

WORLD HERITAGE USA

ICOMOS-USA
International Council on Monuments and Sites

NEWSLETTER | May 2024



Courtesy of the National Park Service

World Heritage USA supports the work of ICOMOS-USA, the U.S. National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites. We share these brief communications monthly with our supporters.

A promotional poster for the ICOMOS 2024 Annual General Assembly & Symposium. The top left features the ICOMOS logo and the event title. Below it, the dates '10 - 17 November' are shown in a dark oval. The background is a photograph of a historic building in Ouro Preto, Brazil, with a location pin icon and the text 'Ouro Preto, Brazil HYBRID' overlaid.

Abstracts Due 15 May!

This year's ICOMOS Scientific Symposium will take place in Ouro Preto, Brazil, from 13 to 15 November 2024. The theme is "Revisiting the Venice Charter: Critical Perspectives and Contemporary Challenges." [Read the call for abstracts here.](#) If you send an abstract, please also [email our manager Arianna Startt Zakrzewski](#) so we can alert our members and plan for attendance. Thank you!

International Exchange Program (IEP) Reception

Our 2024 IEP interns arrive in Washington in mid-June for a 3-day Orientation meeting. For the first time since 2019, we're planning a reception for our members to meet the interns, trustees, and staff. Make plans now to join us on the 14th of June in Washington, DC. Space is limited so [please RSVP here!](#) Details to follow via email!



In Honor of Ambassador Esther Coopersmith

ICOMOS-USA mourns the passing of Ambassador Esther Coopersmith, who died in her Washington, DC, home on March 26, 2024, at the age of 94. ICOMOS-USA awarded Ambassador Coopersmith the "Excellence in Intercultural Dialogue" Award at our 2014 Gala Celebration of World Heritage, pictured at left. [Read more.](#)

Join Our New Emerging Professionals Committee!

With the support of ICOMOS-USA and World Heritage USA, this leadership committee will create events and initiatives to connect young heritage professionals around the country and increase opportunities for engagement, networking, and professional development. To apply, please [email a statement of interest \(500 words max.\)](#) and [a copy of your CV here](#) by 7 June 2024.



Are You Traveling this Summer?

If you are and you plan to visit historic sites and museums, join ICOMOS-USA or renew now. The ICOMOS card, available with all International Memberships, grants members free access to [select sites around the world.](#)

[JOIN OR RENEW NOW](#)



ICOMOS Culture-Nature Prize 2024: Apply Now

The ICOMOS Culture-Nature Prize will be given to a project under implementation, which addresses connections between culture and nature and makes a significant contribution to the heritage field in an innovative and effective way. ICOMOS members, Committees and Working Groups are eligible to apply. [Learn more and apply by 31 May!](#)

ICYMI: April World Heritage Webinar Available Online

Our April webinar entitled “Through the Lens of the Venice Charter: Ukraine and Cambodia” is now available on our Youtube channel. Tune in to learn more about the Venice Charter and its ongoing implementation at sites damaged by conflict or disaster. [View the webinar recording here.](#)



WORLD HERITAGE USA

Through the Lens of the Venice Charter: Ukraine and Cambodia

Available Now on Youtube

2024 WORLD HERITAGE WEBINAR SERIES



Save the Date

Our annual Symposium and Celebration of World Heritage will take place 20-22 November in Washington, DC, later this year. Please make plans now to join us in person in Washington to discuss climate change mitigation at U.S. World Heritage Sites.

NPS Network to Freedom and Mission San José

Did you know that Mission San José in [San Antonio Missions National Historical Park](#) and World Heritage Site was the scene of an 1833 armed conflict over slavery? Five freedom seekers from Louisiana completed a treacherous 400-mile journey to safety in San Antonio, which was part of Mexico at the time. [Read more Mission San José and the 19 recent listings to the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.](#)



Promoting World Heritage in New Orleans

For the first time, World Heritage USA / ICOMOS-USA sponsored and staffed a booth at the Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting. We shared information about the organization, membership, and World Heritage in the U.S. Answering questions were (l. to r.) Doug Comer, President; Arianna Startt Zakrzewski, Administrative Manager; and Tom Cassidy, Trustee.

On March 1, 2024, the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield and partners hosted a conference celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the 25th Anniversary of its Second Protocol, and the 15th Anniversary of U.S. Ratification. [Watch the conference recording here.](#)

Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture 2024

The Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture (FestPAC) is the world's largest celebration of indigenous Pacific Islanders. Since its inception, FestPAC has been hosted by different Pacific Island nations on a rotational basis: this year it will take place in Hawaii 6-16 June 2024. [Learn more and register now.](#)

Preserving Legacies Adds 11 New Heritage Sites

Preserving Legacies: A Future for our Past welcomes a new cohort of heritage sites and custodians across the world to work together to ensure their places of cultural significance are protected from climate change impacts and allowing us to continue to learn from our past and inspire our future. The site custodians in this new cohort will participate in an interactive training, assessment and adaptation implementation program. [Learn more.](#)

Monumental Podcast

This new podcast from PRX interrogates the state of monuments across the greater U.S. and what their future says about where we are now and where we're going. [Tune in here.](#)

NPR Investigation into America's Historical Markers

A year-long investigation into roadside historic markers across the U.S. by NPR's Laura Sullivan found a varied landscape of fact and fiction. [Listen.](#)

NPS Funds Arkansas Civil Rights Site Preservation

[The National Park Service recently granted \\$749,000-plus to Central High School in Little Rock, AR, to preserve African American Civil Rights history.](#) Central High School is included among sites recommended for a World Heritage U.S. Civil Rights Sites inscription. [Learn more.](#)

World Heritage USA provides a gateway for U.S. citizens to experience and participate in international heritage conservation programs and activities and for the international community to learn about the rich and diverse heritage of our nation. In doing so, we uphold and advance the broad goals of ICOMOS, the World Heritage Convention, and the preservation of cultural heritage globally. [Learn more about us at WorldHeritageUSA.org.](#)

You Can Make a Difference

ICOMOS-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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