



US/ICOMOS at Work

August 2018 E-News



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.

Above: International Exchange Program (IEP) participants Maria Almarstar (center) and Ilaria Rosetti (3rd from left) prepare to enter a cave at Kickapoo Cavern State Park in Texas. The trip was organized by San Antonio Missions National Historic Park archaeologist Susan Snow (far right) and San Antonio World Heritage Director Colleen Swain (2nd from right). US/ICOMOS thanks San Antonio for its generous support of our IEP program, hosting two interns this summer!

— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

US/ICOMOS Advocates for Chaco Culture World Heritage Site



US/ICOMOS joined over 50 other cultural heritage organizations in support of the [Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act \(S. 2907\)](#) by signing on to a letter addressed to New Mexico Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich, sponsors of the legislation. The legislation provides [a permanent withdrawal for approximately 316,000 acres of federal lands surrounding Chaco Canyon](#) in recognition of the extensive and interconnected cultural resources across the landscape. The senators worked with the All Pueblo Council of Governors and the Navajo Nation to develop the

legislation.

Chaco Canyon and the surrounding landscape (pictured above courtesy of Greg Willis/Wikimedia Commons) were designated a World Heritage Site in 1987. The landscape preserves outstanding elements of Chacoan Culture such as ceremonial buildings, great houses, and engineered roads. Energy development associated with the Mancos-Gallup Shale formation in northwest New Mexico has increasingly threatened cultural resources and the broader landscape affiliated with Chaco.

In a press release introducing the legislation, Senator Heinrich said, "Chaco Canyon is a sacred site that is revered by all New Mexicans and deserves to be protected from any harmful development that would damage its precious historical and cultural resources. The Chaco region holds deep meaning to New Mexico's Pueblos, whose history and traditional knowledge reside in its thousands of ancestral sites, as well as to the Navajo Nation, whose lands and communities surround much of Chaco Culture National Historical Park. I'm proud to introduce legislation that would protect the remaining Chaco ruins and landscape nearest to the existing Park from federal mineral development. This bill is about listening to New Mexicans, and especially Tribal communities, who have called for us to protect the integrity of Chaco Canyon. We will continue to work in close collaboration with our Tribes, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to protect important cultural and religious sites in the greater Chaco region while planning for any future energy development in the San Juan Basin."

More [information about the legislation can be found here](#).

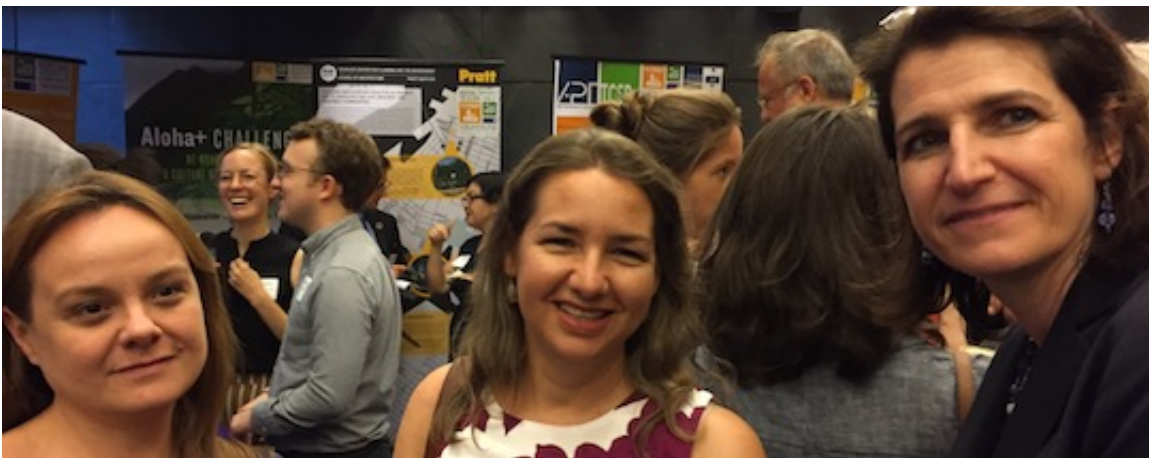
UN High-Level Political Forum: Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies

The UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) convened in New York City on July 9-18, 2018 to undertake their annual review of progress made on Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. The HLPF 2018 is also reviewing SDG11, the Urban Goal, in which the UN has explicitly recognized the fundamental role of culture and heritage in sustainable development. Target 11.4's goal is to "protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage" in order to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable." Both cultural and natural heritage sites, while under immense pressure from the impacts of urbanization, climate change and degradation due to other natural and human factors, play a crucial role supporting local economies, livelihoods and quality of life in human settlements.



To contribute to the exchange of knowledge and awareness on these themes, US/ICOMOS representatives and many other US heritage professionals participated in an event at the Japan Society on June 19th in New York City focusing on 'Implementing SDG 11.4 through Local Voices and Global Agendas for Cultural & Natural Heritage.' Bill Pencek, outgoing Executive Director, and Jane Seiter, incoming Executive Director, read a statement on behalf of US/ICOMOS Chair Douglas Comer, who was unable to attend, while many US/ICOMOS members spoke, including Erica Avrami, Larry Coben, Chris Marrior, Shanon Miller, and Andrew Potts.

Pictured above is Dr. Ege Yildirim, event organizer and [ICOMOS Focal Point for the UN Sustainable Development Goals](#). Below are Danyel Ferrari, [COMPASS Visiting Research Fellow](#); Jane Seiter, US/ICOMOS Executive Director; and Erica Avrami, US/ICOMOS member and James Marston Fitch Assistant Professor of Historic Preservation at Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.



Indigenous Heritage Working Group Discussion in New Zealand

On a recent trip to Wellington, New Zealand, US/ICOMOS Chair Doug Comer discussed issues of common interest with ICOMOS New Zealand President Ian Bowman and Trustee Greg Vossman. These issues included recognition and representation of indigenous peoples at World Heritage Sites and developing relationships between universities that provide coursework in English and universities in Africa. ICOMOS New Zealand was a co-sponsor of Resolution 19GA 2017/27 - Indigenous Heritage, along with ICOMOS Canada, ICOMOS Mali, and ICOMOS Australia. The resolution was approved at the 19th General Assembly of ICOMOS in New Delhi (2017). The resolution proposed a working group to be composed of ICOMOS national and scientific committees. This committee would address issue of indigenous heritage at World Heritage sites, sita on World Heritage Tentative Lists, and those that might eventually be included on Tentative Lists.

Pictured below are Greg Vossman, Ian Bowman, and Doug Comer.



ISC In Depth: [ISCEAH](#), the International Scientific Committee on Earthen Architectural Heritage

Throughout 2018, we feature one International Scientific Committee (ISC) per month in *US/ICOMOS at Work* in order to highlight the work of the ISC and provide potential members with information about how to join. Please note that in order to be considered for ISC membership, you must first be an International member of US/ICOMOS. If you have not yet joined ICOMOS for 2018, [you can join here](#).



1. Tell us your name, occupation, employer and few words about your interest in ISCEAH.

Pamela Jerome, preservation architect, President of Architectural Preservation Studio, DPC. I am currently the Secretary-General of ISCEAH (International Scientific Committee on Earthen Architectural Heritage) following a three-year hiatus, before which I was the Vice President for ten years. Along with John Hurd, I was appointed by then Vice President Gustavo Araoz to revive the moribund scientific committee in 2004. I first became interested in earthen architecture when I spent three months in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1980 and traveled around the Nile Delta. All of the villages and towns at that time were constructed of mud brick. This was also a moment when I

discovered the work of Hassan Fathy, a well-known Egyptian architect who designed buildings in mud brick including the village of New Gurna in Luxor. In 1989, I started working on the Minoan excavation of Palaikastro in eastern Crete. I had already worked for ten years in New York as a preservation architect but decided that I wanted to learn about materials science. So that fall I also began my master's degree at Columbia University in historic preservation. One of the co-directors of the Palaikastro excavation was teaching a course at Columbia on the archaeology of ancient Crete, which I attended in my first semester; for my class project, he asked that I research the conservation of ancient mud bricks because he knew from soundings that the building they were going to excavate the following season had surviving mud bricks. The topic ended up becoming my master's thesis. I was also selected to attend the Paphos seminar on archaeological conservation organized by the Getty Conservation Institute in 1990, where there was a lot of discussion on how to preserve mud bricks in the archaeological context. Subsequent to graduation, I continued to pursue this area of interest. I received the William Kinney Fellows Traveling Fellowship from Columbia to investigate methods of archaeological mud-brick conservation in Peru. I attended my first Terra conference (Terra 93) and have continued to do so ever since, as well as participate in their organization through ISCEAH. I enrolled in CRAterre's month-long course on mud-brick conservation in 1994. I began working in Yemen on living mud-brick heritage, where I spent 15 years training local professionals and Columbia University graduate students in documentation, and restored 20 mud-brick mansions. I returned to Egypt in 2000 to work with Columbia College's excavation of Amheida in Dakhleh Oasis, also mud brick, and then again in 2010 at the request of the World Heritage Centre to evaluate the condition of New Gurna. I advised the Saudi government on the conservation of al-Dir'iyah following its inscription as a World Heritage site. I have recently returned from the inter-ISC colloquium on the anti-seismic vernacular heritage of Anatolia and beyond, where I represented ISCEAH. I continue to be active in the conservation of earthen architectural heritage.

2. Tell us about the work of ISCEAH in a few sentences.

ISCEAH has five main scientific areas of investigation: living heritage, archaeological heritage, cultural landscapes, materials science, and seismic. Each area is led by a Chair who is a member of ISCEAH's Board composed of between 20-30 elected Expert Members. The five scientific Chairs along with the President, Vice President, Secretary-General and Treasurer constitute the Executive Committee. In addition, we provide auspices and select candidates for the Terra Congresses, a series of international conferences that have been taking place every three to five years since 1972. We also have annual regional meetings in various countries around the globe. We provide support for publications and for the World Heritage Centre including its program, WHEAP (World Heritage Earthen Architecture Program). We also partner with other ISCs, as well as other organizations that research earthen architectural heritage.

3. What are the qualifications for membership in your committee and how should potential members apply?

Potential members can forward their CVs and a letter explaining their interest in earthen architectural heritage and highlighting any activities that are relevant to me (pamela.jerome@icomos.org). The Board goes through a round of voting on new members each time we have four or five applicants. We accept Experts, Associates, Associate-Emerging Professionals, Institutional, Non-ICOMOS and Honorary Members.

4. How do members participate in ISCEAH (meetings, online conversations, etc.)?

The main forum for participation is our listserv. However, as mentioned, we have regional conferences that occur annually and the Terra Congress, which produce proceedings.

5. Once they have been accepted, how do you recommend new members get involved?

The best way for new members to get involved is to participate in one or more of the scientific themes, respond to debates that occur on the listserv or pose questions, and attend and/or publish in regional meetings or Terra Congresses.

6. Is there anything else that you would like prospective members to know?

We are open to applicants who have little knowledge about earthen architectural heritage but are interested. We are also open to new sustainable construction in earthen materials.

IEP Update from Washington, DC, by Kyra Lomas (Australia)

As part of the 2018 US/ICOMOS International Exchange Program, I have been taking part in a summer internship with the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) in Washington, DC. During my 10-week placement I have been working under the Historic Sites department on several diverse projects at National Trust sites.



One of my main projects has been the documentation and recording of an historic bandstand at President Lincoln's cottage (photos above). I spent time out in the field measuring the structure and have prepared a digital drawing set which will be entered in to the Leicester B. Holland Prize next year. I have been travelling during my free time and have been to Baltimore, New York, Virginia, Massachusetts and even inland to Pittsburgh. My road trip to Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater was an architectural highlight!

As the summer is coming to an end I can reflect on the amazing experience I have had and thank US/ICOMOS for allowing me to take part in this invaluable opportunity through the International Exchange Program. I have appreciated the sharing of knowledge within the preservation field and have learnt so much from the dedicated professionals that have given me their time during the summer. I look forward to sharing what I have learnt along with the other IEP participants at the US/ICOMOS Symposium on Wednesday 15th August.

— OF NOTE —



FORWARD TOGETHER

November 13–14, 2018
San Francisco

Program Development Underway for Forward Together, the US/ICOMOS 2018 Symposium

The 2018 US/ICOMOS "**Forward Together**: A Culture-Nature Journey, Towards More Effective Conservation in a Changing World" Symposium will be held in partnership with the NTHP's PastForward national preservation conference in San Francisco on November 13-16.

US/ICOMOS is privileged to have an internationally-recognized panel of experts on our Program Committee chaired by Nora Mitchell, founding director emerita of the Conservation Study Institute established by the National Park Service in 1998 to enhance leadership and innovation in the field of collaborative conservation. She is joined by Brenda Barrett, Founding Editor of the [Living Landscape Observer](#); Jessica Brown, Executive Director of the New England Biolabs Foundation; Archer St. Clair Harvey, Professor Emerita at Rutgers University; and Amanda Shull, preservation, sustainability, and environmental consultant.

The Symposium will address four major themes significant to the Nature-Culture Journey and World Heritage:

- Adopting a landscape approach for the conservation of cultural and natural resources--from urban to rural places
- Recognizing intangible heritage and diverse perspectives as integral to conservation strategies
- Building resilience, adaptation and sustainability for urban and rural landscapes
- Considering the past and future of the World Heritage List from the perspective of the U.S.

We will provide more information in our September US/ICOMOS at Work. You can also learn more on our [Symposium webpage](#).

We encourage you to register soon as space is limited. **Members** of US/ICOMOS and/or NTHP Forum can attend both conferences for a highly discounted rate. Registration to attend US/ICOMOS **Forward Together** only is \$400 / \$350 with special member code. Please contact us at director@usicomos.org for this code. **Non-Members** can attend both conferences for \$1,200-\$1,500 (based on registration date).

To register, follow this link and click on "Register Today" to begin the registration process: be sure to choose "PastForward and Forward Together" or just "Forward Together." Please contact us with any questions or to receive the \$50 member discount code at director@usicomos.org.

Looking Ahead to the 2020 ICOMOS General Assembly in Sydney, Australia

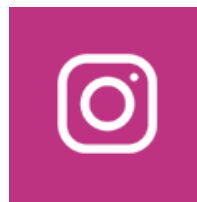
On 14 July 2018 US/ICOMOS Chair Doug Comer was given a stellar tour of Sydney, Australia, the host city for the 2020 ICOMOS General Assembly. The tour was provided by several members of the ICOMOS Australia Board of Trustees including Peter Phillips who is also Secretary General, ICOMOS; Bruce Dawbin; and Richard Mackay. Included in the tour were Sydney Customs House, once the center of commerce for that great city and now a venue where the history of Sydney is presented. Just outside is a festival area. On the 14th of July, the festival was Bastille Day! A highlight was a visit to the *Big*

Dig facilities. The archaeology and history of Sydney are on display there with exhibits perched over open archaeological sites, with major features and artifacts still *in situ*. There are also lodging facilities and classrooms that are used by numerous student groups and the general public throughout the year. From the roof of a Big Dig building are stunning views of the Sydney Opera House, the Sydney Harbour Bridge, and historic neighborhoods.



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***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.

