

**CANDIDATE FOR THE BOARD OF ICOMOS  
CANDIDAT AU CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DE L'ICOMOS**

**MONICA RHODES**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE**



---

Monica Rhodes (United States) - American Academy in Rome, Cultural heritage practitioner

Positions held in ICOMOS (Member since 2011, ICOMOS Board Member 2021 - current)

Monica Rhodes is an international award-winning cultural preservationist who has made significant contributions at the intersection of history, policy, and civic engagement. She has established programs at national organizations to advance socially and economically inclusive heritage practices in the US. Currently, Rhodes is a Rome Prize Fellow in Historic Preservation and Conservation at the American Academy in Rome and serves on the presidentially appointed Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

**PLATFORM / PLATE-FORME / PLATAFORMA**

---

I am deeply committed to serving on the Board and affirm that I will actively participate in Board meetings on a regular basis. My journey with US/ICOMOS began in 2011, when I became a member as a graduate student, driven by my understanding of the crucial role cultural heritage plays in our global community. Over the years, I have worked tirelessly across the country, forging relationships and partnerships to promote community engagement in the heritage process and foster the next generation of heritage practitioners.

In the past four years, I have had the pleasure of building connections with other ICOMOS chapters, including my participation with ICOMOS Singapore and the SDWG to present the Society (People) and Peace: The Role of Cultural Heritage in Building a More Just and Peaceful World through Education, Diversity and Community Inclusion (SDGs 4, 10, 16) in January 2021. I had the honor of presenting at the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage Workshop, which focused on integrating the Policy Document on World Heritage

and Sustainable Development and the 2030 Agenda into the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Arab States. The Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) had requested the support of ICOMOS, in line with the Memorandum of Understanding and its Annex 6 signed in March 2021, to organize capacity-building workshops in collaboration with Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) to advance a regional initiative in the Arab States for mainstreaming approaches outlined in the World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy and the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape into the processes of the World Heritage Convention. I am proud to mention that I continue to be an active member of the SDWG working group, contributing my expertise and insights to further the cause.

In 2023, I had the privilege of being awarded the prestigious Rome Prize Fellowship in Historic Preservation and Conservation at the American Academy in Rome. This fellowship allowed me to immerse myself in European, and more specifically Italian cultural heritage, by spending considerable time in Italy. During my fellowship, I had the opportunity to meet with the staff and have lunch with the Director General of ICCROM, a valuable experience that enriched my understanding of the international heritage conservation landscape. Additionally, I was fortunate to travel to several UNESCO World Heritage sites across the country, deepening my knowledge and appreciation of diverse cultural heritage practices.

As part of my fellowship, I completed a short film on Matera, Italy's 2019 bid to become the European Capital of Culture. Matera, being the oldest city in Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage site for the past 30 years, served as an ideal subject for my project, which delved into how cultural heritage can be a strategic tool for cultural entrepreneurship and national identity. This project allowed me to further explore and showcase the multifaceted aspects of cultural heritage, and its significance in shaping societies and economies.

Throughout my career, I have harnessed the power of social media as a means to engage volunteers, communicate with various stakeholders, and disseminate ideas about the vital role of cultural heritage in our daily lives. As a Board member, I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to work closely with the organization to expand the Emerging Professionals Working Group and continue my contributions to the Sustainable Development Working Group. I am committed to utilizing my skills and experiences to further the mission of ICOMOS and advocate for the importance of cultural heritage preservation and promotion at local, national, and international levels.

In conclusion, I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve on the Board of ICOMOS and contribute my expertise towards advancing the organization's goals. With my extensive experience in the field of cultural heritage and my dedication to promoting community engagement and sustainable development, I am committed to actively participating in Board meetings, collaborating with fellow members, and working towards the growth and success of ICOMOS. I am honored to be part of this esteemed organization and look forward to making meaningful contributions as a Board member.

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

---

Monica Rhodes is an international award-winning cultural preservationist. She has over 15 years of experience leveraging preservation as a strategic tool for advancing socially and economically inclusive heritage and preservation practices. This year, Rhodes was appointed to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation by President Joseph Biden as

an Expert Member. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is an independent federal agency that promotes the educational, economic, and cultural values of historic preservation, and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. It also influences federal activities, programs, and policies that affect historic and cultural properties.

As a 2023 Rome Prize Fellow in Historic Preservation and Conservation at the American Academy in Rome and a 2022 Loeb Fellow at Harvard University, Rhodes is recognized for establishing groundbreaking programs at two of the largest national organizations focused on preservation and national parks. At the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Rhodes developed the first nationwide program centered on diversifying the preservation industry. While at the National Park Foundation, Rhodes led the effort to reestablish legacy programs to fund a more honest and comprehensive story of United States history. She currently serves as an advisor to the Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites at the University of Pennsylvania and is a board member on the International Council on Monuments and Sites.

Over the course of Rhodes' career, she has spearheaded the development of hundreds of partnerships, engaged thousands of community members and impacted millions of visitors to national parks through preservation efforts at some of our nation's most iconic sites. Rhodes continues to push communities and practitioners to leverage the past to think 50 years ahead.