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US/ICOMOS at Work

November 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: Spruce Tree House at Mesa Verde National Historic Park. Mesa Verde World Heritage Site is featured in our [Celebration of World Heritage Travel Chest](#). Photo: NPS, Sandy Groves.

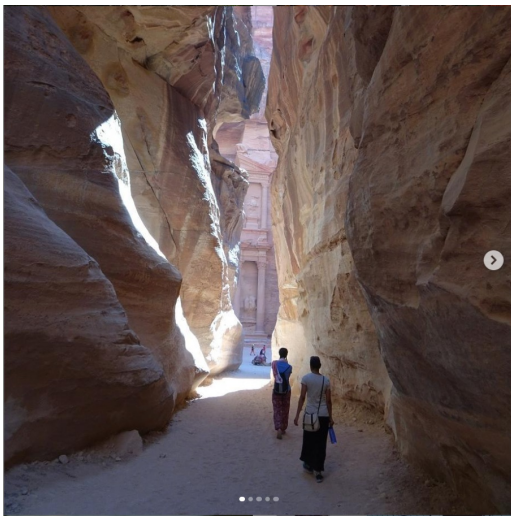
— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

[2020 Virtual Celebration of World Heritage: We'll Bring the Gala to You](#)

The Celebration of World Heritage will look a little different this year: we're going virtual and bringing the gala to you. Please join us for this, our most significant fundraiser of the year, on December 19th (or whenever it's convenient for you at home!).

[You can contribute at any level](#) to participate and we hope you will because **all charitable contributions through the end of 2020 will be doubled by a generous grant from US/ICOMOS Fellow Ronald Lee Fleming.**

Here's a preview of what you can look forward to as a sponsor or attendee:



Platinum World Heritage Sponsors for Ten (\$5,000) will receive a private virtual tour of Petra, 5 World Heritage Travel Chests (each chest serves two) with delivery to up to 5 locations. We encourage you to include your friends and colleagues, just as if you were sharing a table for 10 at our usual Celebration!

Photo: Petra World Heritage Site, taken by IEP Charmaine Ledesma in 2017 during her internship to Jordan.

All Sponsors who contribute over \$500 will receive one or more World Heritage Chests containing celebration treats, including customized glass tumblers, cloth napkins featuring prints by Frank Lloyd Wright, an Old Fashioned Cocktail Kit for two (you supply the alcohol), Bunches & Bunches Snap Cookies, Green Olive Tapenade, Rosemary and Olive Oil Flatbread Bites, Grand Canyon Tea, Séka Hills Wildflower Honey, and postcards by Ansel Adams of Yosemite and Yellowstone (several items pictured above). Order by December 3rd to receive your Chest in time for the event!



Your contribution of any amount will provide admission to the Virtual Celebration and will be doubled thanks to Ronald Lee Fleming's generosity.

The Celebration will feature a welcome by the Honorable Irina Bokova, former Director-General of UNESCO, pictured in 2017 at left with Mayor William Bell, US/ICOMOS trustee and former mayor of Birmingham, Alabama. The Celebration will also feature greetings from World Heritage sites all over the World, along with a virtual toast to World Heritage. [Learn](#)

[more and sign up here.](#)

Since US/ICOMOS is a 501(c)3 organization, all contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Your generosity supports our International Exchange Program for young professionals (intern Melissa Chinaka, 2019 IEP from Zimbabwe, is pictured at right), our Annual Symposium and Conference, and our efforts to support and publicize the value of World Heritage and heritage conservation in the U.S. and around the world.

Even if you are unable to attend on Saturday, 19 December, [we encourage you to support the Celebration](#): if you order by 3 December your World Heritage Chest will arrive



by 17 December and can be consumed at any time and a recording of the Celebration will be sent to you via email. Thank you. We truly appreciate all you do to support us, international cooperation, and the World Heritage convention.

Contribute to Attend the Celebration of World Heritage Now

Highlights of the [2020 Virtual International Conference and Symposium](#)

US/ICOMOS 2020 Virtual Symposium

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

NOVEMBER 12-13, 2020

From our organizers and presenters, to our over 250 attendees and two behind-the-scenes magicians (Nicole Ursin and intern Olivia Lichens, for the record!), we extend a heartfelt thank you for making "U.S. World Heritage and Social Justice in the 21st Century" a success.

Below are a few highlights from this inspirational and educational event that we are proud to have organized and hosted. Attendees have already received links to recordings of all the sessions. For everyone unable to attend, please stay tuned for the release of these recordings to the wider public in 2021.

Day One: Social Justice, Civil Rights & Slavery



The Symposium kicked off with a plenary conversation between Lonnie G. Bunch III, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and Director Robert G. Stanton, former National Park Service (NPS) Director and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Expert Member. These long-time leaders have spent their careers engaged in promoting social justice in cultural heritage, the National Parks and society as a whole. While discussing heritage, the Black Lives Matter social justice movement, and the interpretation of history at National Parks and sites, Secretary Bunch noted "These conversations are not about nostalgia – they're about national history. They're at the heart of who we are as individuals and as nations."

In our session on "World Heritage Sites and Slavery", Brandon Dillard, Manager of interpretation at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, described how the site began interpreting the stories of enslaved peoples in the early 1990s. Today, there is a much greater emphasis on sharing this history as knowledge has increased in tandem with archaeological excavation and site restoration. In the same session, Wazi Apoh discussed evidence of the slave trade in sites across



Ghana, and Pascall Taruvinga, Ph.D., presented on the complex history of South Africa's Robben Island World Heritage site.

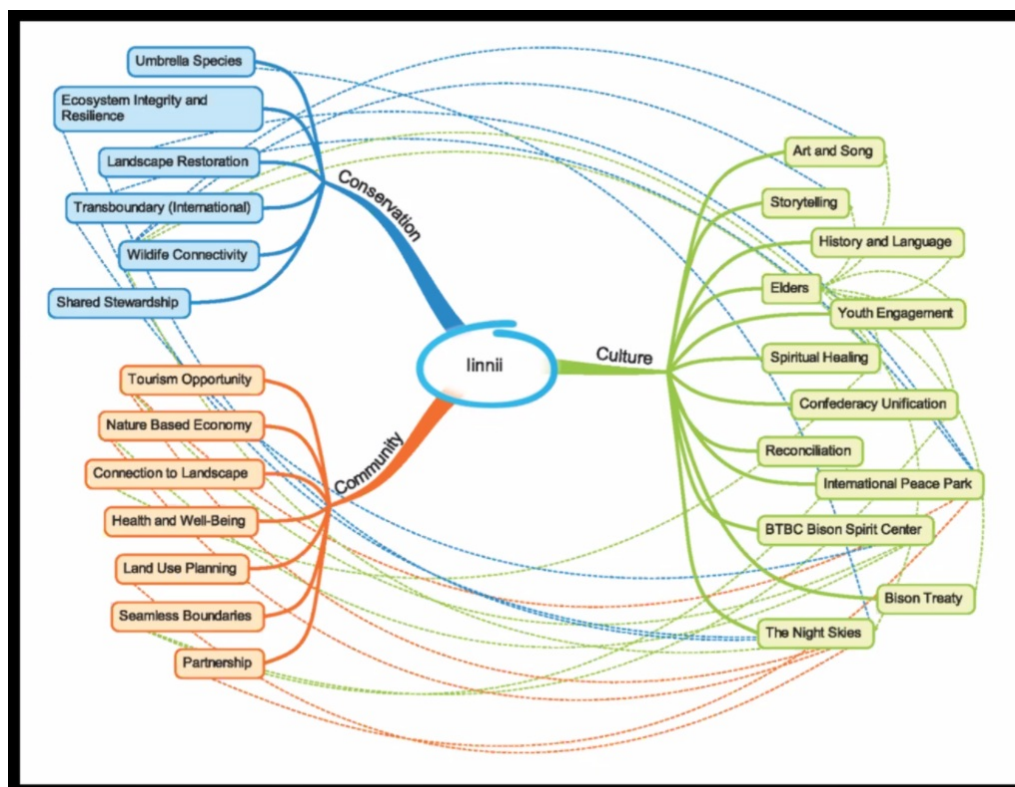


Sylvia Cyrus, top left, Executive Director of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), discussed the interpretation of Civil Rights sites and efforts to nominate U.S. Civil Rights Sites for inscription on the World Heritage list. Fellow participants were Moderator Alan Spears, NPCA Senior Director of Cultural Resources, Government Affairs (top right); Joy G. Kinard, Ph.D., Superintendent of the Selma-to-Montgomery and Tuskegee

National Park Service Sites in central Alabama (lower left); and Judy Ann Forte, Superintendent, Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Park in Atlanta, Georgia (lower right).

Day Two: Social Justice and Indigenous Peoples

Day Two began with a plenary presentation on "Welcoming Indigenous Peoples to their National Park Sites" by Dorothy FireCloud, the newly designated NPS Native American Affairs Liaison. She noted that NPS sites have both come a long way and still have much to do to welcome native peoples to the lands that they once occupied and treasured. FireCloud said that there is no single national park that tells the story of Native American civil rights, but that Alcatraz has a current online exhibition that addresses one such struggle that took place at the site: [Red Power: Perspectives 50 Years Later](#).



Jeff Mow, Superintendent

of Glacier National Park and World Heritage Site shared his experiences in a session devoted to "World Heritage

and Indigenous Peoples' Struggles for Social Justice." Jeff discussed the linnii initiative to reintroduce wild bison to the Glacier landscape and displayed a mindmap image (above) showing how interconnected conservation, community and culture are.

Ilona Spruce, Tourism Director at Taos Pueblo World Heritage site, said "We are a living site.... Having the UNESCO designation has helped us get funding to preserve the buildings and establish their longevity." Spruce described Taos Pueblo plans to build a Welcome and Education Center to introduce visitors to its living history before entering the site itself.

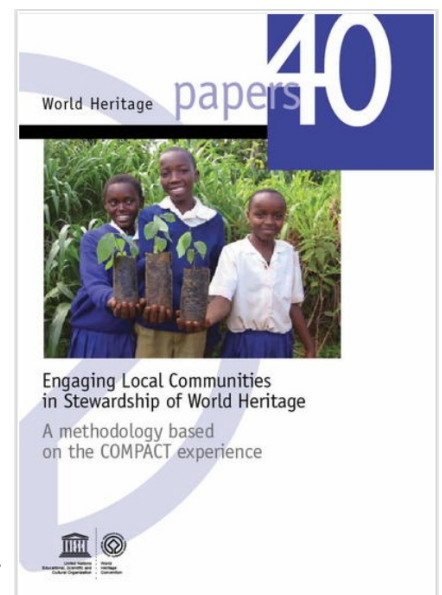


Day Two's final session was an enlightening discussion on "Diversifying and Decolonizing World Heritage." Presenters described recent developments in New Zealand, Australia and Canada, along with the many challenges to the concept of "World Heritage" in countries such as the Philippines with indigenous populations whose heritage resides in cultural practice and the human body rather than physical monuments.

Thank you again to everyone involved with this event! If you were not able to participate but would like to learn more, please look for future notices from US/ICOMOS. All of the session recordings will be distributed on [our YouTube channel](#) in 2021.

In Case You Missed it: [*World Heritage Paper 40 on Engaging Local Communities in Stewardship of World Heritage*](#)

There is an increasing demand for community engagement at all stages of the World Heritage process and for rights-based approaches that link conservation and sustainable development. Member Jessica Brown shared [*World Heritage Paper 40*](#) as a followup to our 2020 Symposium. It contains guidance for engaging indigenous and local communities in World Heritage as we pursue more equitable representation globally and in our own countries. Jessica also recommends [Compact: Engaging Local Communities in Stewardship of World Heritage](#) to those wishing to learn more about rights-based approaches to heritage conservation. Thank you, Jessica!





Register Now for the ICOMOS Virtual General Assembly

The 20th ICOMOS General Assembly is now only weeks away – it's time to register and study the working documents! [All of the information you need is here.](#)

The General Assembly will take place through 3 online sessions on:

- Thursday, 3 December 2020 – starting 12:00 pm (noon) until approx. 13:00 or 14:00 CET
- Monday, 7 December 2020 – starting 12:00 pm (noon) until approx. 14:00 pm CET
- Wednesday, 16 December 2020 - starting 12:00 pm (noon) until approx. 13:30 pm CET

ICOMOS members wishing to attend the 20th General Assembly must register for all the sessions they plan to attend by [filling out this online form by 1 December.](#)

— OF NOTE —

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2021

Please join or renew for 2021 now!

Join

The Ronald Lee Fleming Challenge Grant is ON until 31 December 2020: [Donate Now](#) to Double Your Contribution



US/ICOMOS Fellow Ron Fleming will DOUBLE all contributions made to US/ICOMOS this calendar year. There are also [2020 tax incentives](#) that might prove an added incentive and we have opened a brokerage account if you wish to donate securities.

To meet Ron's \$200,000 challenge grant, your gift is essential! We have a long way to go to reach our \$200,000 goal. If we can meet this challenge, US/ICOMOS will emerge ready to operate successfully in a changed post-pandemic world. [Please contribute now to double the impact of your fully tax-deductible contribution by clicking here.](#) [If you would like to attend the Virtual Celebration of World Heritage, please note "Celebration" in the Tribute line.](#) If you have questions about making a donation via brokerage account, please email us at Membership@usicomos.org. Thank you for your contribution!

**Donate Now to Double Your
Contribution**

Join the Conversation on Social Media



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

US/ICOMOS is a U.S. 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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