

What's News?

THE ICOMOS-EPWG AFRICA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Edito

Dear Readers,

The past 5 May was marked by the celebration of the 7th edition of the African World Heritage Day. Proclaimed in 2015 by the 38th session of the UNESCO General Assembly, this important date represents a major opportunity for people, especially Africans, to celebrate the rich and unique cultural and natural heritage of the continent, but also to promote it and raise awareness on the importance of its preservation. And who better to do this than the youth, custodians of the heritage of today and tomorrow?

It was on this occasion that we successfully organised our first webinar on 7 May, entitled "Heritage in the Hands of African Youth - Sharing Initiatives". This event allowed us to highlight 5 initiatives of young people from Africa and the Diaspora in favour of the valorisation of African cultural heritage, testifying to an active and motivated youth to whom we dedicate this second issue of our newsletter.

This first meeting paves the way for a series of other webinars that we intend to organise in the coming months in order to bring the voice of the continent's young professionals to the table, in line with the mission we have set for this group.

Stay tuned !

Alyssa K. Barry
Coordinator ICOMOS EPWG Africa

Discovering the Africa ICOMOS EPWG Office

The Africa section of the Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG) currently brings together some thirty young specialists in heritage issues (archivists, documentalists, architects, photographers, anthropologists, etc.). It is coordinated by a team of 6 people. Focus on this office :



Alyssa K. Barry. Senegalese architect and urban planner, specialized in African cultural heritage, she is an independent consultant based in Dakar. Coordinator of the ICOMOS EPWG-Africa since January 2022, she is the founder of [AFREAKART](#), a digital platform dedicated to contemporary art.



Olufemi Adétunji. Doctor of Architecture, a native of Nigeria but based in Australia, he coordinated the WGPE-Africa from 2018 to 2021. He supports the current office through his wise counsel.



Affoh Gueneguez. Franco-Ivorian, she has written several articles on the modern heritage of the historic city of Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire). As an independent consultant in cultural heritage, she collaborates with UNESCO, the African World Heritage Fund and the School of African Heritage.



Jean-Paul C. Lawson. Beninese national, trained as an archivist, he is currently doing a PhD in Heritage Studies at the universities of CY Cergy (FR) & Warwick (UK). His work focuses on the digital in West African museums. He is the president of the association "[PatriMundus](#)".



Avenir G. Meikengang. Cameroonian anthropologist, consultant in cultural heritage, she is a doctoral student in cultural geography and her reflections focus on the development of traditional costumes in Cameroon. She is also Secretary General of the association "PatriMundus".



Florentine Okoni. Congolese-German anthropologist, specialized in Cultural heritage management on the African continent. She is currently working as a Regional Officer for Central and Western Africa within the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention (Intangible Cultural Heritage) at UNESCO.

5 QUESTIONS TO NJERI MBURE



From Nairobi (Kenya) to Bellbrook, Ohio (USA), who is Njeri Mbure ?

I am a passionate World Heritage and Communications specialist who was born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya, and currently resides in Bellbrook, Ohio. I live by the mantra "Be the change you wish to see." I began my career in communications, certain of the path I wanted to take, but in 2016, I joined 24 youth from Anglophone African countries for the inaugural African World Heritage Youth Forum held at Robben Island Museum, and my life took a different turn. Since then, I've pursued my nurtured passion in World Heritage in different capacities.

How did you know the world of heritage?

During the youth forum, I was introduced to heritage, specifically World Heritage. We worked on practical conservation activities and gained a deeper understanding of what World Heritage is and the criteria used to inscribe sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List by meeting at least one of the Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs).

I was fascinated because this was an entirely new world to me. Kenya has four cultural World Heritage Sites and three natural World Heritage Sites. When I returned home, I set out to raise World Heritage awareness among Kenyan youth through the Each One Teach One Youth Network, a Facebook platform, and to share how the youth can be more environmentally conscious.

How do you live it today and what does the heritage represent for you ?

To me, heritage represents who we are; it is what we leave behind for future generations to enjoy and learn from. World Heritage is especially concerned with the conservation, preservation, and protection of our natural and cultural World Heritage sites. Today, I live it by taking a step back to understand what World Heritage is all about, because we can't protect what we don't understand. This is why, despite having a Master's degree in Applied Communication, I returned to college. I was inspired to learn and expand my knowledge. As a virtual media volunteer, I assist ICOMOS/USA with webinar administration and video editing in my spare time. I also live it through my work with colleagues at the national, regional, and international levels.

As a photographer and social media strategist, how photography and digital can support cultural heritage sector ?

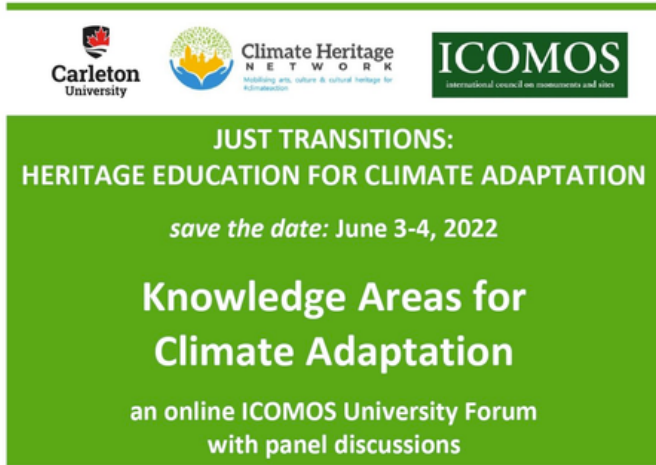
Access to digital tools is critical for the development of societies and aids in the formation of resilient communities. It enables identity formation, reconciliation, creativity, innovation, and a variety of other activities that strengthen, enrich, and peaceful societies.

Photography and social media are extremely effective communication tools. A photo is said to be worth a thousand words, and photography, as a visual tool, allows us to see and appreciate places we have never visited. During the Covid19 pandemic, virtual tours became popular, and people used augmented reality to visit museums, cultural sites, and attend events. Social media can be used to raise awareness and gather support for the cultural heritage sector by bringing together people who are passionate about heritage from all over the world.

Your message to African Youth Heritage Professional

Africa continent is very rich in resources but the greatest of these resources are the youth, having the fastest growing youth population in the world and the youth being the majority in terms of population. We have so much potential to change our continent. If we work together and believe in ourselves, we shall soon be the change we want to see. Let us leverage on our abilities, talents and innovation and steer towards the Africa we want.

Interview by Avenir G. Meikengang.

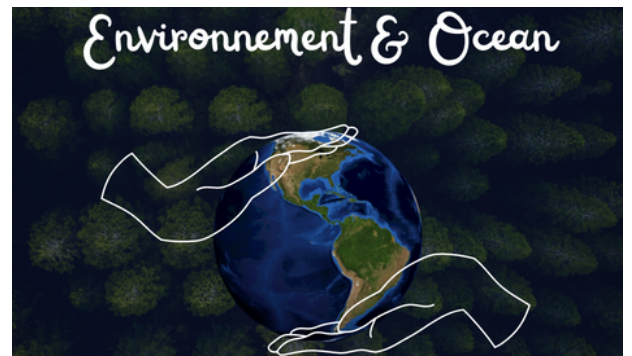


ICOMOS University Forum: Knowledge Areas for Heritage Education, June 3-4, 2022.

Join experts who will discuss climate impacts and vulnerability assessment, resilience and adaptation of cities and buildings, and other key topics such as: material resource reuse and equity, climate justice and indigenous knowledge and governance.

For more information, click [here](#).

The Association "PatriMundus" organizes the 3rd conference-debate of the "Meetings of Young Professionals of African Heritage" on the topic: **"African youth and sustainable management of environment and oceans"** on June 06, 2022 at 15:00 (GMT+2).



June 30: Call for proposals for the ICOMOS Advisory Council Scientific Symposium 2022

This year, the ICOMOS Advisory Council will hold its Scientific Symposium in Udon Thani, Thailand, on October 29-30, 2022 on the theme **"Religious Heritage: Celebrating and Conserving Places of Religious and Ritual Significance in a Globalized World and Changing Climates."**

The 2022 Scientific Symposium attempts to explore these impacts and challenges through the following sub-themes:

- Importance of religious and ritual places
- Influence of climate change on the conservation, protection and management of religious heritage
- Changing use and perception of places of religion and ritual as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic
- The practice of pilgrimage following the Covid-19 pandemic
- Reuse of religious heritage sites.

For more information and to submit a proposal, please click [here](#).

FEEDBACK OF MAY

From 20 to 25 May 2022, the "African World Heritage Young Leaders Workshop" was held in Cape Town, South Africa. Organized by the African World Heritage Fund in collaboration with ICCROM, the governments of South Africa and Italy and the School of African Heritage, this meeting brought together 28 young leaders from 17 African countries with the objective of developing the leadership skills of young Africans to support the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and sustainable development efforts in Africa. It ended on 25 May, on the occasion of Africa Day, with the presentation of the "African Youth Declaration on World Heritage Convention in Africa: The Next 50 Years", the launch of the "Youth. Heritage. Africa." ICCROM programme, and the "Expert Meeting on the World Heritage Convention in Africa: Looking Back... Moving Forward" held from 25 to 28 May in Cape Town. The workshop was a real opportunity for the young participants to contribute to the reflections around the future of the World Heritage Convention in Africa.

Alyssa K. Barry



Participants of African World Heritage Young Leaders Workshop © ICCROM. 2022

AFRICAN YOUTH INITIATIVES

Created in 2019, the PatriMundus association aims to contribute to the safeguarding and enhancement of heritage by reconciling it with sustainable economic, social and cultural development through a participatory and inclusive approach. It aims to provide its expertise in the fields of cultural heritage to public and private institutions and companies with the same objectives. <https://patrimundus.org/>



Sacral Architecture of Africa is a tribute to the religious architectural expression in the African continent. Through drawings and texts revealing the histories of some of the most important sacral structures of the continent, the project intends to create an open iconographic and historical database.

<https://www.sacralarchitectureafrica.com/>

Founded in 2018, AN2PS is a monitoring platform for a better management of Senegalese cultural and natural heritage, bringing together young doctoral students, historians, sociologists or anthropologists committed to the preservation and enhancement of their heritages. <https://www.facebook.com/ANDPS2020/>



Somali Architecture started as a platform to share images of pre-war Somalia and evolved into a research project involving the recreation of historic buildings into 3D form. They have digitised 5 districts in Mogadishu and other cities in Somalia. After its inception in 2015, SA team has grown globally; united by the same passion for architecture in Somalia. <https://linktr.ee/somaliarchitecture>

Founded in 2017 by three co-founders of Algerian origin, the Ad'A association is a multidisciplinary collective specialising in consultation and the organisation of participatory public space projects in the neighbourhoods of Algiers, including the historic district of the Kasbah. <https://ateliersdalger.org/>



DID YOU KNOW IT?



Photography of "Great House" in West Cameroon © Avenir G. Meikengang. 2021

The traditional chieftaincies in the Grassfields of Cameroon are places where power, notoriety and prestige are concentrated. They are places of storage and meeting of traditions, composite political entities populated by people of diverse backgrounds, privileged source of history and collective memory. They are bearers of meaning, treasures of the people or of secret brotherhoods. Rich in culture and tradition, most of the traditional chieftaincies in the Grassfields are endowed with impressive architectural structures, including the "**Great House**". Considered as a source of social representations and identity values, the Great House, known under several names according to the dialects, is a concrete witness of the past and constitutes a sacred temple, symbol of illustration of the traditions and the local cultural and ritual values. The Great House is found in about fourteen Grassfields chieftaincies in Cameroon, each with a specific function according to the history of each chieftaincy. They are each unique in their architecture, made of local materials (bamboo, vegetable fiber, wood...) and were built by the local communities. The Great House were inscribed on UNESCO's tentative list as a serial property in 2018. **Avenir G. Meikengang.**



FOLLOW US ON...



LATEST OPPORTUNITIES

- **7th training course on conservation of built heritage in Rome!**

The course aims to serve a wide range of conservation practitioners and policy makers by placing technical issues in the broader context of conservation in order to link them to planning and management concerns. To learn more, click [here](#). Deadline: August 31, 2022.

- **The Heritage Management Organization Summer School**

The Heritage Management Organization is organizing a series of four-week summer schools in 2 key areas of cultural and natural heritage: community engagement and digitization of heritage in places of great cultural importance in Greece. To apply, visit their website available [here](#).