



Preserve America Summit Implementation Progress Report

Optimize U.S. participation in the international preservation arena by improving information exchange and facilitating U.S. participation in international preservation activities.

Lead Agency/Agencies: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and Department of the Interior (DOI)

Summit Recommendation Progress: For the past year, efforts to implement this recommendation have been focused in two areas. First, working with their non-federal partner, the US Committee for the International Council of Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS), the ACHP and DOI, working through the National Park Service (NPS), have been developing specific actions to promote U.S. participation and leadership in international preservation activities. The NPS has entered into a partnership agreement with US/ICOMOS, providing financial support and defining a number of cooperative activities in the international preservation arena. A major action has been using the US/ICOMOS annual symposium, which brings together U.S. preservation practitioners with an interest in international preservation, to focus on specific steps that can advance the Summit recommendation. This symposium was held in late May in Washington and drew almost 200 participants. The three-day meeting produced a series of proposed action items. These were reviewed and adopted by the US/ICOMOS Board of Trustees in late July. Collectively, they set out an action plan for US/ICOMOS, federal agencies, and the private sector to pursue the Summit recommendation goals. The recommendations are currently being reviewed in the context of the priorities of the new Administration and will be submitted to the Department of State and other Executive Branch recipients to inform their policies.

As the primary U.S. non-governmental organization that promotes information exchange, US/ICOMOS completed a major upgrade of the US/ICOMOS website at the end of 2008. It also strengthened its partnership with federal agencies, obtaining direct financial support from the State Department in addition to the NPS cooperative agreement.

In a related area, US/ICOMOS successfully advanced a U.S. candidate for the position of international president of ICOMOS. The election occurred at the triennial ICOMOS General Assembly in Quebec City on October 4, 2008. This is the first time an American has filled this prestigious and influential position in the international preservation community.

The Department of the Interior has focused its efforts on advancing U.S. participation in the World Heritage Program. After a 14-year hiatus, the Department has reopened the Tentative List for U.S. nominations, which is the prerequisite for actually moving forward with nominations. It solicited recommendations from the public, conducted an intensive professional review of the suggested nominations, and established a new Tentative List. From the Tentative List, the Department narrowed its choices down to two potential nominations, the maximum any nation can nominate in a year. In January, the Secretary of the Interior announced that the U.S. was going forward with nominations for Mount Vernon in Alexandria, Virginia, and the Papahānaumokuākea National Monument in Hawaii.

The U.S. is also continuing to take a leadership role on the World Heritage Committee. At the Committee's most recent meeting in Quebec in July, the U.S. delegation played an active role and drew additional support from UNESCO for the professional services needed by the Committee.

Next Actions: The Departments of Interior and State will move the World Heritage nominations forward. US/ICOMOS will pursue its policy and program recommendations with the new Administration, seeking to ensure a role for cultural heritage as the U.S. redefines its engagement with the world.

Important Links:

US Committee for the International Council of Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS)

www.icomos.org/usicomos/

World Heritage Program, National Park Service

<http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/worldheritage.htm>

Comments or Questions? Please send comments or questions to preserveamerica@achp.gov.

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