

# US/ICOMOS



Strengthening our Global Community  
Through Local Action

Douglas C. Comer, Ph.D.  
US/ICOMOS President



- Founded in 1965, the mission of ICOMOS has been to promote the application of theory, methodology, and scientific techniques to the conservation of architectural and archaeological heritage



ICOMOS France will act as the focal point for ICOMOS on this matter: it will collect the information available and represent ICOMOS at the national level



March 11, 2019, before the fire. Note roof scaffolding. The façade with bellows stand even now.

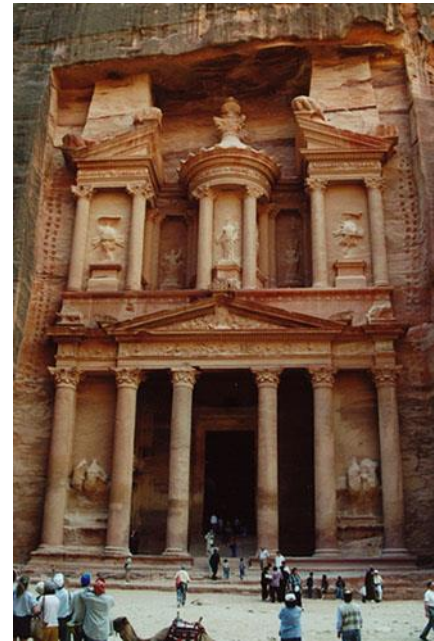
Notre Dame still stands, let us approach the restoration cautiously



# The United States National Committee of ICOMOS

- US/ICOMOS is the United States National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). It was the first national committee.
- ICOMOS might be known best as the body that advises the World Heritage Committee on the inscription of cultural sites nominated to the World Heritage List.
- There are **107** national committees and **28** scientific committees

—



Petra



Machu Picchu



# US/ICOMOS Existing Programs and Activities

- International Exchange Program
  - Exchange of emerging professional from around the world



*"My US/ICOMOS internship in Philadelphia was an amazing professional and life experience. It has definitely changed the way I saw myself, my career and specially the way I saw preservation. Today, I'm an architect working with historic preservation, teaching and half way through my PhD in Brazil, and that year in Philadelphia is definitely part of the way that brought me here. "*

– DANIELLA COSTA (IEP'07 Alum, Brazil to USA)  
PhD Candidate, Post-graduation, Program on Architecture,  
Universidade Federal Fluminense-UFF





# US/ICOMOS Existing Programs and Activities

- Annual Celebration of World Heritage







# US/ICOMOS Existing Programs and Activities

- Annual Conference and Symposium



An International  
Symposium on  
World Heritage



# US/ICOMOS Existing Programs and Activities

US/ICOMOS and U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield  
Memorandum of Understanding



Nancy Wilkie, President USCBS and US/ICOMOS, represented by  
James Reap, US/ICOMOS Executive Committee Member, sign  
the Memorandum of Understanding



# US/ICOMOS Existing Programs and Activities



Ongoing consultations on the US World Heritage Tentative List  
and with sites on the Tentative List



# Looking Forward: US/ICOMOS Involvement with ICOMOS Heritage Leadership

- Scientific Committees
  - Experts who meet to discuss their areas of expertise, resulting in
  - doctrine and the evolution and distribution of ideas



US/ICOMOS members are active in ICOMOS Scientific Committees. Many have and are serving as presidents or officers.

ICOMOS

GA 2017 6-3-3 – Doctrinal Texts  
Ver. 30/07/2017

## SALALAH GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Adopted by the 19th ICOMOS General Assembly, New Delhi, India, 15 December 2017

### PREAMBLE TO GUIDELINES

Archaeological sites are under the rightful control of stakeholders residing in the country and region in which they are located. The guidelines to follow are suggestions made to those stakeholders, should they decide to open an archaeological site to the public. *These guidelines are not intended to be regulations or standards, and the many parties that have participated in developing these guidelines hereby declare our opposition to transforming what follows into regulations or standards.* The suggestions made in these guidelines are drawn from the collective experience of those who have been engaged with management of publicly accessible archaeological sites in many countries and in different regions around the world. They are offered with the understanding that each country and region is different, and that this cultural diversity enriches the lives of all humans. Any suggestions made in these guidelines that are not consistent with the regional and local cultural stewardship of archaeological sites, and especially those open to visitors, can therefore be modified. Archaeological sites in national park systems around the world and those within World Heritage Sites present particular challenges because the tourism industry markets them as premier destinations. This has become clear in the decades since the ratification of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Since then, similar sets of persistent problems have emerged at archaeological sites open to the public. These guidelines are intended to lessen the likelihood that such problems develop and become irremediable at archaeological sites opened to the public.

### PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF THESE GUIDELINES

# List of ICOMOS International Scientific Committees



- ISCARSAH: International committee on Analysis and Restoration of Structures of Architectural Heritage
- ICAHM: International committee on Archaeological Heritage Management
- ISCCL: International committee on Cultural Landscapes ICOMOS-IFLA
- CIIC: International committee on Cultural Routes
- ICTC: International committee on Cultural Tourism
- ISCEAH: International committee on Earthen Architectural Heritage
- ISCEC: International committee on Economics of Conservation
- ISCES: International committee on Energy and Sustainability
- IcoFort: International committee on Fortifications and Military Heritage
- CIPA: International committee on Heritage Documentation
- CIVVIH: International committee on Historic Towns and Villages
- ICIP: International committee on Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites
- ICICH: International committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage
- ICLAFI: International committee on Legal, Administrative and Financial Issues
- ISCMP: International committee on Mural Painting
- PRERICO : International committee on Places of Religion and Ritual
- IPHC: International Polar Heritage Committee
- ICORP: International committee on Risk Preparedness
- CAR: International committee on Rock Art
- ISCSBH: International committee on Shared Built Heritage
- ISCV: International committee on Stained Glass
- ISCS: International committee on Stone
- Theophilos: International committee on Theory and Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration
- CIF: International committee on Training
- ICUCH: International committee on Underwater Cultural Heritage
- CIAV: International committee on Vernacular Architecture
- IWC: International committee on Wood
- ISC20C: International committee on 20th Century Heritage

# National Committees

Expressed in National Committee  
2018 Annual Reports

What National Committees see as  
their Role

- Promulgate, advocate for and otherwise and implement
  - ICOMOS doctrine
  - The implementation of the World Heritage Convention

How can NCs enhance input at home and internationally into the ICOMOS mission? The role of NCs is to promulgate and implement

- 1) **conservation, protection, use and enhancement of monuments, building complexes and sites;**
- 2) **Conveying doctrine and the evolution and distribution of ideas developed by SCs.**
- 3) **Conducting advocacy awareness within their countries on many issues including community involvement, engagement of indigenous heritage groups, unregulated tourism, looting, insensitive development, and other destructive activities.**



# It started with the Venice Charter

- Initially, this work was tied closely to the 1964 International Charter on the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (better known as the Venice Charter).
- Coincidentally, used to guide restoration after the disastrous floods in Venice and Florence in 1966.
- Views monuments as historical records as well as works of art



**Doge's Palace , Venice, 1966**

A cultural benchmark, young people flocked to Venice and Florence to assist, called the “mud angels”

# Evolution of Heritage

- Over the past half-century heritage theory, method, and scientific techniques have evolved.
- A benchmark was the recognition of the interplay of the physical conservation of monuments and sites and the role of intangible heritage in the authenticity of those sites.



the ancient libraries and mausoleums at the World Heritage Sites of Mali (Old City of Djenné, Timbuktu, Bandiagara Cliffs, Tomb of Askia) damaged by ISIS allies were recently repaired by masonry guilds that have done this work for centuries.

# New Priorities

## Priority: Heritage as a Means of Social and Economic Benefit

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Natural Resource Stewardship and Science

### 2016 National Park Visitor Spending Effects

*Economic Contributions to Local Communities, States, and the Nation*

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRSS/EQD/NRR—2017/1421

The US National Park Service has been assessing economic benefit to local communities for years

Making this replicable for US World Heritage Sites

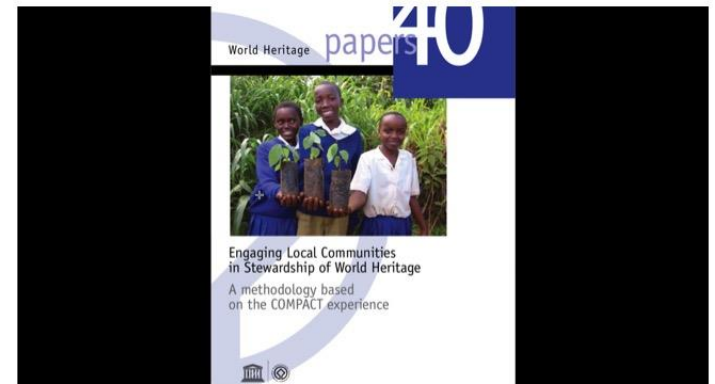




# Priority: Social and Economic Benefit

- Social and economic benefit generated by World Heritage Sites (our 2019 conference theme)
  - Tourism
  - Infrastructure development
  - Local identities
  - Awareness
    - Indigenous heritage
    - Culture-nature
    - 2030 SDGs
    - Rights-Based Approach

## Working With Local Communities



# The Economic and Social Benefits of World Heritage Listing in the United States



US/ICOMOS  
2019 Symposium

Join us for our 2019 Symposium  
The Economic and Social Benefits  
of World Heritage Listing in the United States  
November 9, 8:30 AM EST

# The Economic and Social Benefits of World Heritage Listing in the United States

The economic and social benefits of World Heritage listing are not well understood in the United States. This conference will provide perspective on the impact of World Heritage designation as well as provide an opportunity to discuss lessons learned by a range U.S. World Heritage sites. Hear from local, national and international heritage experts from World Heritage sites such as the recently inscribed Frank Lloyd Wright sites, and sites that have been listed for many years, such as Chaco Canyon National Historical Park. The symposium will also examine the potential for social and economic benefit to sites on the United States Tentative List, looking at ways to begin planning now for future benefit to local communities.



# Priority: Indigenous Heritage

- Engaging indigenous heritage groups in planning and management at World Heritage Sites

## Threats to US World Heritage Sites

Theme for future conference



Fracking

Who benefits economically?

What are the local economic opportunities curtailed?

How are traditional ways of life altered?

The Chaco culture landscape is vast and sacred to Native Americans

# Priority: 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

- Encourage all US/ICOMOS members to be active in promoting the UNESCO 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in their communities
- How?

## Localizing the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

- Sustainable Development Goals, California Preservation Foundation and others? The West leads the way



# Priority: The Culture-Nature Journey (CNJ)

- Informing prospective and current members about our efforts to acknowledge and incorporate the connection between culture and nature in the management of World Heritage Sites and as this applies to their heritage issues
- US/ICOMOS led the way in working with IUCN and UCS.
- We are closely engaged with ongoing the CNJ, President, US/ICOMOS is the ICOMOS Advisory Committee representative to CNJ



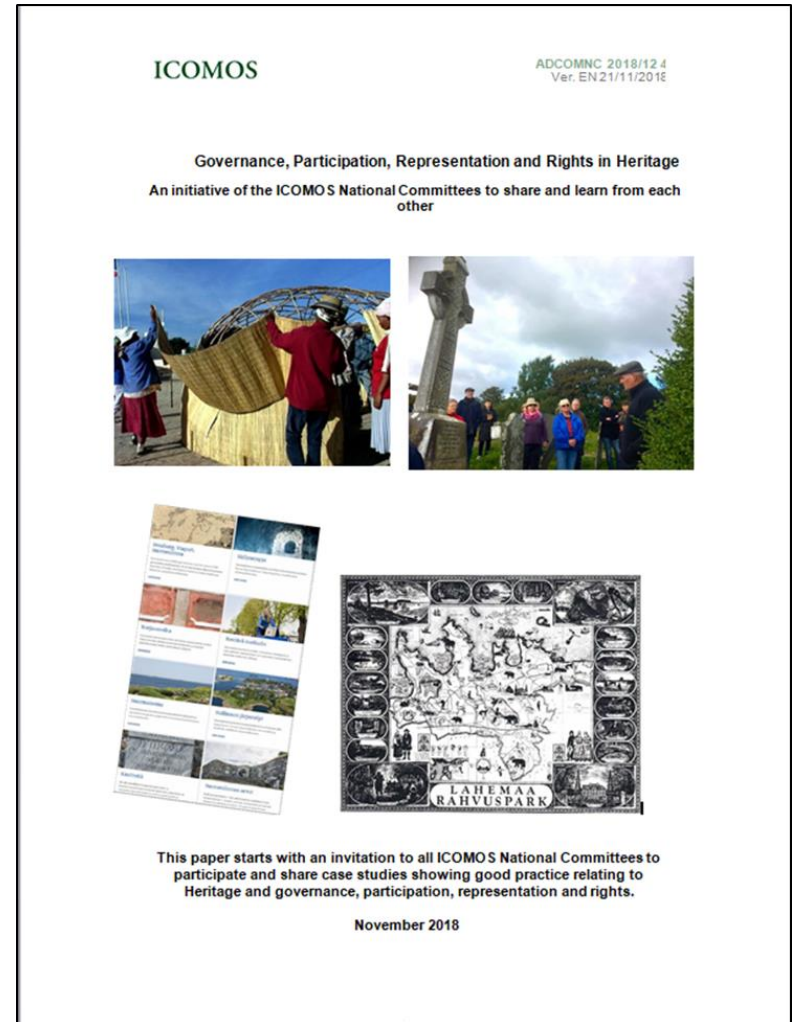


# Priority: Rights Based Approaches to Heritage

This initiative aims to gather and share examples of good practice which the ICOMOS community can learn from. It is also a way of showcasing the good work which ICOMOS is involved in and advocates for.

It is not just coincidence that ICOMOS National and other Committees are taking on these issues right now. These themes resonate with the ethical principles of ICOMOS and concern us all:

- Good governance procedures and practice
- Open, easy and inclusive access to participate
- Fair, full and diverse representation
- Understanding and practice of rights within the realm of cultural heritage – implicating duty bearers and rights holders



# Priority: Case Studies

- ICOMOS Estonia
  - RBA principles in protecting Lameman National Park cultural heritage: rightholders take part in government and legislation change
    - (1) local community defines and is active participant in defining cultural heritage;
    - (2) local community preserves and is the main partner in preserving and introducing cultural heritage,
    - (3) local community should have historical rights of using nature and heritage as resource;
    - (4) local community must give informed consent to the inventories and separate plans (including building plans) on their territory before it is put to action. Main mechanisms to do that are written there a well.
- An outcome of the 2020 US/ICOMOS Conference could be a case study on Grand Canyon, Chaco, etc, co-authored by a Native American group



# Priority: Emerging Professionals

## Journey to Authenticity

Toshi Kono, ICOMOS President, has suggested a Journey to Authenticity. ADCOM is organizing an effort by the Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG) to offer new perspective on authenticity. The perspectives would be from each individual scientific and national committee.

In the US, Native American cultures hold the Grand Canyon and all forms of life in it as sacred. To remove or add species would lessen authenticity in a sense.

Zoe Lueng will represent US/ICOMOS. Lead EPWG members is Stacy Vallis, ICOMOS New Zealand. Lead ACO member is Sheridan Burke. Australia.



# US/ICOMOS Representatives to ICOMOS Working Groups

- Emerging Professionals: Zoe Lueng
- Climate Change: Adam Markham
- Culture-Nature: Douglas Comer (at present)
- Membership: Vacant
- Sustainable Development Goals: Wayne Donaldson
- Rights-Based Approach: Vacant
- Indigenous Heritage: Douglas Comer (at present)



# US/ICOMOS Committees

- Activated
  - Executive Committee
  - IEP Committee
  - Advocacy
  - Conference Program Committee
  - Celebration of World Heritage
- Sequence of Activation:
  - Communication
  - Membership
  - Development
  - Personnel
  - Finance Committee

# Regional National Chapters

- Much interest in this at ICOMOS International, Russia has just begun this and membership in ICOMOS Russia has increased dramatically
- Representation by regions that are concerned with under-representation (e.g., Puerto Rico in the US, other regions in other countries)
- Feasibility assessment of a US/ICOMOS West Coast Chapter (benefits to US/ICOMOS include more effective advocacy, localization of SDG 2030 goals, increasing membership)
  - CPF Meeting, 6-8 May 2019



## Fundraising/Donations/Sustaining Sponsors

The United States National Committee for the International Council on Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS) is the only organization with the mission to monitor the needs of World Heritage Sites in the United States, to work with stakeholders at these sites, which range from the US Congress to representatives of Indigenous heritage groups, and to increase the recognition and prestige of US World Heritage Sites around the world as models of sound management and engines for regional social and economic benefit.

In recent years, US/ICOMOS has been deeply engaged in the World Heritage Program in the US and internationally. These connections have enabled us to contribute in many ways to realizing the objectives of the World Heritage Convention that was authored in large part by representatives of the US National Park Service.



1602 L St NW,  
Washington, DC 20036  
[www.usicomos.org](http://www.usicomos.org)

ON THE COVER

