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# US/ICOMOS 2014 YEAR-END REPORT TO MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

**US/ICOMOS**



UNITED STATES NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES



## US/ICOMOS 2014 YEAR-END REPORT

What a year of contradictions was 2014! Enthusiasm in the U.S. for the World Heritage program blossomed even while our government's ongoing non-payment of its UNESCO and World Heritage Center dues compromised the work of cultural heritage protection across the globe. In Syria, Iraq and elsewhere, battlefield depredations like heritage site looting and illicit antiques trafficking reached heart-rending lows. Meanwhile, a \$10 million gift from Qatar to assist World Heritage sites affected by conflict or disaster promises groundbreaking new stewardship opportunities. Amidst a relentless onslaught of natural disasters, attention to climate change as a heritage issue re-focused, even as scientist sounded the alarm that efforts are not equal to the task.

Throughout this change, the dedication of you, the members and supporters of US/ICOMOS to the principles of World Heritage was ever constant. From cultural landscapes to economic development, you again distinguished yourselves by your passion for international knowledge-sharing and problem-solving, work that nourishes the science and technical preservation that is the foundation of sustainable resource protection, management, and rehabilitation. It was this generosity of spirit, time and resources that makes the work of US/ICOMOS possible.

US/ICOMOS is pleased to provide the following summary of how in 2014 it put to use the precious resources you entrusted to it. As you read on, we hope you will agree that your investment was worthwhile.

## 17TH US/ICOMOS INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM



17th Annual US/ICOMOS International Symposium  
**THE VENICE CHARTER AT FIFTY**  
A Critical Appraisal of the Venice Charter and Its Legacy

2014 began on a high note with the 17th annual US/ICOMOS International Symposium. This year US/ICOMOS partnered with the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design to consider "The Venice Charter at Fifty." Nearly 100 attendees from across the US joined visiting expert from around the world to examine the inherited tenets of heritage conservation as codified in this highly influential Charter; especially given current, postmodern challenges not only to defining what heritage is, but also how it has been used (and abused), interpreted, and displayed. Dr. Frank Matero excelled as Symposium Co-Chair in providing a rich and diverse program. Thanks to major funding support from the National Park Service, papers from the Symposium have now been published in the international journal *Change Over Time*. Copies may be ordered here. The meetings also included an open forum moderated by US/ICOMOS Trustee Patricia O'Donnell on the proposed 2015/2016 updating of the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MONUMENTS AND SITES

On April 18, US/ICOMOS celebrated the International Day of Monuments and Sites with a talk by Dr. Martin J. Perschler, director of the State Department's Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation. Martin's talk was the first offering in a series US/ICOMOS co-sponsored with DC's Heurich House Museum entitled "Heritage Without Borders." The series, which was supported by a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, seeks to stretch perspectives about cultural heritage and included several other well received programs including a celebration of the National Park Service's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender heritage initiative.

## CELEBRATION OF US LEADERSHIP



Sharon Park and Gustavo Aroz (foreground, right) receive well wishes from the crowd.

heritage inscription, protection and management; raising understanding of the threats to heritage; and fostering interdisciplinary research. US/ICOMOS has established its President's Fund exclusively to support this ambitious agenda.

Washington in July afforded surprisingly mild weather for a garden party US/ICOMOS hosted to celebrate US leadership in international cultural heritage as exemplified by the service of Sharon C. Park as a Vice Chairperson of Rome-based International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and of Gustavo F. Aroz as President of ICOMOS. The party also served as a launch of sorts for Gustavo's reelection bid [Spoiler alert: later in 2014, Gustavo won!]. Gustavo's forward-looking platform for ICOMOS focuses on the "next generation" of international heritage leaders; easing tensions around World Her-

## US/ICOMOS INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM



Group photo of 2014 interns with Donald Jones (right).

reception on August 13, where final presentations were conducted and certificates were given out. The reception also marked the final US/ICOMOS program for Dr. Donald Jones who stepped down as US/ICOMOS Director on September 30. Don has been a steadfast supporter of the intern program, making the reception a fitting capstone for his tenure. The 2014 IEP received generous support from the Marpat Foundation and numerous other donors. Special thanks is also owed to US/ICOMOS's institutional partners, namely the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Presidio Trust, the Preservation Institute: Nantucket & the University of Florida, the Royal Oak Foundation & the International National Trusts Organization (UK), the National Trust for Scotland, Falmouth Heritage Renewal (Jamaica), and Volunteer South America (Ecuador).

Since 1984, the US/ICOMOS International Exchange Program (IEP) has engaged partners across the world in hands-on training of emerging cultural heritage professionals. To date, nearly 700 preservation interns and 70 countries have participated. During the summer of 2014, US/ICOMOS placed interns from France, Spain, Hong Kong and Trinidad and Tobago in the US, and US interns with preservation organizations in the UK, Scotland, Jamaica and Ecuador. After completing their 10-week internships, participants re-assembled in Washington for a



## THE FALL RISE OF WORLD HERITAGE



TOP: Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and Global Philadelphia ED Zabeth Teelucksingh show off the new World Heritage Way street sign flanked by dignitaries including Board Chair John F. Smith, III (far left) and Acting Park Superintendent BJ Dunn.

ABOVE: NPS Director Jon Jarvis joins U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu, Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne, State Senator Francis Thompson and other officials in celebrating the Poverty Point inscription.

can archaeological site. The celebration included videotaped congratulations from UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova as well as remarks by U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu and NPS Director Jon Jarvis. Special plaques were awarded to Ms. Nancy Hawkins of the Louisiana Division of Archaeology and Dr. Diana Greenlee, Poverty Point Station Archaeologist to acknowledge their work in the nomination process.

Fall witnessed a glorious jubilation of World Heritage across the United States. On September 8, US/ICOMOS Vice Chair Andrew Potts was a guest of the Global Philadelphia Association at exercises marking the Organization of World Heritage Cities' "Solidarity Day of the World Heritage Cities" through dedication of a portion of Walnut Street fronting World Heritage site Independence Hall as "World Heritage Way." Later in September, US/ICOMOS Chair Jan C.K. Anderson traveled to Texas to participate in the Technical Review for the San Antonio Missions World Heritage nomination. The nomination consists of most of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park as well as the Alamo. The required Technical Review session, which is organized by the ICOMOS Secretariat in Paris, is one of the last steps before consideration of the nomination by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee at its June, 2015 meeting in Bonn, Germany.

Fall's World Heritage focus continued on October 11th when the State of Louisiana hosted a community celebration of the inscription of the Monumental Earthworks of Poverty Point as the 1001st World Heritage Site. The inscription itself was secured at the June 22 meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee at Doha, Qatar, capping almost a decade of effort on behalf of the 3,400-year-old Native American archaeological site.

## CLIMATE CHANGE



In September, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon hosted a Climate Summit in advance of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties taking place in December 2015 in Paris. US/ICOMOS members participated in the People's Climate March held in connection with the Summit. Marching under banners reading "Resiliency Through Tribal Wisdom" and "Preserving Our Heritage=#ActOnClimateNow," these informal efforts presage more cross-cutting work on the Climate Change theme by US/ICOMOS in 2015.

## TRIENNIAL ICOMOS GENERAL ASSEMBLY & SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM



General Assembly proceedings (Left); US/ICOMOS Gala Reception at the Palazzo Capponi all'Annunziata (Right, Photo Credit: Randolph Langenbach).

Early November brought the much awaited 18th ICOMOS General Assembly and International Symposium. Over 50 Americans made the trip to Florence, Italy for this triennial international gathering of nearly 2,000 heritage experts. General Assembly highlights for the U.S. delegation included major contributions to a resolution addressing the place of culture and heritage in the United Nations

Post-2015 Development Agenda by Andrew Potts and to another supporting the World Rural Landscape Initiative by Brenda Barrett and Dr. Nora Mitchell. Another highlight was the awarding of a prestigious ICOMOS Honorary Membership to the USA's own Dr. William J. Murtagh. The reelection of former US/ICOMOS Executive Director Gustavo Araoz as ICOMOS President and the election of Pamela Jerome to the ICOMOS Executive Committee was celebrated enthusiastically at an elegant reception for heritage leaders from around the world hosted by US/ICOMOS.

Florence also featured a Scientific Symposium whose theme, "Heritage and Landscape as Human Values," celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Venice Charter while exemplifying the changing face of heritage. Numerous US/ICOMOS members played roles in the Symposium including Susan Macdonald of the Getty Conservation Institute who helped chair one of its themes and US/ICOMOS Board member Elizabeth Bartley whose multiple paper presentations made her one of the busiest folks in Florence. US/ICOMOS members also participated in numerous International Scientific Committee meetings including sessions on proposed revisions to the World Bank's cultural heritage safeguarding guidelines.

## NATIONAL PRESERVATION CONFERENCE



Professor Bill Dupont addresses the US/ICOMOS International Breakfast at the National Preservation Conference.

While their peers were in Florence, state-side US/ICOMOS members were busy promoting international heritage collaboration here at home at the annual US/ICOMOS international breakfast at the National Preservation Conference. Prof. Jeff Eley, US/ICOMOS Trustee and Chair of the Savannah College of Art and Design's historic preservation program welcomed attendees to Savannah. Former US/ICOMOS Trustee and University of Texas at San Antonio Professor Bill Dupont discussed the pending US World Heritage nomination and gave an impassioned presentation on the importance of US engagement with UNESCO.



## US/ICOMOS BENEFIT GALA & WORLD HERITAGE CELEBRATION



UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova (far left) and US/ICOMOS Board Chair Jan C.K. Anderson are joined by Secretary Julián Castro in presenting the US/ICOMOS Award for International Cultural Heritage Leadership to Amb. Esther Coopersmith (seated). Looking on is proud son Jeffrey Coopersmith (far right).

A year as momentous as 2014 demanded a proper celebration and US/ICOMOS did not disappoint! On December 4th a sold-out crowd packed Washington's Cosmos Club for the annual US/ICOMOS Gala and World Heritage Celebration. Gala Co-Chair Jan C.K. Anderson joined UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova and Ambassador Crystal Nix-Hines, US Permanent Representative to UNESCO, in praise of the evening's honoree, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Esther Coopersmith. A toast by US/ICOMOS Trustee Brian

Lione to US heritage professionals working in harm's way in conflict zones across the world added another poignant note. After dinner, spirits brimmed as Ms. Rachel Jacobson, Department of Defense Deputy General Counsel, led a toast to the Poverty Point World Heritage inscription. Ms. Jacobson – who had headed the US delegation that secured the inscription earlier in 2014 – lauded the work of the delegation's members, many of whom were present at the Gala including Louisiana SHPO Pam Breau; Steve Morris and Phyllis Ellin of the NPS Office of International Affairs and the State Department's Amanda Hicks. The evening ended on a jubilant note with the Honorable Julián Castro, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, leading a tribute to those traveling to Germany in 2015 to present the San Antonio Missions world heritage nomination. Other distinguished Gala guests include Mr. Michael Bean, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks and The Honorable Sheba Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs.

## INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

U.S. heritage professionals continued in 2014 to maintain a prominent presence in ICOMOS's nearly 30 international scientific committees. These committees operate at the heart of international scientific inquiry and exchanges, and coordinating US participation in them is central to US/ICOMOS's mission of serving as the gateway for U.S. professionals to participate in worldwide heritage conservation. Special thanks are owed to Prof. James Reap and Pamela Jerome, who served in global coordinating roles and to four other Americans who served as ISC presidents in 2014: Steve Kelly, ISC on Analysis and Restoration of Structures of Architectural Heritage; Doug Comer, ISC on Archaeological Heritage Management; Milagros Flores, ISC on Fortifications and Military Heritage and Neil Silberman, ISC on Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites. US/ICOMOS is also grateful to its nearly one hundred other members who served in various other ISC capacities in 2014.

## CONGRESSIONAL FINALE

Congress provided a welcome finale to 2014 with the passage of a new law requiring the Department of Defense to report on its compliance with the 1954 Hague Convention. US/ICOMOS was pleased to work with the US Committee of the Blue Shield, Preservation Action and others on this helpful legislation. The provision was one element of a broader package introduced by Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) aimed at coordinating efforts to preserve cultural artifacts threatened by conflict, instability and natural disaster; and imposing emergency import restrictions on cultural property illegally removed from Syria.

## ONWARD TO THE US/ICOMOS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Impelled by the pressing needs around us and inspired by the passion of those who founded US/ICOMOS fifty years ago, in the coming months US/ICOMOS will implement a major expansion of its international cultural heritage knowledge sharing programs. Six anniversary themes will be emphasized: (1) Cultural Landscape practice; (2) Heritage as a Pillar of Sustainable Economic Development, (3) Climate Change and Heritage, (4) Heritage, Disaster and Resilience, (5) World Heritage management, and (6) Telling the Stories that Make up America's Diverse National Identity. We thank you again for your support and look forward to celebrating the 50th anniversary of US/ICOMOS with you in 2015!



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