

[View this email in your browser](#)



US/ICOMOS at Work

December 2020 E-News

VIRTUAL CELEBRATION OF WORLD HERITAGE

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: Our largest fundraiser of the year is this Saturday, December 19: <https://usicomos.org/celebrations/>

— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

Last Chance to Register: [Virtual Celebration of World Heritage](#) is this SATURDAY, December 19th!

We have reinvented our annual Gala Celebration this year so you can celebrate from the comfort and safety of your home. [If you haven't already registered to join us, register now!](#)

Program highlights include:

- Welcome message from Honorary Co-Chair Irina Bokova, former Director-General of UNESCO and longtime supporter of World Heritage (top left, below).



- Greetings from Congresswoman Deb Haaland (top right, below), representative of New Mexico's 1st congressional district and Vice Chair of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources.
- Year-end greetings from World Heritage Sites in the United States and around the World. Bottom left, below, is a National Park Service (NPS) ranger at Great Smoky National Park and World Heritage site.
- A Welcome to Petra and Jordan by HRH Dana Firas, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador (bottom right, below). All *Platinum World Heritage Sponsorships for Ten* (\$5,000) include a private virtual tour of Petra. If you would like to change your sponsorship level to participate in this tour, please contact us at membership@usicomos.org.





We have many sponsorship levels for the Virtual Celebration:[learn more and sign on here.](#)

Also, please note that **you can gain admission to the event with ANY CONTRIBUTION.** To receive access to the exclusive Zoom link for the virtual festivities with a gift of any amount, [please click here.](#) Indicate "Celebration" on the Tribute line. All contributions will be matched 1:1 up to \$200,000 thanks to a generous matching grant from US/ICOMOS Fellow Ronald Lee Fleming, pictured at right with trustee Jan C.K. Anderson. Thank you to everyone who has already committed to sponsorship and to everyone who has contributed to US/ICOMOS this year. We truly appreciate your support!





We also appreciate the many volunteers contributing their time and talent to make the Celebration a success. We will thank more of them in future, but here highlight Po Han Su (left), who has spent countless hours editing the World Heritage Greetings that will be featured during the event. Po Han is currently taking a year off from his Film Production Master's Program in Los Angeles to complete his mandatory military service in the mountains of Taiwan. He writes, "I'm normally a cinematographer and lighting designer, but I enjoy

editing as well. It's been absolutely incredible to edit this project, seeing beautiful footage come through from all over the world. I've been having a lot of fun putting videos together, and they make me want to travel to these places as well since I have a huge interest in world history." You can follow Po Han on Instagram @pohansuu or hire him for freelance video editing at [supohan15\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:supohan15[at]gmail.com). Thank you, Po Han! **Register now to join us on the 19th so you can see Po Han's work.**

[Click Here to Celebrate with US/ICOMOS on December 19th!](#)

2020 in Retrospect

A Message from Douglas C. Comer, Ph.D., US/ICOMOS President



The year behind us, 2020, is one that presented challenges unlike those anyone alive today can recall, for US/ICOMOS and for the world. But it is at moments like this that we are forced to confront the issues that have brought us to this point of international and intercultural fragmentation, discord, and conflict.

It was in fact at a moment such as this, at the end of World War II that the United Nations was formed. [...] Most of the people alive today have forgotten the terrible lessons learned from those world wars that arose from a perfect storm of economic inequality and racial intolerance. We find ourselves again in a whirl of conspiracy theories that portray "others" as contriving threats, convincing many to rally behind those who attempt to project strength and the ability to bring back an imaginary golden age by making vile accusations.

It has become clear to us at US/ICOMOS that we share a moral responsibility to restore international and intercultural understanding. We deal in heritage. What does heritage have to do with it?

- International and intercultural understanding

- Social Justice

Heritage is what we take from what happened in the past, and heritage determines what happens in the future because it is what builds our communities and our identities. Heritage is the foundation: what we grow out of, who we are, and who we will be.

[Continue Reading Here...](#)

Year in Review: World Heritage Advocacy in 2020

by T. Destry Jarvis, US/ICOMOS Vice President

2020 was a tough year for many of our issues, beyond the effects of Covid-19. Congress remained in stalemate between House and Senate, so we had no chance to get a bill enacted to allow State Department to pay the USA's back dues to the World Heritage Center, which certainly will slow, if not stop, momentum for any inscriptions of new U.S. World Heritage sites until this impasse is resolved. On the positive side,

thanks largely to Trustee Tom Cassidy's lobbying efforts, the House FY 2021 Appropriation bill for Interior urged the National Park Service (NPS) to prioritize funding for needed deferred maintenance work in the 19 U.S. World Heritage Sites that are managed by NPS.

We joined with many of our preservation and conservation colleagues in opposing the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)'s major oil and gas leasing plan for public lands that surround the Chaco Culture National Historic Park and World Heritage site that would even more negatively impact numerous Chacoan "outliers" that are archeological sites on BLM land also included in the World Heritage site boundary.

- We supported legislation to establish a 10-mile no-leasing zone on BLM lands around Chaco, which passed the House by a wide margin, but has thus far not moved ahead in the Senate.
- We helped raise awareness about the risks to Chaco in our September 10 World Heritage Webinar "World Heritage Site at Risk: Chaco Culture National Historical Park" (pictured above).
- In an effort to prepare the incoming administration, we have signed on to and shared a memo entitled ["Recommendations on Planning for and Managing Oil & Gas Leasing and Development in New Mexico's Greater Chaco Region."](#)

We thank our members, partners and everyone else who has joined us in these efforts and



World Heritage Site at Risk: Chaco Culture National Historical Park - Webinar - September 10th, 2020

will continue to keep you apprised of our actions. To gain perspective on these lands, their significance, and the threats they currently face, please read "[A Sacred Space: a Contemporary reflection on ancestral ties](#)" by Governor Brian D. Vallo, [Pueblo of Acoma](#), and "[With Gold in their Eyes](#)" by Paul Reed, Preservation Archaeologist with [Archaeology Southwest](#).



2021 International Exchange Program (IEP) Update

by Brian Lione, IEP Committee Chair and US/ICOMOS Trustee

All of us on the US/ICOMOS IEP Committee are encouraged by the recent news of a vaccine, and we are hopeful that the 2021 IEP can go forward as planned. However, as the global coronavirus pandemic continues, the final fate of the 2021 IEP remains uncertain.

The IEP Committee is committed to holding the 2021 program in-person and on time (end-May through mid-August), but will only do so if it is safe for all host and intern participants. We remain committed to working with those participants who were ready to take part in the 2020 program until the pandemic forced us to cancel it. We therefore are not accepting any new applications for hosts or participants for 2021.

After the new year, we will check in with the 2020 participants and confirm their interest and ability to take part in 2021. We will then consult with the Smithsonian Institution's Office of International Relations (program sponsors for the J-1 exchange visas) to come up with a revised timeline for the 2021 program.

On behalf of all of us on the IEP Committee, I wish everyone very happy holidays and a healthy and joyous New Year.

We're Hiring!

US/ICOMOS is seeking a part-time employee to coordinate programs. If you're looking for a part-time position that you can accomplish from home, this Program

Coordinator opportunity might be right for you.

A complete description of the position and qualifications are available here: [Program Coordinator Job Description-Final](#).

If you are interested in joining us, please send a cover letter and resume with at least two references to membership@usicomos.org before December 31st with “Program Coordinator Application” in the subject line. We will schedule interviews with selected applicants in early January 2021.

— OF NOTE —



ICOMOS Elects New Officers

The 20th ICOMOS General Assembly has elected new officers to a three year term (2021-2024) and approved accounts and resolutions. A [complete reckoning of recent votes can be accessed here](#).

The candidates for the positions of President, Secretary General and Treasurer have all been elected to these positions:

- President: Teresa Patricio (Belgium)
- Secretary General: Mario Santana (Canada)
- Treasurer: Pamela Jerome (USA)

These four Vice-Presidents have also been elected:

- Riin Alatalu (Estonia)
- Bo Jiang (China)
- Leonardo Castriota (Brazil)
- Alpha Diop (Mali)

Congratulations to all and in particular to US/ICOMOS member Pamela Jerome. We know Pamela will serve with distinction. We will write more about Pamela's plans as Treasurer in our January newsletter. [Learn more about incoming President Teresa Patricio and her platform here](#).

[ICOMOS Declares a Climate Emergency](#)

The planet is at a crossroads where business as usual is no longer an option. This week the 20th ICOMOS General Assembly overwhelmingly voted to declare a Climate and Ecological

Emergency.

Meeting during the 5th anniversary of the Paris Climate Agreement, the declaration recognized that the world is failing to meet the Paris targets and that adverse impacts on cultural heritage are already being felt. It calls for urgent collective action to safeguard heritage from climate change through a precautionary approach that pursues pathways for limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

The declaration also recognizes the immense potential of cultural heritage to enable inclusive, transformative and just climate action. It calls on the ICOMOS community to work to realize this potential and to seek to safeguard all types of heritages from adverse climate impacts, implement risk-informed disaster responses, deliver climate resilient sustainable development; and recognize equity and justice as fundamental dimensions of climate action.

ICOMOS also pledged to actively promote the theme of climate change and cultural heritage as the core topic of its Triennial Scientific Programme and to work to reduce its own carbon footprint.

The resolution was spearheaded by the ICOMOS Climate Change and Heritage Working Group and sponsored by a number of ICOMOS national committees and international scientific committees as well as ICOMOS members from around the world. US/ICOMOS contributors included Andrew Potts (ICOMOS Climate Change Working Group Focal Point), Patricia M. O'Donnell, Greg De Vries, Milagros Flores (Puerto Rico), Pamela Jerome, Adam Markham, and Chris Marrison.

ICOMOS Canada [Webinar on Indigenous Heritage](#): 3:30-5:30 pm EST, December 15



Please join ICOMOS Canada for a webinar on Indigenous Heritage in collaboration with [Indigenous Heritage Circle](#). Learn more and register here: <https://canada.icomos.org/event/property-and-co-management/>

US/ICOMOS collaborated with ICMOS Canada in planning the webinar and identifying speakers. We share many common interests with ICOMOS Canada and will participate in a meeting on the subject of indigenous heritage and co-management tentatively scheduled for February. This meeting will be led by a coalition of indigenous heritage groups in Canada. Please follow our social media for more information as it becomes available.

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](#).

