights and Climate Change](#)

The report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Ms. Karima Bennouna, on **cultural rights and climate change** is now available online, at this page: <https://www.undocs.org/en/A/75/298> and on the [website of the mandate](#).

The Special Rapporteur will present her report to the General Assembly on **Thursday, 22 October, tentatively at 15:00**, New York time (EDT). All who wish to follow the interactive dialogue live can do so by accessing the webcast through this link: <http://webtv.un.org/live/>

The Special Rapporteur will also participate in a webinar addressing the theme of her report, entitled "[Climate change and cultural extinction: A Human Rights Crisis](#)", on 21 October, between 13:15 - 14:45 EDT. To register on zoom, please [follow this link](#).

ICCROM Updates Website with Country Profiles



ICCROM, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, is pleased to announce the introduction of a [newly-designed home page](#) together with a dedicated [Country Profiles area](#) of the redesigned site.

The new [Country Profile section](#) consists of an interactive map which hosts information on the cultural heritage of our Member States, the legal framework for preserving it, as well as heritage institutions in their country. This has been a collaborative effort between the Member States and ICCROM. The information submitted by Member States is supplemented with data and graphs linked to ICCROM databases.

ICCROM hopes that this new point of entry into their work, content and activities, will continue to broaden access to information among their various stakeholders and strengthen the relations between ICCROM and its Member States.

— OF NOTE —

Make Sure our Emails Reach your Primary Inbox in Gmail



If you are a Gmail user and our emails are not arriving in your "Primary" mailbox, here are some easy ways to fix this problem:

1. Add these "from" email addresses to your Google Contacts: President@usicomos.org and Membership@usicomos.org.
2. Move our emails to the Primary tab: when you "click and drag" one of our emails from the Promotions tab to the Primary tab, Gmail will ask whether it should always deliver your campaigns there. Click "Yes."

Thank you again for subscribing and reading our newsletters and other communications. We appreciate your continued interest and support.



Webinar: "The invincible City. Society in Cultural Heritage Recovery", October 21 at 11.00 a.m. CEST

The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland and the National Institute of Cultural Heritage together with experts from the World Heritage Centre UNESCO, ICOMOS and ICCROM are pleased to invite you to take part in a webinar "The Invincible City. Society in Cultural Heritage Recovery" on 21 October 2020, organized to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the reconstruction of the Historic Centre of Warsaw.

The webinar will be conducted in English. Participation in the webinar is free of charge. Please register at:

<https://app.evenea.pl/event/theinvinciblecity/>

THE INVINCIBLE CITY
Society in cultural heritage recovery

40th
Anniversary of Warsaw inscription on the World Heritage List

75 years of recovery of Warsaw

WARSAW
21st OCTOBER 2020, 11 a.m. CEST

Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland
National Institute of Cultural Heritage

Register Now for the International Institute for Conservation (IIC) 2020 Congress

The IIC welcomes everyone with a passion for cultural heritage and a professional interest to attend the IIC 2020 Congress: "Current Practices and Challenges in Built Heritage Conservation", 2-6 November 2020.

All events will take place online and attendance will be FREE for IIC members. The IIC has also taken measures to make participation affordable to all and as accessible as possible.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2021

Please join or renew for 2021 now!

Join

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 usicomos.org.

Copyright © 2020 US/ICOMOS, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).