



Preserve America Summit Implementation **One-Year 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. They will be posted shortly on the US/ICOMOS website. Collectively, they set out an action plan for US/ICOMOS, federal agencies, and the private sector to pursue the Summit recommendation goals.

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. 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 is planning to move forward with two nominations this fall.

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: As the primary U.S. non-governmental organization that promotes information exchange, US/ICOMOS will take a leading role in further steps to implement the Summit recommendation. One important step will be a major upgrade of the US/ICOMOS website in the fall.

In a related area, US/ICOMOS is, for the first time ever, advancing a U.S. candidate for the position of international president of ICOMOS. The election for this prestigious and influential position will take place at the triennial ICOMOS General Assembly in Quebec City on October 4, 2008.

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.

August 27, 2008