

# Organized by US/ICOMOS

US National Committee of the  
International Council on Monuments and Sites



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AND

WITH LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FROM

Historic Green

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Louisiana Department of Historic Preservation

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Louisiana Office of State Parks

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Tulane University School of Architecture

Public Lecture presented in partnership with Historic Green



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# Contents

Symposium Theme & Issues Areas .....	3
Program at a Glance.....	4
Venues.....	5
Map of the French Quarter .....	6
Hotel Monteleone Floor Plan .....	7
Detailed Program.....	8
Pre-Conference Tour: Mississippi Gulf Coast .....	12
Post-Conference Tour: Evergreen Plantation.....	14
Abstracts & Speaker Biographies .....	15
Sponsors and Supporters .....	coming soon



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## Symposium Theme & Issue Areas

Heritage sites and their stewardship are vital to community identity and cohesiveness, the development and enhancement of civic life, and fostering and maintaining the democratic ideals that are the basis of American society and are a major contribution to efforts in cultural diplomacy abroad. The participation of U.S. preservationists in the international heritage community helps promote these ideals overseas and builds strong bridges with other nations, particularly when planning for and providing international disaster preparedness and relief assistance.

During times of disaster, human need is the first priority, yet within a short time efforts to rebuild infrastructure and re-house displaced populations are underway. Large-scale natural disasters in recent years include Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and their effects on New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region; earthquakes in Iran and China; the tsunami in Southeast Asia; floods throughout the U.S. Midwest and in northern Europe; and fires at important sites in England, in Greece, and in California, among numerous other examples. Given trends in global climate change and its effects, such phenomena, and others, are likely to have an increasingly profound effect on heritage sites.

Heritage preservation is a vital tool for rebuilding the social, economic, and environmental assets of communities. Without proper planning and preparedness, heritage resources that may have survived the initial disaster—and that are so vital to rebuilding community and identity—can be further harmed during rebuilding efforts or through lack of such initiatives. In addition to the community-building—or rebuilding—functions of heritage sites, many communities depend on economic activity derived from heritage tourism, rendering rapid response and recovery for heritage sites vital to the economic recovery of communities struck by disasters.

The 2009 US/ICOMOS International Symposium will address recurrent issues of disaster preparedness, rapid response, and sustainable recovery utilizing examples from across the U.S. and around the world that have dealt with flood, fire, earthquake, and other natural and human-made threats to heritage sites. Presentations will highlight critically-assessed lessons learned. Specifically, the symposium will include:

- A pre-conference tour on the Mississippi Gulf Coast;
- Presentations on heritage management in times of disaster; and
- Field sessions throughout New Orleans neighborhoods during the conference.

Through symposium activities, participants will gain first-hand exposure to the range of issues and the challenges for preparedness and response. By assessing existing models and through dialogue with presenters, participants will have the opportunity to compare and evaluate practices to find effective and sustainable strategies for use in the U.S. and abroad.

As a result of symposium efforts, US/ICOMOS is confident that this exchange can promote a national model of preparedness, response and recovery for heritage sites. The resulting plan toward developing a model will better protect American heritage and also play a significant role in translating that protection to aid our friends throughout the world. A final report to be prepared upon completion of the symposium will provide a framework for a disaster preparedness, rapid response, and sustainable recovery model that can be built upon and implemented within in the U.S and will assist with U.S. assistance provided overseas.



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## Program at a Glance

### **Wednesday, March 11** - Hotel Monteleone (214 Royal Street)

- 8:30 am Pre-Conference Tour of the Mississippi Gulf Coast  
(bus departs from the corner of Royal and Canal Streets)
- 3:30 pm Registration opens
- 5:30 - 6:30 pm Welcome Reception (Queen Anne Ballroom)
- 6:30 - 7:30 pm Public Lecture (Queen Anne Ballroom)

### **Thursday, March 12** - Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom

- 8:30 am Registration
- 9:00 am Plenary - Keynote Speakers, Theme Overview, Coffee Break
- 12:00 noon Lunch on your own
- 1:00 pm Field Sessions—buses depart from corner of Royal and Canal Sts
- 5:00 pm Buses return - evening and dinner on your own
- 6:00 - 8:00 pm Young Professionals Mix 'n' Mingle (location to be announced)

### **Friday, March 13** - Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom & adjacent rooms

- 9:00 am Presentations & Coffee Break
- 12:00 pm Lunch on your own
- 1:00 - 3:00 pm Workshop: Hague Convention and Section 402 Implications
- 3:00 pm Breakout Sessions—committee meetings (see signs for locations)
- 5:00 pm Adjourn — evening and dinner on your own

### **Saturday, March 14** - Hotel Monteleone

- 9:00 am Presentations & Coffee Break
- 12:00 noon Lunch on your own
- 1:00 pm US/ICOMOS Annual Meeting
- 2:00 pm Summary Presentations & Discussion
- 4:00 pm Closing Remarks, Invitation to the (2010) 13th US/ICOMOS  
International Symposium
- 6:00 - 8:00 pm Closing Reception (Keyes-Beauregard House, 1113 Chartres St)

### **Sunday, Mar 15** - Hotel Monteleone

- 9:00 am Post-conference tour of Evergreen Plantation  
(Bus departs from the corner of Royal and Canal Streets)
- 3:00 pm Bus will drop passengers at the airport
- 3:45 pm Bus will return to the Hotel Monteleone

