



US/ICOMOS at Work

January 2021 E-News



Welcome to "US/ICOMOS at Work," a monthly update on US/ICOMOS actions 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: Civil Rights Leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. addresses the crowd during the 1963 March on Washington. Photo: U.S. National Archives.

— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

On Martin Luther King Day, 2021: A Path Forward

As we honor the life and achievements of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., on this third Monday of January, 2021, we look back on a turbulent year filled with misfortune that will nonetheless result in positive change. Despite the terrible events that brought us to this point and the uncertainty that now surrounds us, we strongly believe that allied social justice movements across the United States, the world, and in the arena of heritage, have gathered a momentum that will not be stopped and can only grow in influence.

At US/ICOMOS, we are fully committed to furthering social justice initiatives that will enable and encourage broader and more equitable participation in modern life, and in our arena of influence: heritage conservation. Our [2020 International Conference and Symposium had as its theme "U.S. World Heritage and Social Justice in the 21st Century,"](#) and we will continue devoting programming and other initiatives to social justice themes in 2021 and beyond.



Over the next several months, we will share video recordings of the Symposium proceedings via our newsletter and social media feeds. We begin with these two videos, the Plenary sessions from each day of the 2020 Symposium. We find them inspiring and believe that you will as well:

[Day One: Social Justice, Civil Rights & Slavery Plenary Session](#) (pictured above): Lonnie G. Bunch III, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and Robert Stanton, former NPS Director and former ACHP Expert Member (2014-2020), discuss promoting social justice in cultural heritage, the National Parks and society as a whole.

[Day Two: Social Justice and Indigenous Peoples Plenary Session](#): Dorothy FireCloud, NPS Native American Affairs Liaison, on "Welcoming Indigenous Peoples to their National Park Sites."

We hope that, with us, you will work to create a better future for us all, one that strives to inspire and recognize the common dignity of all people, as the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., did in his life's work.

A Message from President Douglas C. Comer, Ph.D.: US/ICOMOS and ICOMOS Look Ahead to 2021 and Beyond

Washington, D.C., January 15, 2021

2020 was a year of social and cultural isolation and conflict, internationally and nationally. A Greek poet could not have contrived the tragedy of a global pandemic as a more fitting outcome of the rising tide of nationalism and the worship of autocratic leaders who embody narcissism. Nations, most prominently our own, have turned inward, a course that ultimately will spell disaster in the face of threats

that demand cooperation among the states of the world.

We now have the task of acting to mitigate an enormous threat to the health of our planet and the well-being of the world's population: climate change. While the rest of the developed world has pledged to take serious steps to arrest this, now including China, the U.S. has not.

ICOMOS has identified climate change as the central issue of its Triennial Scientific Plan. It has also established several Working Groups to address issues highly relevant to climate change that will provide input to doctrines and good practices. Among these are Working Groups for:

- Our Common Dignity Rights-Based Approaches (social justice)
- The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals
- Climate Change and Heritage
- Indigenous Heritage
- Emerging Professionals



ICOMOS is comprised of National Committees that represent individual countries, and International Scientific Committees. The work of National Committees will be essential. Each must work within its own country, relying on the efforts of these Working Groups, to deal successfully with global dangers including climate change. In 2020, US/ICOMOS demonstrated leadership in addressing the issues that prompted the formation of ICOMOS Working Groups. In 2021, we will accelerate our involvement. I invite expressions of interest in participating in one or more of these Working Groups. With sufficient involvement by US/ICOMOS members we will be able to form mirror groups within our national organization that will contribute to ICOMOS Working Groups.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

2020 was a year of great change at US/ICOMOS and we cannot thank you enough

for your support. The global Covid-19 pandemic made it apparent early in the year that we would need to do things very differently to carry out our mission of promoting the conservation of World Heritage and creating stronger connections to the global heritage community through advocacy, education, and the international exchange of people and ideas.

In addition to downsizing our staff while instituting new programs, we fundraised in a way we never have before. We will report more fully on our results next month, but would like to thank everyone who contributed over the course of the year to help us reach our goals. We finished the year fiscally sound and truly appreciative of the many people and institutions who support World Heritage in the United States.

Save the Date: February 25th World Heritage Webinar featuring [Waterton Glacier International Peace Park](#) World Heritage Site

Our first World Heritage Webinar of 2021 will feature the superintendents of U.S./Canadian World Heritage Site [Waterton Glacier International Peace Park](#) and one or more tribal representatives. In 1932, [Glacier National Park](#) and [Waterton Lakes National Park](#) were designated the first international peace park, with the U.S. and Canada working together to resolve natural resource issues that transcend international boundaries. This webinar will highlight the two parks' work with tribal leaders to provide greater opportunity for tribal use and stewardship of native lands; adaptation in the face of climate change in the unique “Crown of the Continent” ecosystem; and the international cooperative management aspects of the international park.



Registration information will be available soon. This 1-hour webinar will begin a monthly series throughout 2021, each covering the world heritage values and resources of a specific U.S. World Heritage or Tentative List site. Stay tuned for more details.

[Join or Renew for 2021 Now](#)

Have you joined or renewed US/ICOMOS for 2021? All memberships run from January 1 through December 31 annually and include:



- Monthly US/ICOMOS at Work News Blasts
- Invitations to US/ICOMOS events
- Reduced registration fees to US/ICOMOS conferences and workshops
- Information on national conferences and seminars

International membership comes in three forms (Individual International \$210, Young Professional \$70, and Institutional for 4 Individuals \$700) and includes more benefits:

- ICOMOS membership card providing [free or reduced admission to many heritage sites and museums worldwide](#)
- Priority access to the services of the International Secretariat and to the UNESCO-ICOMOS Documentation Centre
- Possibility of participating in International Scientific Committees and activities
- Participation in an international professional network (expert meetings, professional workshops, scientific exchanges, training programs)
- Possibility of participating in the triennial ICOMOS General Assembly
- Subscription to ICOMOS international newsletter
- Discounts on selected publications

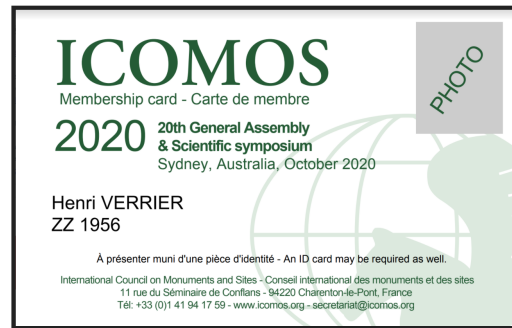
National Affiliate memberships are available for \$140 (these do not include the ICOMOS card or benefits). Your membership dues support the activities of US/ICOMOS (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization) as well as the ICOMOS International Secretariat. If you have any questions about our membership program, please email us at Membership@usicomos.org. Thank you for your support.

[Learn More About Membership and Renew](#)

Already an International Member? Send in Your Photo to Receive an ICOMOS Electronic Card (E-Card) for 2021

For 2021 International Members, ICOMOS will provide virtual e-cards in addition to physical ICOMOS cards. Members can download a personalized e-card bearing their photo to their electronic devices such as smartphones, computers and tablets in order to gain admission to museums and World Heritage Sites or for reference

when registering for ICOMOS events. We encourage all of our International, Young Professional, and Institutional members to participate in this initiative, since it is the first step in ICOMOS's transition to all electronic cards.



To receive an e-card, please email a photo of yourself and your preferred email address to membership@usicomos.org with the subject "Virtual ICOMOS Card." Photos should be in a JPEG or PNG format (preferred size: 200x260 pixels). You will receive an email containing access to your virtual card within a few days. In order to receive an e-card you must submit a photo. Thank you!

Thank You to Intern Owen Calvert!



We would like to thank Owen Calvert for his service with US/ICOMOS in Fall 2020. Owen, a Senior at the College of Charleston, served as our virtual intern. He helped with multiple projects, including conducting grant research, designing social media posts for our Giving Tuesday fundraiser, and preparing short informational videos for upcoming World Heritage Webinars.

Owen split his internship time working from home in Chatham, New Jersey, and from Charleston, South Carolina, where he is majoring in Historic Preservation and Community Planning with minors in Urban Studies and Environmental and Sustainability Studies in college. Owen received course credit for his work with us and we received much-needed help during a busy time.

We very much appreciate Owen's help and that of all our interns and volunteers.

Opportunity for [Public Comment on U.S. World Heritage Tentative Sites](#): Deadline January 26, 2021

The National Park Service has requested comments regarding potential U.S. World Heritage Sites. Please refer to the [Federal Register Notice with more information and guidance here](#). Comments are due on or before January 26, 2021.



Congress of Racial Equality march

A march held in memory of the four girls killed in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama; the march was sponsored by the Congress of Racial Equality and was held in Washington, D.C., in 1963.
Thomas J. O'Halloran—U.S. News and World Report Magazine Photograph Collection/Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
(digital file number: ppmsca-04298 -6A)

If you would like to endorse a particular site for nomination, please do so. The entire list of [Tentative Sites, including the Hopewell Culture sites in Ohio and U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites \(referred to in the image above\), can be found here](#).

You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Mail to:* Jonathan Putnam, Office of International Affairs, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.
- *Email to:* jonathan_putnam@nps.gov. Phone: (202) 354-1809.

[UNESCO Adds 32 New Inscriptions to Intangible Heritage Lists](#)

In mid-December, the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage inscribed three elements on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, and 29 elements on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

For the first time this year, Finland, Malta, Paraguay and Singapore had inscriptions on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists, which now feature elements from a total of 131 States. This year saw the highest number of multi-country nominations, with 14 inscriptions testifying to the ability of intangible cultural heritage to bring



A Malay hawker prepares satay (seasoned and skewered meat grilled over hot charcoal)

© Mohamad Hafiz, contestant of #OurHawkerCulture photography contest 2019, Singapore, 2019

people together and promote international cooperation.

One of this year's new additions was "[Hawker culture in Singapore, community dining and culinary practices in a multicultural urban context](#)", a representative image of which is pictured here. The [complete list of new inscriptions can be found online](#).

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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