

# WORLD HERITAGE USA

**ICOMOS-USA**  
International Council on Monuments and Sites

NEWSLETTER | August 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.*

Historic Moravian Bethlehem District  
added to  
Moravian Church Settlements  
World Heritage Listing



Photo by Craig Larimer

WORLD  
HERITAGE  
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ICOMOS-USA

## Welcome to Our Newest U.S. World Heritage Site!

Join us in celebrating the inscription of the Historic Moravian Bethlehem District in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Bethlehem district and two other Moravian sites in Germany and Ireland have joined Christiansfeld, Denmark as a single World Heritage site, the [Moravian Church Settlements](#). [Learn more about Moravian Bethlehem here.](#)

## World Heritage on the U.S./Mexico Border

We're excited to announce that ICOMOS-USA has established a U.S./Mexico Binational Nominations Initiative to support the creation of four World Heritage Sites along the U.S./Mexico Border. The World Heritage inscription process is long but the Outstanding Universal Value of these sites makes the effort worthwhile. [Learn more.](#)



## Maui, Climate Change, and What's Next

This August 8, 2024, we sadly observe the one-year anniversary of the wildfire in Maui, the deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century. On 20-21 November 2024, we will convene the 2024 ICOMOS-USA Conference and Symposium that will focus on the underlying causes of the Maui fires, climate change. Make plans now to listen to the latest research and thinking on ways to arrest climate change. [Learn more.](#)

## U.S. Civil Rights Sites Nomination News

[Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced on 16 July 2024 that she has authorized the National Park Service to prepare a potential World Heritage nomination for 11 U.S. Civil Rights Movement sites.](#) The many sites and organizations involved will now begin work on a formal nomination dossier. [Read more about the nomination.](#)





## In Case You Missed It: July World Heritage Webinar

Our World Heritage Webinar entitled “Tradition and Legacy on El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro” is available now for viewing online. [Visit our Youtube page](#) to watch and learn about “the Royal Inland Road” and our efforts to inscribe the U.S. section of this historic trail on the World Heritage List.

## Thank You to Our Members!

Thank you for helping us reach a landmark 1,000 ICOMOS-USA members! Your membership is crucial to our continued success and that of ICOMOS as a whole, since a large percentage of your dues directly support the international organization. If you're not a member or if you forgot to renew for 2024, you can still join. [Visit this link to sign up!](#)



## Save the Date

Our annual Conference and Symposium will take place in Washington, DC, 21-22 November 2024. Our focus will be climate change and World Heritage, and social justice and sustainability in the face of climate change. On the evening of the 22nd, join us for our annual gala fundraiser, the Celebration of World Heritage. The Celebration underwrites all of our programming: [we hope you will be able to attend!](#)

## Monuments Toolkit News

The Monuments Toolkit team is beginning work on [Phase 2 of the Monument Relocation, Removal, and Reinterpretation project](#). Stay tuned here and on

our website for news about our new team members and activities.

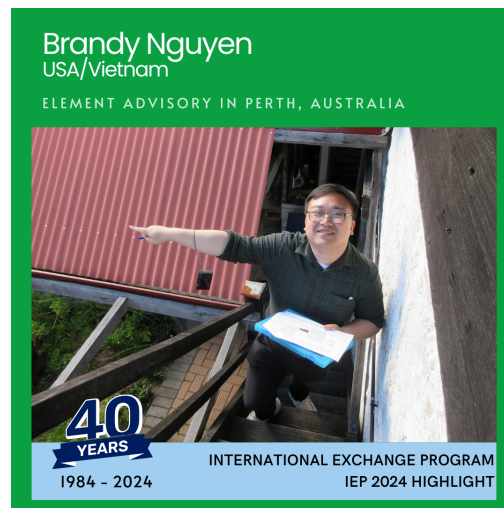
In case you missed it, we would like to direct your attention to [an episode of the Monumental Project podcast that we first shared last year](#). This episode explores the legal challenges that can arise when a community decides to take down a controversial monument. Through interviews, we explore how communities in Alabama faced these legal challenges and overcame them. [Listen now!](#)

## International Exchange Program 2024 Highlights



### 40 Years of the International Exchange Program (IEP)!

In honor of the 40th anniversary of the IEP, we will be sharing 2024 Intern photos and highlights in this and the next two newsletters. Enjoy these brief testimonies to what an invaluable experience the IEP continues to be for interns worldwide. [Read more about the IEP](#), and, [support it if you wish!](#)



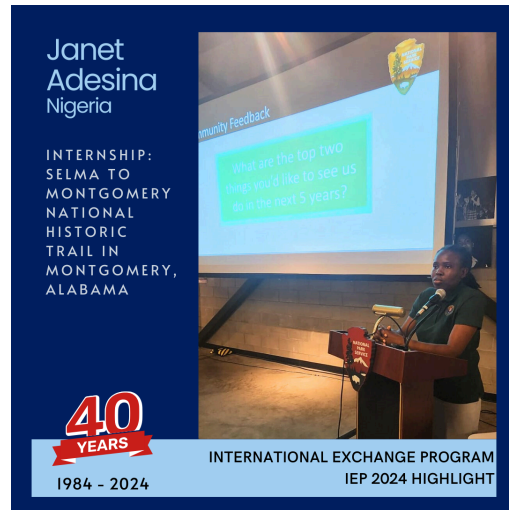
### Brandy Nguyen in Perth, Australia

Brandy is our most far flung intern this summer! He told us, "The best part of my internship with Element Advisory has been the site visits! From rural homesteads, historic hotels, to colossal power stations, I've been able to see heritage in all different shapes and sizes."



## Katherine Chalmers in Montgomery, Alabama

“The best part of my internship at the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail has been meeting people involved in the globally significant Civil Rights Movement, and having the opportunity to honour their courageous actions by ensuring their stories are shared with the wider community and younger generations.”



## Janet Adesina in Montgomery, Alabama

“One of the highlights of my internship at the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, Alabama, is the opportunity to engage in preserving the legacy and history of the Civil Rights movement. Additionally, facilitating educational outreaches at the interpretive center, networking with NGOs & Civil Rights activists, and anchoring community meetings to get direct feedback on the Park’s interpretation plan have been very endearing to me.”

## News and Notices From Our Partners

### Webinar: Telling the American Story on Our Public Lands with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland

Secretary Interior Secretary Deb Haaland joins Mellon Foundation President Elizabeth Alexander for a free online discussion about the reparative work Haaland leads on our public lands, the charge of stewardship for racial and environmental justice, and the role of Interior in telling the American Story. Thursday, September 5 at 4:00 p.m ET. [Learn more and register.](#)

**Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks World Heritage Site Octagon Earthworks to Open to the Public 1 January 2025**

“The New Year will bring a new era to the Octagon Earthworks and the Ohio History Connection,” said Charles R. Moses, President of the Ohio History Connection Board of Trustees. “We are excited the Octagon, which is one of the eight locations in the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, Ohio’s first and only UNESCO World Heritage Site, will be fully open to the citizens of Ohio – and the world.” [Learn more.](#)

### **2023 ICOMOS Annual Report**

The 2023 ICOMOS Annual Report showcases the dedication of the ICOMOS network to protecting and promoting Cultural Heritage worldwide. It highlights last year's activities and achievements, including research publications and international events. [Read it here.](#)

### **Call for Proposal Abstracts: Preserving the Recent Past 4 (PRP4)**

The [PRP4 Conference](#) will take place in Boston, MA 19-22 March 2025. PRP4 will provide a new forum to share the latest strategies for identifying, protecting, and conserving significant structures and sites from the recent past. The deadline for abstract submission is 15 September 15. [More information can be found here.](#)

### **Past Forward 2024: Register Now!**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation’s annual conference, PastForward, will take place in New Orleans from 28-30 October. [Learn more about this year’s themes:](#) Climate resilience; Ensuring a representative preservation movement; and Preservation-based economic development. Registration is now open. [Take advantage of early bird rates through 19 August.](#)

### **Webinar: The Wooden Bridge to France: The Life of One of the Mallows Bay Ghost Fleet Vessels**

Join Allyson Ropp, a maritime archaeologist, to learn about Aowa, one of the 100 abandoned World War I vessels in Mallows Bay. Mallows Bay, within the Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary, hosts one of the largest ghost fleets in the Western Hemisphere. [Register now for this webinar on 20 August 2024 at 1 pm ET.](#)

### **The Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) Celebrates 5 Years**

The GAOA, passed in 2020, provides funding to improve infrastructure and expand recreation opportunities in national parks and other public lands. The legislation established the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund and guaranteed permanent funding for the existing Land and Water Conservation Fund. [Learn more.](#)

### **National Park Service Awards over \$600,00 to American Indian Tribes, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiian Organizations**

On 8 July 2024, NPS announced \$623,077 in grants for 10 projects from across the country to support the protection of America's native cultures. Among other efforts, projects funded by these grants will locate and identify cultural resources, preserve historic properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, support comprehensive preservation planning, preserve oral history and cultural traditions, and support cultural and historic preservation interpretation and education. [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](https://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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