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## US/ICOMOS at Work

August 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: Members of the Taos Pueblo Conservation Corps at work restoring and maintaining the adobe structures of the World Heritage site. Read more below.

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— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

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**SAVE THE DATE:**

US/ICOMOS 2020 Virtual Symposium

US/ICOMOS



*U.S. World Heritage and  
Social Justice in the 21st century*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

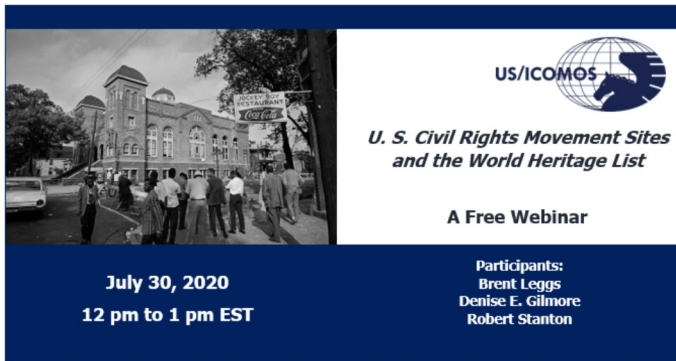
Mark your calendar now and look for more information soon!

## **US/ICOMOS World Heritage Webinar Series Off to a Successful Start**

We're very pleased to announce that we have successfully launched the US/ICOMOS World Heritage Webinar series, casting our hat into the digital arena and reaching new audiences in the United States and around the world. We would like to thank the many people who have made this series possible and who continue to devote many hours to its success. Our President Douglas C. Comer has been tireless in advocating, planning, preparing for and participating in each webinar. Our Membership Manager Nicole Ursin, without whom the series would not have been possible, has managed all the technology--from the event software, to Zoom, to chat and Q&A during the webinars--and more with acumen and grace. And, finally, in addition to the experts we have recruited from outside organizations to speak, many of our trustees have been instrumental in assisting on camera and behind the scenes: William A. Bell, T. Destry Jarvis, Caroline Cheong, Zoe Leung, Peyton Hall, Kate Perry, Jan Anderson, Lea Shanley, and Milford Wayne Donaldson.

If you were able to attend either or both of these webinars, thank you! If you were not, we have good news: you can access recordings of each webinar on the [US/ICOMOS Youtube channel](#) and you can participate in future US/ICOMOS webinars. Below you will find direct links to the video recordings and learn about followup actions you can take.

[U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites and the World Heritage List](#)



**US/ICOMOS**

*U. S. Civil Rights Movement Sites  
and the World Heritage List*

A Free Webinar

Participants:  
Brent Leggs  
Denise E. Gilmore  
Robert Stanton

July 30, 2020  
12 pm to 1 pm EST

Our inaugural webinar raised the important topic of U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites and their potential inscription on the World Heritage List. Thank you to our speakers Professor Glenn T. Eskew, Denise Gilmore, Brent Leggs and Robert G. Stanton for their perspective on this important World Heritage initiative in the United States.

In order to increase the nomination's potential for successful inscription, the Georgia State University World Heritage Initiative is seeking feedback on this [working draft narrative](#) expressing the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and Justification under World Heritage Criteria (ii) and (vi) of the potential serial nomination of U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites being developed for potential inscription on the World Heritage List. It would be particularly valuable to them to hear from US/ICOMOS members who are familiar with World Heritage nominations and Outstanding Universal Value. Comments may be sent to [gteskew@gsu.edu](mailto:gteskew@gsu.edu). In addition, several participants are preparing answers to questions presented during the webinar that we were unable to address on July 30th: please look for these in a future mailing.

### [Confederate Monuments: Past, Present, and Future](#)



**US/ICOMOS**

*Confederate Monuments:  
Past, Present, and Future*

A Free Webinar

Participants:  
William A. Bell  
Kali Holloway  
Destry Jarvis

August 13, 2020  
12 pm to 1 pm EDT

Our second webinar also addressed a timely topic: the history and future of Confederate monuments in public spaces and national parks. We would like to thank presenters William A. Bell, Kali Holloway and T. Destry Jarvis for their many insights into this complicated topic.

We plan to continue this dialog, but meanwhile encourage you to [learn more about Kali Holloway's Make it Right Project at this link](#). We also recommend the [Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Controversial Commemorative Works Policy Statement](#), which provides guidance for ascertaining contemporary community views regarding controversial monuments; considering a range of management alternatives for them; and promoting all aspects (positive and negative) of the nation's history.

## **US/ICOMOS Advocates National Park Service to Prioritize Deferred Maintenance Funding at NPS World Heritage Sites**

We are pleased to announce that on August 4, 2020, the Great American Outdoors Act was signed into law, with the goal of permanently funding the [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#) and restoring U.S. national parks. The Act will use revenues from energy development to provide up to \$1.9 billion a year for five years to provide needed maintenance for critical facilities and infrastructure in national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, recreation areas, and American Indian schools. It will also use royalties from offshore oil and natural gas to fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund with approximately \$900 million a year to invest in conservation and recreation opportunities across the country.



US/ICOMOS, along with many other preservation and conservation organizations, advocated for this significant legislation's passage. Now that it has become law, US/ICOMOS President Douglas C. Comer has written to Acting NPS Director David Vela to urge the NPS to prioritize deferred maintenance funding for the national park system units that are also World Heritage Sites. Collectively, the 19 units of the national park system that are also inscribed onto the World Heritage List have compiled almost \$4 billion in unfunded maintenance needs. This total is nearly one-third of the total NPS backlog.

In his [letter to Acting Director Vela](#), Douglas Comer wrote, "These 19 NPS units are among the best known and most highly visited parks in the USA, both for domestic and international travelers. In the next several years, as the USA and the world begin to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, we assume that both domestic and international travel will resume, and as a nation, we ought to strive to have restored our most iconic parks - our World Heritage Sites - to pristine condition, and thus be able to proudly welcome the world to these places that demonstrate outstanding universal values."

[Read the entire letter here.](#) US/ICOMOS will continue to advocate for funding this much-needed work in our most iconic national parks and historic sites as we move ahead with our new webinar series about World Heritage in the United States.

Photo Credit: Independence Hall, Philadelphia, PA. NPS photo.

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## **Taos Pueblo World Heritage Site Update: Introducing the Work of the Taos Pueblo Conservation Corps**



*Continuously inhabited for over 1,000 years by the Red Willow people, [Taos Pueblo](#) in New Mexico was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1992.*

In 2019 the Taos Pueblo [Rocky Mountain Youth Corps \(RMYC\)](#) Program, led by Taos native Dwayne Lefthand, had its first successful season. This year, the Taos Pueblo RMYC crew has expanded to include historic preservation work on the adobe structures of Taos Pueblo along with other projects.

The physical integrity of the historic Pueblo structures is an important element of any preservation plan for Taos Pueblo. Like all areas of Taos Pueblo, these areas are sacred to the people of the Pueblo and efforts to restore them or rehabilitate them require careful planning and yearly maintenance required sometimes twice a year, depending on the weather. Rain and snow have perhaps the most immediate and detrimental effects, and maintenance and restoration work is a constant concern. The Crew works in collaboration with the [Taos Pueblo Preservation Program](#) and Tribal Government that take care of and maintain the main Pueblo structures and the St. Jerome Church, as well as everything within the interior walls of the Pueblo. Project work consists of the following:

- Adobe Structure Restoration
- Adobe Making
- Mud Plastering
- Foot Bridge Maintenance/Construction
- Tool Use and Safety

Another component of the Taos Pueblo RMYC is collaborating with Federal agencies implementing conservation projects on public lands. The Taos Pueblo crews are currently assisting the El Medio Hazardous Fuel Reduction project, a Collaborative Forest Restoration Program project grant. The goal of this project is to reduce the threat of high intensity wildfire, reestablish historic fire regimes, utilize small diameter timber and create local forest-

related jobs. The El Medio project also will benefit and protect a traditional pilgrimage route that Taos Pueblo Tribal Members still use today once a year for a 35 mile trek by horseback. Both of these projects will benefit public and private lands.

*US/ICOMOS would like to thank Ben Thomas, Executive Director of [Rocky Mountain Youth Corps](#), of which the Taos Program is a part, for the program update that this article was adapted from. [To learn more, read the entire article on our website.](#)*

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— OF NOTE —

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## US/ICOMOS [Membership Survey](#): Please Participate!

MEMBER SURVEY

CLICK HERE TO PARTICIPATE

THANK YOU!

We are looking for volunteers to share their thoughts, feelings, and opinions in a [membership survey](#). You have 14 days to voice your opinion on US/ICOMOS membership and future planning: the [deadline is August 31, 2020](#). We believe your input is vital for the organization's future planning and hope you will consider completing our survey.

Our Membership Coordinator, Nicole Ursin (ndursin@umd.edu), is a graduate student at the University of Maryland and will be conducting the survey as part of her

master's thesis. The survey results will be used to help US/ICOMOS develop a strategic plan for moving forward. Results may also be used in articles written by Nicole that are submitted for publication. Your decision to participate or not participate will not have a negative or positive impact on your employability or relationship with US/ICOMOS. The [survey](#) will take about 30 to 45 minutes to complete.

Thank you for participating!

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## Cares Act and \$200,000 Matching Challenge Grant Provide Incentives to Contribute Now

Did you know that there are unique, short-term tax advantages to making a charitable cash contribution to US/ICOMOS in 2020?

- Individuals who do not itemize and will take the standard deduction on 2020 tax returns will receive an "above-the-line" deduction of \$300.
- For those who itemize, the incentive to give is particularly great: the Cares Act removes the 60% of adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation for most cash gifts to public charities

for 2020. This means that you can offset up to 100% of your income in 2020 with charitable contributions. Contributions in excess of this amount can be carried forward for five years subject to the 60% of AGI limit in those years.

There are also unique advantages to donating to US/ICOMOS in 2020: every dollar that you contribute will be matched through a generous Matching Grant Challenge from our distinguished colleague and US/ICOMOS Fellow, Ronald Lee Fleming.

Please [contribute now](#) to take advantage of the Cares Act deduction and to double the impact of your fully tax-deductible contribution.

[Contribute Now](#)

## Are You an Emerging Professional? Join our New Emerging Professionals Network

US/ICOMOS has established an Emerging Professionals (EP) Network with the aim of facilitating communication and exchange between EPs in the United States and their global counterparts and to create opportunities for collaboration.



Co-chairs Caroline Cheong and Zoe Leung (left) are working closely with ICOMOS EP Working Group (EPWG) and U.S. preservation organizations to solidify details of the Network and engagement opportunities. Please write to [epwg@usicomos.org](mailto:epwg@usicomos.org) if you would like to join the Network or have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you and keeping you posted on new developments!

## International Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP) "On The Road" Documentary Series



The third episode of the International Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP) - On The Road documentary series "They Didn't Come For The Lands" is dedicated to the Swat Valley of Pakistan which was under terrorist attack between the years 2007-2009. Along with loss of many lives and disruption of daily life, the attacks also resulted in damaging and destroying a number of the multilayered cultural heritage of former historical periods of the Valley.

The episode shares the story of the local community members who protected these sites

that they share with a variety of other communities from all over the world while putting their own lives at risk.

Watch the episode on the [ICORP On The Road Youtube channel](#). For more information, please see the [ICOMOS-ICORP On The Road website](#).

Photo credit: Swat Valley © Izmis Lake, Flickr

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## Results of the ICOMOS July 2020 General Assembly

On 23 and 24 July 2020, the first ever virtual ICOMOS General Assembly was held.

Called by the President, at the request of a majority of the members of the Board, the sole purpose of this General Assembly was to seek the agreement of the ICOMOS membership to hold all forthcoming 2020 statutory meetings as virtual meetings (i.e. the Triennial General Assembly, Advisory Committee, Board and Bureau meetings), taking into account the current global situation. We are pleased to advise that more than 90% of the voting members voted in favor of the Board's proposal.

The meeting took place via ZOOM, and the voting via ZOOM Poll (for the procedural resolutions GA2020-7-1 to 4) and via the Euro-vote Platform (for the main resolution GA2020-7-5).

Over 900 ICOMOS members registered for the online event and over 500 attended.

For those who were unable to join, below are links to key documents:

- the [agenda](#) (adopted with no change)
- the [resolutions](#) (adopted with no change)
- the [detailed results of the votes](#)
- the [video recording](#).

During the meeting, the dates for the Triennial General Assembly were announced. It will take place virtually **between 3 and 16 December 2020**. There will be three or four short zoom meetings corresponding to the votes on resolutions and the successive stages of the elections. Voting will again take place via the Euro-vote platform.

Further information will be provided in early October and we hope that many of you will join in December.

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US/ICOMOS needs your help to emerge ready to operate successfully in a changed post-pandemic world.

**Please contribute now to double the impact of your fully tax-deductible**



**contribution**  
**... and please join our organization as a member.**

**Donate**

**Join**

*Join the Conversation on Social Media*



*and Please Forward this Newsletter to  
Friends and Colleagues!*

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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](https://usicomos.org).

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