

SBH Newsletter 2021 n° 1– January



Dear members of Shared Built Heritage,
colleagues and friends,

In the difficult times that we are going through, we address you all at the beginning of a new year with a mix of expectations regarding the work we can do together and apprehensive about the direction our lives are taking as a result of the pandemic that is plaguing us, and that insists on not giving us a break.

Perhaps that is why it is important that we keep together and share the hope that we can find a way through such precariousness.

Our passion is the culture that unites the past that we share, the history that we live and absorb while we travel the spaces we inhabit.

The spaces are permanent storytellers, so many shared stories, some more emblematic than others, but which together narrate an evolution, have a continuity. Our cities have to take into account the importance of context and our relationship with it over time, as Kevin Lynch says, so we have to get to work and reinforce these ties that unite us by sharing our heritage.

Newcomers to the organization of this group we want to give a dynamic and liveliness and for that we count on your support and help, we all have to contribute, and we all have different ways of doing it.

We are going to roll up our sleeves and get to work, here in the Board we are full of ideas, some that we will explain now on the pages of this our first newsletter. Others projects are scheduled for later, but in the middle of everything it is important to have your voice and listen to and read your opinions. The challenges are launched and with your contribution our performance will be reinforced giving a more valid contribution to the pursuit of our objectives: to protect, dynamize and revive the shared heritage.

The emphasis should be placed not on heritage as a product of various cultures, but on shared heritage as an agent that can enrich culture.

We have a good, plural and ambitious team, with different skills and coming from different geographies, with projects to be carried out in various areas, from attracting new members, contacting similar groups, revitalizing the website etc., giving form to various activities contributing to the effective participation of all, as we need your participation and commitment to move forward in a positive, inclusive and shared way in the protection of our heritage.

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Starting by sharing some ideas we are going to give you a brief appointment of the activities scheduled for the first quarter of the year:

1- A discussion on shared heritage notion: a multiple reading

We interrogate the notion of Shared Built Heritage in a collective construction of the current situation, as imagined and experienced by the members of our ISC. Then, we will push it towards an interaction with theoretical notions and with formal documents dealing with heritage in order to propose a rich, shared and contemporary interpretation of SBH.

In the coming weeks the board will contact the ISC members directly and starting up the exchange.

The ISC SBH focus on the 'shared or mutual' built evidence from around the world. The SBH provides clues on multi-cultural background of our past, and educates us to respect each other due to the similarity, differences, and more importantly what we 'shared' together in the past to prosper together for the future. The ideas of belonging, togetherness and sharing are important concept in creating a sustainable development.

We have members from 25 countries. It is vital to extend this networks into full potential, and making this ISC one of the most active and dynamic committees. To encourage the knowledge exchange and sharing, we are here to introduce a **Working Group on Thematic SBH Study**. The outcome of the working group will be a publication to be included in our website for sharing with members and other colleagues.

2- Institutional level: Bylaws framework

The International Scientific Committee on Shared Built Heritage is established in accordance with: the ICOMOS Statutes adopted at the 19th General Assembly in Delhi, in December 2017; the Ethical Principles adopted in Florence, November 2014; the Rules of Procedure of the International Council on Monuments and Sites adopted pursuant to the ICOMOS Statutes; the Eger Xi'an Principles 2008; the Malta Guidelines for ISCs 2009; and the Dubrovnik Valetta Principles 2010.

Therefore our By-Laws to be consistent in their definitions, aims, activities and actions with those of ICOMOS as expressed in Articles 3 and 4 of the ICOMOS Statutes, must be updated and revised, being this one of the priority works that we are developing.

3- ISC SBH members book

For introducing each one of the members of ISCSBH, we will be preparing a members book. The book will be used within our group, as well as in the communication with other experts, ISCs and other institutions. Each members' short profile, pictures and contact information will be displayed on the book. Same information will also be shown on our ISC-SBH website if permitted by each member.

4- Virtual Tours / Study Tours

Virtual Tours:

With the Covid-19 Pandemic, most of us have no choice but to delay / postpone our plan on physical visit to places with great shared heritage value. However, the pandemic also wake up us, inviting to take some time from our usual busy schedule for:

- i. Compiling information on a places of our interest – shared built heritage
- ii. Exchanging information and knowledge with experts from the local/ international teams via email or other virtual platform prior to any physical visits
- iii. Learning how to use technology to share with communities on the places of great interest: virtual tours in the form of 3D models to generate scenes, videos, oral history presentation

We will start to built up collections of virtual tours prepared by our members around the world to share with other members. Collection of the virtual tours will be shared in our SBH website (in progress of updating). Members who wish to contribute please submit a brief introduction page (less than 500 words) about the project/ virtual tour for sharing. The sharing can be in the form of website link.

Study Tours:

Although a physical visit can never be replaced by a virtual tour, as virtual tour only touches 2 senses (sight and hear) compared with physical tour that provides additional 3 senses (touch, smell and taste), is important for us to appreciate and understand our shared built heritage.

We are suggesting 3 types of study tours to our Members

1. Study Tour on SBH on the country of AGA. We sincerely hope that the Covid-19 pandemic can be over by mid-2021, country border easier and reliable vaccine available for all. Our plan is to meet each other in coming AGA 2021 in Bangkok, Thailand, followed by an SBH study tour.
2. Study Tour on SBH within the country of our members.
We would like to hear from our mebers about the SBH of their countries. With the closing of borders, we encourage our members to be more proactive at their national committee and able to initiate study tours in their own country.
3. Study Tour on SBH of the Thematic Study (refers to connections with other ISCs and NCs)
We welcome members to share with us information on any study tours they have initiated and consider to invite other ISC and NC members to join. The information will be shared in newsletters/ website so to encourage greater interaction between different ISC/ NC members.

5- Connection with other ISC, NCs and Study groups

Links with other components of the Icomos “universe” are extremely useful and we plan to open up our reflections to the other ICSs and National Committees and to participate in the existing study groups, as has already happened in these weeks with the team responsible for the “Cultural Heritage for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals” document. To facilitate exchanges, we will also try to contact some national groups in French to limit the possible linguistic division.

6- New members and emerging professionals

New members

With the encouragement of more active national programs such as thematic study and local study tour, we hope that it will act as roadshow at each country to encourage more membership application.

We are looking forward to have an active SBH website updating activities in and around the world on SBH, including upcoming activities (symposium, workshop, study tour, brochure publications, etc) so to encourage more involvement of members, and the activities may indirectly attract new members, especially young members.

We look for collaboration on thematic projects with universities and workshops with local experts at local level to improve participation with potential new members.

Emerging Professionals

The ICOMOS International Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG) was constituted in 2017, as a response to the 2016 ICOMOS Annual Report’s call for extending its membership base. The Recommendations were passed as the Resolution *19GA 2017/33 – Emerging Professionals Initiative*, that advocated the participation and integration of emerging professionals within ICOMOS.

In particular, the following Resolutions are specifically related to international engagement and therefore the matter to highlight in this newsletter:

1. Nominate representative for Emerging Professionals Working Group from ISCSBH
2. Encourage the formation and recognition of EPWG within to collaborate nationally and internationally during the triennium
3. Include arrangements for dedicated Emerging Professionals sessions at the General Assemblies
4. Encourage and engage EPWG representative in meetings and conferences both at the national and international level, and that they include updates on such activities in their annual reports;
5. Nominate a contact person or persons to liaise with the EPWG on behalf of the Board;
6. Include a report from the EPWG on progress in these initiatives and its work in the agendas of future Advisory Committee and Board meeting and to submit this report annually to the General Assembly;
7. Seek the advice of the International Scientific Committee on Legal, Administrative and Financial Matters (ICLAFI) on how the recognition of EPs

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within the ICOMOS Statutes can be improved to facilitate their meaningful involvement in ICOMOS Committees;

8. Endorse EPWG involvement with regular ICOMOS projects such -as the International Day for Monuments and Sites, and regional activities such as the European Year of Cultural Heritage;
9. Endorse the recognition and inclusion of representatives of the EPWG within existing ICOMOS communication channels;

Thus, we urge NCSBH to submit their international expert members list the latest by 30 March 2021, so that we may update the membership list and information, and proceed to contact the suitable candidate(s) as representative for EPWG from ISCSBH.

7- Shared Heritage at risk

Many heritage sites are in danger due to abandonment, climate change, war, aggressive tourism, conditions aggravated by unprecedented situations such as the pandemic that we are now experiencing.

In our countries we have already been through this and we have already been faced with situations that embarrass and impel us to act, in SBH we also want to give voice to this discontent and impel a joint reflection from the experience of each one of us in order to contribute more actively to safeguard shared heritage.

A new *Heritage at Risk World Report 2016-2019*, published by ICOMOS, with contributions from 23 countries attests to this situation, at ISCSBH we want to have a more active voice in this process, therefore we are calling for the participation of our members.

At the end of our first newsletter I call for your participation and tell us, please, with which group you identify yourself and to which you can make the most effective contribution, we need your answer soon so that we can organize the work and start to accomplish things quickly.

We are eager to show other scientific groups and ICOMOS International our energy and to be able to share the cultural heritage that we are unveiling.

The Board

Sincerely yours



Maria José de Freitas
President,
ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Shared Built Heritage