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US/ICOMOS at Work

January 2020 E-News



Welcome to "US/ICOMOS at Work," 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. Image: By Pete Souza, The White House, Washington, DC, 2012.

— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

US/ICOMOS Elects New Officers and Trustees

Congratulations to the new trustees and officers of US/ICOMOS, who were elected by a vote of the membership in December. We look forward to the skills, insights, and passion that newly elected trustees William A. Bell, Sr., Tom Cassidy, and Lea A. Shanley and elected officers Douglas C. Comer (President), Destry Jarvis (Vice President), Kate M. Perry (Secretary), and Ellen Delage (Treasurer) will bring to our organization.

Introducing our new officer and trustees:



Kate M. Perry is an attorney whose career has spanned both the cultural resource and natural resource protection worlds. She began her career at the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation followed by 5 years as Government Affairs Counsel at the National Trust for Historic Preservation and 25 years at the Environmental Protection Agency, where she served in managerial and senior policy positions in the enforcement, water, homeland security, and congressional and legislative affairs offices. Kate also served as Acting General Counsel at the ACHP for one year. Kate holds a B.A. from Wesleyan University and a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center.



William A. Bell, Sr., served as the 33rd mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, from 2010 to 2017. Prior to becoming mayor, he served several terms on the Birmingham City Council and in 1985 became the first African American to serve as its president. As mayor, he worked with President Obama, UNESCO and the National Park Service to designate the significant civil rights sites of Birmingham a World Heritage Site and National Park.



Tom Cassidy is Vice President of Government Relations and Policy for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a position he has held since August 2011. He is responsible for the overall direction and management of the National Trust's government relations agenda, including funding for the Historic Preservation Fund and select cultural and historical programs of federal agencies (such as the NPS Office of International Affairs). He also oversees the National Trust's policy agenda to protect and enhance the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, the most significant federal investment in historic preservation. Prior to joining the National Trust, Tom was The Nature Conservancy's Director of Federal Land Programs for more than 12 years and spent nearly a decade with American Rivers, where he served as General Counsel.



Dr. Lea A. Shanley is a senior research fellow and geographer at the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her interests are at the intersection of open science, technology innovation, and public policy. Shanley previously served as a founding co-Executive Director and co-PI of the NSF's South Big Data Innovation Hub and as a White House Presidential Innovation Fellow at NASA.

We would also like to express our gratitude to our departing officers and trustees for their service to US/ICOMOS: Aysar Akrawi, Brenda Barrett (who will remain on the Executive Committee), Lisa Craig, Darwina Neal, and Kathryn Washburn. Many thanks to all former, new and returning trustees for their dedication and commitment to cultural heritage preservation.



Puerto Rico Earthquakes: Update and How You Can Help

On January 7, 2020, Puerto Rico was struck by a significant earthquake and has since suffered many subsequent aftershocks. To all friends from outside of Puerto Rico who have asked how they can help, Milagros Flores Roman (ICOMOS member and President of the ICOFORT ISC) encourages donations via this link: <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/01/08/us/help-puerto-rico-earthquake-victims-iyw/index.html>.

Miliagros reports, "Until yesterday afternoon [January 15], the total number of refugees in the south of the island was 8,000, with a total of 700 houses seriously affected and hundreds of others with considerable damage, which is why people are afraid to return to their homes. People from the unaffected areas of Puerto Rico have been the first responders to provide basic assistance. Many volunteers from the U.S. have also arrived to assist the victims in many ways. Volunteers include a group of Puerto Rican diaspora engineers from Texas and other states, who have joined the Puerto Rican College of Architects and College of Engineers and together have immediately mobilized to evaluate residences and certify whether they are safe to be reoccupied which will be of great help in reducing the number of refugees, and will help direct aid to those who have lost their homes. Again, on behalf of Puerto Rico, thank you for all your help in these difficult times."

Advocacy Alert: Comment Now on Revised Changes to the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)

On January 10, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) announced that it was considering revisions to the regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in the Federal Register. The NPRM can be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/01/10/2019-28106/update-to-the-regulations-implementing-the-procedural-provisions-of-the-national-environmental>.

NEPA plays a central role in the federal environmental review process and requires consideration of cultural resources of importance to the preservation community and the public. Further, the Section 106 regulations encourage coordination with NEPA compliance. We wish to make our partners aware of the opportunity to comment on the proposed revisions. CEQ is accepting comments on the proposed revisions until March 10, 2020. Instructions for submitting comments can be found in the NPRM. Public hearings will be held on February 11 (Denver, CO) and February 25 (Washington, DC). The website listed below

will provide information about the meetings and any additional outreach.

A fact sheet and rulemaking history for the NEPA regulations can be found at <https://ceq.doe.gov/laws-regulations/regulations.html>. We encourage all members and supporters of heritage conservation to research the changes and submit comments.

You may submit comments via any of the following methods:

- Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments to Docket ID No. CEQ-2019-0003.
- By fax: 202-456-6546.
- By mail:
 - Council on Environmental Quality
730 Jackson Place NW
Washington, DC 20503
Attn: Docket No. CEQ-2019-0003

US/ICOMOS Statement on the Preservation of Cultural Heritage During Armed Conflict

US/ICOMOS denounces the recent suggestion made by President Donald J. Trump that he might order the destruction of heritage sites in retaliation for Iranian aggression in response to recent American actions in the Middle East. The United States has always provided leadership in the realm of protecting historic sites and honoring the heritage of all human societies in the world. The well-known activities during the Second World War of the Monuments Men who rescued European treasures and of Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson who protected Kyoto from atomic attack because of its significance to Japanese cultural identity are just two examples of the United States protecting the world's heritage. The proposed destruction of patrimony besmirches the memory of these brave men and women. US/ICOMOS points out that direct targeting and destruction of cultural heritage is a war crime, one that has been successfully prosecuted by the International Criminal Court.

[Read the rest of US/ICOMOS's statement here.](#)



Image: Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque on the Naqsh-e Jahan Square, Isfahan, Iran. Credit: Ninara,

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ninara/41364360861>

Trustee Adam Markham Keynotes UNESCO Seminar on Culture Tourism and Development



In mid-December Adam Markham was invited to give the keynote address for the 10th Seminar organized by the UNESCO Chair on Culture Tourism and Development, Maria Gravari-Barbas of the Sorbonne. The meeting, which took place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, was opened by Mechtild Rossler, Director of the World Heritage Centre. Adam's talk was titled "World Heritage, Climate Change and Tourism: Impacts and Responses," and was followed by two

fascinating panels consisting of academic experts and World Heritage site managers. [Read more here...](#)

The
International
Exchange
Program Needs
Your Support

Selection of Interns and Hosts for Summer 2020 is currently underway for the US/ICOMOS International Exchange Program (IEP).

We need your assistance to provide these invaluable opportunities to young professionals and preservation organizations. [Please contribute now!](#)



In Memoriam: Dr Roland Silva of Sri Lanka, past ICOMOS president

It is with profound sadness and grief that ICOMOS Sri Lanka announces the demise of Dr. Roland Silva, the Past President of ICOMOS International for three consecutive terms from 1990 to 1999 and its Emeritus President thereafter. He passed away at his residence in Colombo on 1st January after a brief illness at the age of 87. [Read more here...](#)

— OF NOTE —

Travel grants to GA2020 in Sydney, Australia



For ICOMOS members in some regions of the world, the cost of travelling to Sydney in 2020 may be an expense that neither the National Committee nor any of its members can afford. Financial assistance to attend GA2020 will be provided thanks to the ICOMOS Victoria Falls – Mosi-oa Tunya Solidarity Fund and a generous grant from the Getty Foundation.

[Please click here to read the Criteria to verify your eligibility before applying.](#)

[Click here to download the Application form.](#) Please submit it to the ICOMOS International Secretariat at GA2020-TravelGrants@icomos.org by 5 February 2020. The 20th Triennial General Assembly will take place in Sydney, Australia from 1-10 October 2020.



Emerging Professionals: Apply by 5 February to Become a 2020 Advocacy Scholar

Are you a student or recent graduate interested in federal preservation policy and advocacy? Apply to be a 2020 Advocacy Scholar! Selected participants will join over 200 professionals at [National Historic](#)

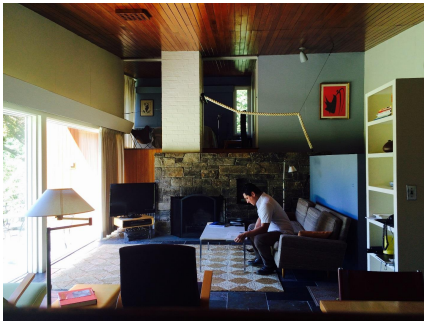
[Preservation Advocacy Week](#), March 10-12, 2020, in Washington, D.C. to

participate in policy briefings, join state delegations on Capitol Hill visits with elected officials, and attend key networking events. The scholarship includes complimentary Advocacy Week registration and a travel stipend.

Applications due Feb 5th. [Learn more and apply today!](#)

Comment Now on UNESCO's Policy Document on World Heritage and Climate Change

The deadline for the UNESCO World Heritage Centre's online consultation to update the *Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties* has been EXTENDED UNTIL 31 JANUARY 2020. Don't miss this unique opportunity to contribute to climate action. Go to <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2074>.



Apply for the 2020 Pocantico Center Preservation Fellowship

Applications for the 2020 Pocantico Center Preservation Fellowship are due March 27. This two-week residential fellowship from 21 July - 4 August at the historic Marcel Breuer House in Pocantico Hills, NY, allows for dedicated time for a defined project with significant benefit to the preservation field.

Visit [Forum.SavingPlaces.org/Pocantico](https://forum.savingplaces.org/pocantico) for complete details and online application.

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.

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