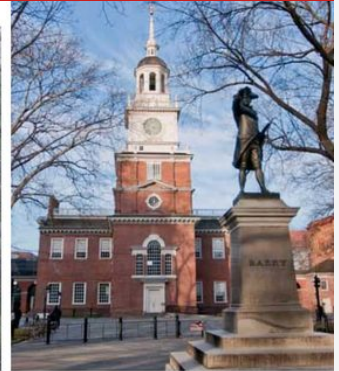


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# WORLD HERITAGE USA

U.S. National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites

NEWSLETTER | July 2023



Courtesy of the National Park Service

*Welcome to the World Heritage USA Newsletter, a monthly update on our actions to preserve and promote World Heritage and international knowledge exchange on preservation topics. We share these brief communications monthly with our supporters.*



## Culture as an Enabler to Unlock the Key Challenges and Gaps in the Implementation of the SDGs

### **President Douglas C. Comer Moderates United Nations Conference Panel**

ICOMOS U.S. National Committee President Douglas C. Comer, Ph.D., moderated “Culture as an Enabler to Unlock the Key Challenges and Gaps in the Implementation of the SDGs” at the United Nations on 5 July. The panel was part of an interactive dialogue on Culture and Sustainable Development entitled “Culture as a global public good: Filling SDG implementation gaps beyond 2030.” [A link to the event recording can be found here.](#)

#### President Comer's Opening Remarks

*Hello, my name is Douglas Comer and I thank you for the honor of being moderator for this discussion. I am president of the United States National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites, or ICOMOS. As you know, ICOMOS advises UNESCO on cultural issues by virtue of the World Heritage Convention, an international treaty that has now been signed by more countries in the world than any other. The United States was a driving force behind the final draft and the ratification of the World Heritage Convention in 1972, and our national committee was the first of*

what are now 107 national committees. And I am enormously pleased to say that the government of the United States is on schedule to rejoin UNESCO in the coming weeks. [Continue reading President Comer's opening remarks.](#)



## Monuments Summer: Aspiring Toward a Common History

Registration is now open for the exciting panel event we are co-hosting with The Charleston Forum in Charleston, SC, on 21 July. Join us to explore the meaning and future of monuments. The event is free to attend, but tickets are required: [register here](#). It will also be livestreamed on our [Facebook](#) page for those unable to attend in person. Please join us!

## World Heritage USA Advocates for Payment of World Heritage Dues

Following [recent testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations in support of funding U.S. dues for the World Heritage Committee](#), Trustee Thomas Cassidy submitted a letter on this important matter to the editor of the New York Times. His letter was published digitally on 19 June and in the 20 June 2023 print edition of the Times. [Learn more.](#)







## International Exchange Program (IEP) 2023 Under Way!

Seven of this year's IEP interns gathered in Washington, D.C. for an amazing few days of heritage-focused tours, visits, and meetings in late June. Katelynn Cunningham, World Heritage USA Program Coordinator, organized and led this first in-person IEP Orientation since 2019. Thank you to Katelynn for your leadership and for keeping us updated along the way! [Read about the orientation and see photos here.](#)

## The Monuments Toolkit Project

Monuments Summer events are approaching fast in Charleston, SC, on 21 July and in San Diego, CA, on 18 August. [Register for the Charleston event now](#) or make plans to tune in to listen on Facebook Live. Registration and event details for San Diego will be shared soon!

The June Monuments Toolkit Podcast was created in honor of Pride Month. "Protecting Legacies: Keeping LGBTQ+ Stories Alive with Victor Salvo" looks at an incredible monument collection championing the LGBTQ+ community in Chicago, IL. [Listen to this episode and all of our past podcasts here.](#)

The Mellon Foundation, funder of the Monuments Toolkit Project, is hosting an event to mark the third year of the Mellon Monuments Project. RSVP to join Foundation President Elizabeth Alexander for a discussion on 18 July about how our cities are envisioning and creating new American monuments today. [Learn more and register.](#)

## U.S. World Heritage Recommendations

World Heritage USA submitted comments to the Office of International Affairs of the National Park Service regarding the next U.S. nominations to the World Heritage List. Above all the others on the U.S. Tentative List at present, we strongly support making the U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites serial nomination the next official U.S. nomination to the World Heritage Committee. [Read more.](#)



## Save the Date: 1-3 November 2023

Make plans now to join World Heritage USA and partners in San Antonio, Texas, for an inspiring look at a city that is making the most of its World Heritage status. Our [Symposium and Conference](#) will feature two themes: 1) the World Heritage nomination process and the marketing of World Heritage Sites, and 2) Indigenous and Transboundary cultural traditions and partnerships. We will share registration details soon.

### Living Landscape Observer Webinar: [Register Now](#)

On July 19 at 11 AM ET the Living Landscape Observer is presenting a webinar on the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a long-running and innovative program in the United Kingdom to conserve rural cultural landscapes. Link to register for the program is:

<https://livinglandscapeobserver.net/living-landscape-observer-webinar-series-areas-of-outstanding-natural-bea>

### World Heritage Designation of Hopewell Earthworks

Read archaeologist [Ken Feder's recent editorial about the significance of designating Hopewell Earthworks a World Heritage Site.](#)

**ICOMOS GA2023: Register Now!**

Join up to 1,500 heritage professionals from across the globe in Sydney, Australia, from 31 August – 9 September 2023. [Learn more and register now.](#)

### **Preserving Legacies Website Launches**

“[Preserving Legacies: A Future for our Past](#)” equips local leaders with the scientific knowledge and technical training to develop place and people-based climate change adaptation plans. The site contains [resources and training materials](#) for conservation.

### **International Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Turns 25**

Join the celebration Friday 21 July (1-4) and Saturday 22 July (10-2) at the Harriet Tubman Visitor Center in Cambridge, MD. [Learn more and RSVP here.](#)

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*World Heritage USA 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 [WorldHeritageUSA.org](https://WorldHeritageUSA.org).*

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### **You Can Make a Difference**

World Heritage USA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We rely on your donations to support our many programs and initiatives promoting education and heritage conservation in the United States and around the world.

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