



US/ICOMOS at Work

April 2019 E-News

Happy World Heritage Day 2019!

Welcome to "US/ICOMOS at Work" e-news blast, 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.

— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

Join in the Celebration: World Heritage Day, 18 April 2019

The [International Day for Monuments and Sites \(aka World Heritage Day\)](#) is upon us. Every year on April 18, ICOMOS and its National Committees encourage communities around the world to celebrate their cultural heritage and to value its diversity, vulnerability and the efforts required to conserve it. This year's theme is *Rural Landscapes*. We encourage our members and supporters in the United States to plan your own trip to a rural landscape or world heritage site or to attend one of these public events:

Talk: University of Virginia and Monticello World Heritage Site and Its Evolving Historic Interpretation and Reception

April 18, 6:30 - 8:00 pm at the National Building Museum, 401 F Street NW, Washington, DC. Tickets available at: go.nbm.org/site/Calendar/2039476183?view=Detail&id=125155



- Learn how and why the joint world heritage site of the University of Virginia and Monticello was established and how it is updating its historic interpretation to encourage an honest and inclusive dialogue about the past.

The City of Philadelphia Celebration of World Heritage Day

April 18, Multiple Locations in Philadelphia, PA. (see below). Official contact: Melissa Stevens, Global Philadelphia Association, [melissa.stevens \[at\] globalphiladelphia.org](mailto:melissa.stevens[at]globalphiladelphia.org)

- The Global Philadelphia Association will be doing online and social media promotion and are working with Independence National Historical Park and the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia to celebrate the day in Philadelphia.
- Independence National Historical Park will be highlighting Independence Hall's 40th anniversary as a UNESCO World Heritage Site during their tours and activities that day.
- Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia will offer a special "Around Washington Square" walking tour from 11 am to 1 pm for free with advance registration. Registration link and tour details: <https://25017.blackbaudhosting.com/25017/Architecture-Walking->



Other public and private events are being planned around the world. The University of Georgia Historic Preservation Graduate Program, for example, is planning a field study of the Sautee and Nacoochee Valleys in rural White County, Georgia, for its students and faculty. Perhaps your organization or family could plan something similar?

To see a list of worldwide events, [visit the ICOMOS webpage devoted to IDMS events](#).

However you choose to celebrate World Heritage Day, please post photos on social media and use these tags so we can see and share your activities: #WorldHeritageUSA, #USICOMOS, #IcomosIDMS2019, and #rurallandscapes.

You can also learn about all the World Heritage sites in the US at WorldHeritageUSA.org, our award-winning microsite.

Members: We Need Your Assistance with a Brief Survey

***US/ICOMOS Members Please Participate:
Brief Survey on Participation in ICOMOS Desk Reviews, Mission
Evaluations and International Scientific Committees***

We would like to know more about our members' past participation in World Heritage List Nomination desk reviews and evaluation missions and your willingness to participate in these in the future and to mentor emerging professionals. We are also gathering information on member participation in ICOMOS International Scientific Committees. [Please fill out this short survey to assist us](#). Thank you!

2019 US Nomination to the World Heritage List: The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright

THE 20TH-CENTURY ARCHITECTURE OF FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT



**Nomination to the World Heritage List by the
United States of America (2016) Revised 2019**

In honor of World Heritage Day on April 18th, we asked Barbara Gordon, Executive Director of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy in Chicago to answer a few questions about the revised nomination of eight Frank Lloyd Wright-designed buildings to the World Heritage List in 2019.

Please provide a brief overview of the process of the nomination. Roughly how long did it take and how many people and organizations have been involved?

In mid-November 2018, the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy (FLWBC) and participating sites completed a revised nomination to the UNESCO World Heritage List, [*The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright*](#), which includes a group of eight major works designed by Wright located across the country. Spanning his 70-year career, the buildings include Unity Temple (constructed 1906-1909, Oak Park, IL, pictured at right. Credit: Unity Temple auditorium, 2018. Photo by Tom Rossiter, courtesy of Unity Temple Restoration Foundation), the Frederick C. Robie House (constructed 1910, Chicago, Illinois), Taliesin (constructed 1911-1959, Spring Green, Wisconsin), Hollyhock House (constructed 1918-1921, Los Angeles, California), Fallingwater (constructed 1936-1939, Mill Run, Pennsylvania), the Herbert and Katherine Jacobs House (constructed 1936-1937, Madison, Wisconsin), Taliesin West (begun 1938, Scottsdale, Arizona) and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (constructed, 1956-1959, New York, New York).



The Frank Lloyd Wright nomination has been in development for more than a decade, entailing the cooperation of the parties whose sites comprise the nomination, independent scholars and a substantial financial commitment realized through subsidies and donations, as well as countless hours donated by staff and volunteers.

The nomination was first submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC) by the United States for consideration in 2015, but the decision was referred for further refinement. At that time, 10 Frank Lloyd Wright sites were nominated. There was strong general sentiment among the Committee members that the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright is globally important and should be recognized for its “outstanding universal value.” However, at its meeting in Istanbul in July 2016, the World Heritage Committee decided to “refer” the nomination. A referral provides the nominator an opportunity to respond to comments by the WHC and resubmit the nomination.

The FLWBC has worked with the council of sites and leading scholars over the last two years to revise the nomination and rework the justification for inscription. Based on advice from ICOMOS, the group made the difficult decision to remove Price Tower (constructed 1953-1956, Bartlesville,

Oklahoma) and Marin County Civic Center (constructed 1960-1969, San Rafael, California) from the nomination, dropping the list to eight Wright-designed buildings.

What would you like our members to know about the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy and its role in the nomination preparation?

Celebrating 30 years in existence this year, the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy is the only organization with the mission to facilitate the preservation and stewardship of the remaining structures designed by Frank Lloyd Wright through advocacy, education and technical services. This nomination is one of the most important shared endeavors the FLWBC has undertaken, and a significant way for us to reconfirm how important Frank Lloyd Wright was to the development of modern architecture.

There are nearly 400 remaining structures designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Our hope is that the inscription of these eight major works spanning Wright's influential career also brings awareness to the importance of preserving the other possibly lesser-known buildings that are also a vital part of our artistic, cultural and architectural heritage. We hope that all communities where a Wright building stands will appreciate and protect what they have as their shared responsibility to protect their local—and world—heritage.

That little Usonian house that sits on desirable land that could be redeveloped? The small commercial building that has lost its usefulness because it doesn't fit into today's standards of "marketable"? We hope this educates and motivates decision-makers to find solutions that preserve rather than demolish or neglect those important buildings.



What do you hope inscription on the World Heritage list will do for Wright's reputation worldwide and within the United States and for the individual sites inscribed?

It is exciting to think that by being inscribed to the World Heritage list, these sites belong to the people of the world and it is the joint responsibility of all nations to ensure their preservation and protection.

We hope that the inscription will not only ensure the long-term preservation of these eight buildings, but also bring awareness to the need to preserve other buildings designed by Wright that remain in three-quarters of the United States as

well as Japan and Canada.

Pictured above: Fallingwater, view from the southeast, 1993. Photo by Robert Buschak, courtesy of Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Do any of the Frank Lloyd Wright sites have plans for this year's World Heritage Day (aka the International Day of Monuments and Sites) on April 18?

As we await news of the status of our nomination, this is a day to promote through social media and to remind people that these eight Wright sites have been nominated as important contributions to the world's cultural heritage.

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Barbara Gordon for this contribution to our newsletter. Please consider following the FLWBC on Facebook [@FrankLloydWrightBuildingConservancy](#), and on Instagram and Twitter [@SaveWrightFLWBC](#). We also recommend following the National Park Service Office of International Affairs (Facebook [@NPSInternationalAffairs](#) and Twitter [@NPSInternation](#)) for updates on World Heritage nominations and other international cultural heritage activities that the NPS engages in.

Future Nomination to the World Heritage List: U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites Serial Nomination

Dr. Glenn T. Eskew, Professor of History at Georgia State University (GSU) and head of the [GSU World Heritage Initiative](#) has provided US/ICOMOS with an update on the status of the U.S. Civil

Rights Movement Sites Serial Nomination, another set of sites on the [U.S. Tentative List](#):

Working with the [National Park Service Office of International Affairs \(NPS-OIA\)](#), the GSU World Heritage Initiative has prepared a proposal for a serial nomination of U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites, including 10 additional components, that has been submitted to the WHC for potential review by ICOMOS.

Building on the Three Alabama Churches currently on the U.S. Tentative List for World Heritage (including the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, pictured at left.

Credit: Altairisfar), the U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites Serial Nomination identifies about a dozen places in order to tell more completely the globally significant postwar African American freedom struggle of the 1950s and 1960s.

More than seventy-five scholars of the U.S. civil rights struggle, state historic preservation officers, park service employees, historic property owners and stakeholders all joined in an initial symposium in April 2017 to discuss the idea of inscribing a serial nomination and to suggest potential properties that might be included. In the months that followed the scholars and preservationists drafted for debate various statements of outstanding universal value and justification.

Three thematic studies by the National Park Service identified such areas of focus for the nomination as the struggle for desegregated schools, equal access to public accommodations, and the right to vote. These studies also made suggestions of possible sites to consider. An exhaustive search revealed nearly two hundred properties of note associated with the postwar movement. Almost all of the properties have some level of state or federal designation already, with National Historic Landmark being the highest. The GSU World Heritage team visited over half of them to assess authenticity and integrity.

Since then, the scholars have revised a statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and justification for inscription under [Criteria \(ii\), \(iii\) and \(vi\)](#). This allowed for the narrowing down of potential sites to a dozen that fit the OUV criteria. Meetings with property owners and stakeholders have been held to determine interest in the program and to begin discussions regarding management plans.

Earlier this month, the GSU World Heritage Initiative submitted its findings as a proposal that the NPS-OIA has sent to the World Heritage Committee with the request for “upstream advice” from ICOMOS over the months ahead. This advice can help determine early on in the process the viability of the nomination, the validity of its statement of outstanding universal value, and whether or not the nomination seems justified under the World Heritage Criteria. It is hoped that such an evaluation will allow for the Department of the Interior to update the U.S. Tentative List accordingly and then grant permission to prepare the final dossier of the Serial Nomination on U. S. Civil Rights Movement Sites for submission.



[Introducing Our International Exchange Program \(IEP\) Hosts: the ICOMOS International Secretariat](#)



Each year, organizations in the United States and all over the world host interns participating in the US/ICOMOS International Exchange Program. This commitment to historic preservation, international cooperation and the future brings big rewards to both intern and host.

This month, we feature the [ICOMOS International Secretariat](#), based outside of Paris in Charenton-le-Pont, France. The Secretariat coordinates the implementation of the ICOMOS General Program as well as the decisions of the General Assembly, the Board and its Bureau. The Secretariat's primary mission is to support the development of the ICOMOS network; disseminate knowledge about heritage conservation, principally via the Documentation Centre, which is open to all ICOMOS members; and to provide advisory and evaluation services required for implementing the World Heritage Convention, including "desk reviews" of sites under consideration for World Heritage listing.

The ICOMOS Secretariat typically sponsors one IEP intern each summer. In fact, the Secretariat hosts interns almost all year round and the IEP is part of that group. They usually have up to 3 interns in the office at a time. Gaia Jungeblodt, Director of the International Secretariat, notes that "We enjoy having new people from around the world join our small team - bringing their skills, perspectives and cultures. We like to see how our interns develop professionally- even in the short time they spend with us and how they adapt to a new country and new colleagues - and especially to follow their progress after they leave us and sometimes also their more active participation in ICOMOS. We also like to see the camaraderie and friendships which develop among interns who are here at the same time and staff members as well. The IEPs we welcomed in the last two years have been very efficient and professional - providing hands-on support to our work."

Maureen McCoy, pictured above at her desk at the Secretariat, at left, and next to the ICOMOS banner, at right, was the 2018 IEP intern to the Secretariat, working with the World Heritage Evaluations Unit. Our 2019 IEP intern will also work with the Evaluations Unit helping to update the database of desk reviewers and assisting with the 2020 World Heritage nominations cycle via background research, preparation of powerpoint presentations, work on the desk reviews, and comparative analysis.

The ICOMOS Secretariat staff do all they can to help the interns feel welcomed and part of their small, international team. In addition to taking home good memories, Gaia writes, "We hope that they leave their internship having acquired new knowledge and skills concerning the work of ICOMOS and the International Secretariat; the functioning of an international organization and the international heritage field; have learned some or improved their French if possible by talking with their colleagues and through the work they do; and above all have gained assurance of their capacities." We know too that the IEP interns to the ICOMOS Secretariat put their ICOMOS membership cards to good use in the many wonderful museums and at the many sites the card grants admission to and thoroughly enjoy their time in Paris.

Are you interested in hosting a US/ICOMOS intern in the future? Please visit our website at usicomos.org/internship/host-organizations/ to learn more. Summer 2020 host applications will be due in January 2020.

[Please support the 2019 IEP if you are able to do so!](#) We have 15 interns this summer - the most that we have had in many years. Please contribute to this important program if you are able.

[Last Chance: Buy Your Tickets Now to Our Gala Celebration of World Heritage on May 2nd in Washington](#)

If you have been waiting to purchase your tickets to our annual Gala Celebration of World Heritage, now is the time!

Support US/ICOMOS while helping us celebrate World Heritage; award the [2018 Murtagh | Graham Prize](#) and the [Ann Webster Smith Award](#); honor new fellows; and commemorate the 2018 passing of William R. Murtagh, Ph.D., and Roy Eugene Graham, FAIA, luminaries in international cultural heritage stewardship.

Our guest of honor Henry R. Muñoz, III, is Chief Executive Officer of Muñoz and Company, one of the largest and oldest minority-owned design practices in the United States. Under his leadership, Muñoz and Company has developed an architecture that acknowledges the rapidly shifting demographics of the United States.

[Purchase your tickets here.](#) We hope to see you at the Cosmos Club!

US/ICOMOS GALA CELEBRATION OF WORLD HERITAGE

Thursday, 2 May 2019: 6 pm Reception, 7:30 pm Dinner

Cosmos Club
2121 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008



[Abstracts Due 20 April 2019 for "Vernacular & Earthen Architecture towards Local Development" Conference](#)



ICOMOS-CIAV, ICOMOS-ISCEAH & ICOMOS-China are organizing the **CIAV-ISCEAH 2019 Joint Annual Meeting & International Conference on "Vernacular & Earthen Architecture towards Local Development"** to be held in Pingyao, China, 6-8 September 2019.

Due to numerous requests for an extension of the abstract submission window, the Committee has **extended the abstract submission deadline to 20 April 2019.**

Find conference details and download the abstract template at: 2019ciav-isceah.whitr-ap.org.

[ICOMOS International Wood Committee Symposium and Course on Wooden Heritage Conservation, 3-5 October 2019](#)



In 2019, the IWC International Scientific Symposium will be held in Bilbao, with the title “Wooden Heritage Conservation: Beyond Disciplines.” In this context, and for the first time, the IWC is organizing an international course on Wooden Heritage Conservation, which will cover a range of interdisciplinary topics and outstanding local and international conservation experiences. For more information, please visit: <https://www.uik.eus/en/22nd-iwc-international-symposium-wooden-heritage-conservation-beyond-disciplines-1st-iwc-course>.

Keeping It Modern: Getty Foundation Grants 2014-2018



This report released in 2019 provides an overview of the first five years of Keeping It Modern, a Getty Foundation initiative focused on the conservation of significant modern movement buildings. The report, which includes a foreword by Shikha Jain, a director at the heritage preservation organization DRONAH, features nine of the 54 Keeping It Modern projects around the world to date, highlighting how research and planning activities benefit the preservation of 20th-century architecture internationally.

Download the full report at:

http://www.getty.edu/foundation/initiatives/current/keeping_it_modern/report.html

Have You Renewed Your Membership for 2019?

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.