



## US/ICOMOS at Work

July 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: Heiau (place of worship) at Mokumanamana, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and World Heritage Site. Credit: Kekuewa Kikiloi. Papahānaumokuākea, the U.S.'s only joint natural and cultural World Heritage Site, is the subject of our August World Heritage Webinar.

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### — LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

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## 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee Underway in Fuzhou, China

The extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC), Fuzhou (China) is taking place online from 16-31 July 2021. The Committee will consider 39 nominations this year for inscription on the World Heritage List. This includes all nominations for 2020 and 2021, since the 2020 WHC meeting was canceled due to the global Covid-19 pandemic. All official documents related to the 44th session are available on the [official website](#) of the event.

As an advisory body of the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS provides advice and makes recommendations on all matters related to cultural and mixed heritage. The World Heritage Committee deliberates and then makes a decision based on these recommendations. ICOMOS evaluations of Nominations of Cultural and Mixed Properties for 2020 and 2021 are available [here](#).

You can follow the daily working sessions of the WHC via [live broadcast here](#). No registration is necessary to follow the broadcast, it is accessible to all, without limit of participants.



## Emerging Professionals Network Partners with National Park Service (NPS) to Promote and Extend the International Underground Railroad



It is a truism that the Underground Railroad was neither “underground” nor a “railroad.” Rather, it signifies resistance to enslavement through escape and flight and refers to the efforts of enslaved African Americans to gain their freedom by escaping bondage through the end of the U.S. Civil War. Aided by free African Americans, indigenous tribal members, and abolitionists, enslaved African Americans escaped to freedom in northern states and to other countries and territories where slavery was illegal.

In Spring 2021, [NPS Network to Freedom](#) staff requested that US/ICOMOS partner with them to expand the context of the Underground Railroad to an international scope. Our Emerging Professional Network (EPN) agreed to assist. EPN member Kaitlin Paecklar, with assistance from President Douglas Comer, EPN Chair Zoe Leung and staff, will oversee US/ICOMOS’s efforts to:

- Promote and celebrate International Underground Railroad Month in September 2021,
- Engage international partners in the initiative, and
- Expand the [NPS Underground Railroad Mapping Project](#) to include international sites outside the United States.

US/ICOMOS has secured cooperative commitments from three ICOMOS national committees--Canada, The Netherlands, and Brazil—and is actively recruiting more national committees to participate. The international mapping project will launch in September, when we will reach out to members and partners to collect information and stories about sites connected to the Underground Railroad.

Click on the links to learn more about the [Underground Railroad](#), the [Network to Freedom](#), and the U.S. Underground Railroad [Mapping Project](#). If you would like to assist with the project, please contact us at EPN [at] usicomos.org.

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## Save the Date: US/ICOMOS 2021 Virtual International Symposium and Conference: 28-29 October, 1-5 pm EDT each day

### “Preserving World Heritage in a Changing Climate”

Make plans now to join us online October 28-29 for our annual International Symposium and Conference. This year, the pressing issue of climate change at cultural sites will be our primary topic of discussion. In regard to World Heritage Sites in the U.S. and around the world, expert speakers will explain and discuss:

1. Assessing Climate Change at Cultural Sites
2. Managing Climate Change Effects at Cultural Sites

3. Maintaining Traditional Cultural Practices and Properties for Indigenous Peoples Impacted by Climate Change at World Heritage Sites Around the Globe
4. Public Education and Climate Justice

Registration Information, speakers and session titles and timing will be posted online soon. We hope you will be able to attend.



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## Water and Heritage International Scientific Committee (ISC) Seeks U.S. Working Group Members



The new International Scientific Committee for Water and Heritage (ISC Water) seeks to increase awareness about the significance of hydraulic heritage for current and future water management challenges including climate change. The United Nations' Water Action Decade Mid-Term Review (March 22-24, 2023) will be an excellent opportunity to deliver this message.

ISC Water seeks expressions of interest from US/ICOMOS members to join a working group to organize a side event. ISC Water envisions the following goals: (a) advance inter-disciplinarity between water management and heritage professionals; (b) present opportunities for religious and

spiritual leaders to share their wisdom regarding material, conceptual and spiritual dimensions of water heritage; (c) promote stewardship and the importance of water related cultural heritage in the UN Valuing Water Framework; and (d) organize field visits to local sites. If interested, please contact [waterheritageusicomos@gmail.com](mailto:waterheritageusicomos@gmail.com).

Learn more here:

2023 UN Conference on the Water Action Decade: <https://sdgs.un.org/2023-un-conference-water-action-decade>

ISC Water and Heritage: <https://www.icomos.org/en/member-area/64180-water-heritage-questionnaire-on-development-of-international-scientific-committee-mission-statement-and-statement-of-significance-for-water-as-cultural-heritage>

Image: Sir Diederik Six and Henk van Schaik, founders of ISC Water, publicize the connection between water and heritage at the 2015 World Water Forum in Seoul, Korea.

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## "700 Interns and 100 Countries: the US/ICOMOS International Exchange Program" World Heritage Webinar



## 700 Interns and 100 Countries: the US/ICOMOS International Exchange Program

**Thursday  
July 15, 2021  
12:30 – 1:30 pm EDT**

**Free/Contribution Optional Webinar  
Learn About our Flagship Program  
from Participants**

On July 15th, US/ICOMOS presented a webinar presentation and discussion about the impacts of the US/ICOMOS International Exchange Program (IEP). Three alumni, each from a different decade of the IEP, spoke about their experiences and how the program made a difference in their professional and personal lives. The webinar was moderated by Brian Lione, the outgoing chair of the IEP Committee, who shared some of his own experiences with the IEP.

If you missed the webinar, [a recording is available here](#). If you are a potential intern or work for an organization that might benefit from the expertise of an international intern, this webinar provides an excellent introduction to the program. Please share it with your colleagues.

The application process for IEP Summer 2022 will take place in late 2021. We will distribute a *Call for Interns and Hosts* then. [If you would like to learn more now, please visit our website](#).

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## Update: Bison at Glacier National Park and World Heritage Site

When we dedicated our February World Heritage Webinar to the return of bison to Glacier National Park and World Heritage Site, the timing of the return was tentative. It still is but we're much closer to this goal: [according to Ervin Carlson of the Buffalo Program of the Blackfeet Nation, the Blackfeet herd could be free to roam within Glacier and Blackfeet lands in the next year](#). To learn more about the cooperative efforts behind this development, watch our World Heritage Webinar on the Glacier Bison Initiative: [Tribally-Driven Bison Restoration Comes to the Glacier/Waterton World Heritage Site \(25 February 2021\)](#).

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— OF NOTE —

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## ICOMOS Nature-Culture Survey: Complete by 20 July



Nature-Culture, or Culture-Nature, in its many forms has become one of the main themes of ICOMOS's work in the field of cultural heritage. For this reason, ICOMOS would like to better coordinate nature-culture initiatives and projects within the organization.

As a first step, ICOMOS is using a survey to identify ongoing initiatives as well as ICOMOS members who would be interested in furthering these initiatives together.

Please respond to the survey by **20 July 2021**:

<https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/JKHKZLZ>



## Submit Abstracts for the Conference on Cultural Heritage and New Technologies



The Conference on Cultural Heritage and New Technologies will take place in Vienna, Austria, and online 2-4 November. Submission for papers, short papers and posters are due 30 July. [Learn more here](#) about abstract submission. [The conference website is here](#).

## ICOMOS General Assembly Advisory Committee Meetings: Save the Dates and Times!

**ICOMOS**  
international council on monuments and sites



There will be four General Assembly Advisory Committee Meetings, each at noon Paris time, on October 19, 22, and 27, and November 3, 2021. Links to the meetings will be provided. The meetings will go over ICOMOS priorities and what national committees, scientific committees, and our new set of Working Groups are doing and can do to move these ahead. Resolutions stemming from the meetings will be put up for votes at the final meeting on November 3, 2021.

### Meeting 1: ADVISORY COMMITTEE PREPARATORY WEBINAR

19 October 2021, 12:00 pm Paris time  
Total meeting duration: 3h 00m

#### *HERITAGE PRACTICE AHEAD: ICOMOS PANDEMIC RESPONSES*

- Follow up of 2020 Advisory Committee. How has the Covid-19 Pandemic affected ICOMOS members practice, operations, and research? What new opportunities or challenges do we have? Improved accessibility, Operational changes, and efficiencies for committees?
- Strengthening the Scientific leadership
- Improving the influence in the global heritage context

### Meeting 2: NATIONAL COMMITTEES MEETING

22 October 2021, 12:00 pm Paris time  
Total meeting duration: 2h 35m

- Opportunity and need to rename the National Committees Council
- Structural and statutory changes needed
- Matters of common concern to National Committees (e.g., climate change, indigenous heritage, rights-based approaches, SDG 2030, emerging professionals) and related actions/programs
- Recommendations from National Committee to the Advisory Committee

### Meeting 3 SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

27 October 2021, 12:00 pm Paris time  
Total meeting duration: 3h 00m

- Reports from Scientific Committees
- Scientific Committee doctrinal texts in preparation
- Recommendations from Scientific Council to the Advisory Committee

**Meeting 4**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**STATUTORY MATTERS AND VOTING**  
3 November 2021, 12:00 Paris time  
Total meeting duration: 2h 56min

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## ICOMOS General Assembly: 8 and 10 November 2021

The 2021 ICOMOS Annual General Assembly will take place online. There will be one main 2-hour session, then a short session to announce the results of voting on the accounts, the budget and the doctrinal text submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

- **Monday, 8 November 2021** – from 12:00 pm (noon) to approx. 14:00 or 15:00 pm CET
- **Wednesday, 10 November 2021** – at the closing of the Scientific Symposium

[An agenda is now available here.](#) The agenda includes all the items that are part of the General Assembly. Items blocked in grey will be addressed during the online sessions and items in white will only be the object of voting on the voting platform. All timings for items are tentative.

Except for the business resolutions on 8 December, voting (on accounts, budget and doctrinal text) will be done through an online voting platform. Designated voting members will receive further information closer to the meeting dates.

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## ICOMOS [Guidelines on Fortifications and Military Heritage](#) Final Draft Published

As required by Art. 10 (11) of the ICOMOS Rules of Procedure, following the conclusion of the consultation process and final approval by the ICOMOS Board in May 2021, ICOMOS is sharing the final draft of the ICOMOS Guidelines on Fortifications and Military Heritage, as submitted for adoption. You can [download the final draft in English here](#).

Image: 4th Level at El Morro Fort, [NPS San Juan National Historic Site](#), San Juan, Puerto Rico.



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*Join the Conversation on Social Media*



*and Please Forward this Newsletter to*

***Friends and Colleagues!***

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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](https://usicomos.org).

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