



## US/ICOMOS at Work

April 2022 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: close-up photo of the Statue of Liberty, a World Heritage Site in New York, New York. Credit: National Park Service.

### — LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

## World Heritage Day is Today, 18 April!

Each year on April 18th, we celebrate the International Day for Monuments and Sites, also known as World Heritage Day. This year's theme is "Heritage and Climate." [National committees around the world have planned events and activities that you can read about here.](#) Below are several events occurring in the U.S. or virtually.



### Emerging Professionals Working Group Africa-U.S. Collaboration

US/ICOMOS Emerging Professional Working Group (EPWG) has organized an Interdisciplinary Project on Heritage and Climate with EPWG Africa entitled "Lessons from Africa to Americas: Cultural Heritage for Climate Action, Adaptation, and Resilience." The first working group meeting will take place on April 25.

The collaboration's main goal is to contribute to the climate conversation through building synergies across generations, disciplines, and countries, with an eye toward creating knowledge-building opportunities for emerging leaders passionate about the nexus of cultural heritage and climate action.

Emerging professional members of the U.S. team will include a digital/data platform specialist based in London and an MA student based in Germany researching underwater and coastal cultural heritage and the impact of climate change. African members are from Addis Ababa, Johannesburg, and Lagos with backgrounds in architecture and archaeology. Mentors include Dr. Bély Niangao of ICOMOS Burkina Faso specializing in climate change and religious practices and Dr. Isabel Rivera-Collazo, Assistant Professor on Biological, Ecological and Human Adaptations to Climate Change at the Department of Anthropology and Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego.

The outcomes from the working group sessions will be presented in a report to be disseminated to our network and presented in webinars/meetings including the World Climate Day 2022 and World Heritage Day 2023. [To learn more about this initiative, continue reading here.](#)

## **Global Philadelphia**

The Global Philadelphia Association has arranged several events in and around Philadelphia for IDMS 2022 and also has initiated a local UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiative. [Learn about these events and how you can help achieve UNESCO's SDGs on the Global Philadelphia Facebook page.](#)

## **San Antonio World Heritage Office**

Each year, the San Antonio World Heritage Office schedules multiple events to promote and celebrate World Heritage in this Texas home of the San Antonio Missions serial World Heritage Site. [Learn about 2022 events here.](#)

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## **Thank You to Everyone who Attended or Volunteered for the 2022 US/ICOMOS Celebration of World Heritage**



Our annual Celebration of World Heritage took place on April 9th. We would like to sincerely thank our sponsors, attendees, speakers, trustees, staff and volunteers who helped make the event a success. During the virtual event, we shared informative videos about many sites on the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List and toasted the 50th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. [A complete video recording of the event is available here.](#)

We also presented a special program on Ukraine's Heritage at Risk. Read about this program below.

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# Statement on the Impossibility of Holding the Next World Heritage Committee in Russia or Under the Russian Presidency



On 7 April 2022, the United States and 45 other countries who are party to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention agreed publicly that it was impossible for the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee to be held either in Kazan or under the Russian presidency.

They have written an open letter to the members of the World Heritage Committee, stating that they would not attend a meeting of the Committee either in Russia or under the Russian presidency while it is destroying “outstanding universal value” in Ukraine. [Read](#)

[the letter here.](#)

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## Learn More about Ukraine's Heritage at Risk

Following our Annual Celebration of World Heritage on 9 April, US/ICOMOS presented [a program on Ukraine's Heritage at Risk](#) with speakers from both Ukraine and the U.S. explaining the history of the conflict and efforts to preserve Ukraine's heritage. The session included a [presentation](#) and a [Q&A session](#) with Dr. Kateryna Chuyeva, Ukraine's Deputy Minister for Culture and Information Policy.

We have created a [Youtube playlist](#) of all the presentations in the program, including [an additional presentation by Mikola Bezv entitled "Why is this happening and what can we do?"](#). [Access the entire program on Ukraine's Heritage at Risk here.](#)



A [separate presentation on Cultural Heritage and Armed Conflict](#) has been prepared by US/ICOMOS member Meisha Hunter. This presentation seeks to illustrate the war not only as a humanitarian crisis, but also as an existential threat to the survival of Ukraine's cultural heritage and identity. The structure of the presentation includes both listed and tentative UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Ukraine; an overview of historic pacts, conventions and treaties pertaining to cultural heritage in armed conflict; and other modern conflicts that have compromised or destroyed cultural heritage. Suggestions for further reading are also provided. [This presentation is available to download here until 22 April and will be posted on the US/ICOMOS website thereafter.](#)

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## Monuments Toolkit Project News



Our Monuments Toolkit project now has dedicated space on the US/ICOMOS website to share the many types of content developed by Toolkit staff. Visit the Monuments Toolkit subsite here: <https://usicomos.org/monumentstoolkit/>

Toolkit staff are producing a [podcast called The Monumental Project](#). The goal of the podcast – and the program at large – is to address these questions: how do we address monuments of oppression? What are our options for dealing with painful pieces of our past? How can we learn, heal, and move forward? The aim of the season is to answer these questions while providing listeners with a thought-

provoking and engaging experience. [Listen to a short teaser podcast here.](#)

A Monuments Toolkit Blog is also underway. [All blog posts are available here](#). The latest post, by staff member Destiny Heard, on "[Environmental Justice in the Black Hills](#)" can be read [here](#). Destiny also designed the Monuments Project Toolkit logo that you see above.

We would like to thank the [Mellon Foundation](#) again for underwriting this important work.

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## — OF NOTE —

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### Thank You to our Emerging Professional Volunteers

In addition to making phone calls urging past attendees to attend the 2022 Celebration of World Heritage, five emerging professional volunteers prepared short videos to help promote the event. We shared these videos via social media but would like to share them here as well as we celebrate World Heritage Day and all that these emerging professionals bring to the heritage field.

Click on each name below to watch each video:

[Mary Cain](#) – student in World Heritage Studies at BTU Cottbus.

[Kelly Cannici](#) – graduate student in Cultural Heritage Studies at The University of Alabama at Birmingham

[Zvipozvashe Kundai Ngwenya](#) – student in Museum Studies at Syracuse University

[Maria Goretti Tai](#) – UCLA Law School graduate who now works in cultural management and law

[Emmy Tither](#) – K-12 Education Program Coordinator at the Latin American and Iberian Institute at The University of New Mexico

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### Call for Papers: International Conference on Urban and Regional Planning 2022

The [6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Urban and Regional Planning \(CURP\) 2022](#) is scheduled to be held in Karachi, Pakistan on 18<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> November 2022 focusing on the theme of **The City and the Poor**. This Call for Papers invites urban planners, architects, government officials, academics and all allied professionals to share their knowledge and research befitting the theme of this conference for the benefit of the public, professionals and students of the related fields.

#### IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract submission dates: **13 May 2022**

Date of notification to the author: **27 May 2022**

Full paper deadline: **15 August 2022**

Reviewer comments and revised papers: **15 September 2022**

Conference Dates: **18-19 November 2022**

[Learn more and read the conference poster here](#).

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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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