

Empowering Women and Marginalized Entrepreneurs in the Heritage Practice



For ICOMOS International Day for Monuments and Sites
Sustainable Development Goals Working Group – Brainstorming and
Sharing Session
Theme: Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures
April 17, 2021

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ABSTRACT

Empowering women and marginalized entrepreneurs means helping them build a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities-not just economically, but in areas such as health and education. These entrepreneurs require the knowledge and resources to enable them to to hurdle economic and social barriers as business owners. Since almost all of the causes of heritage destruction have their roots in economic causes, this type of empowerment provides the added benefit of cultural heritage preservation.

Achieving real world results, as with any SDG, begins with learning and meeting the needs of local communities, usually by asking them directly. It requires deep engagement with other disciplines outside of heritage world that possess the requisite skills to make this empowerment a reality. Practitioners must set meaningful and identifiable objectives and measure and report upon their results, both quantitatively and qualitatively. Lastly, they must engage policy makers with meaningful and actionable proposals supported by case studies that meet policymakers goals, rather than repeating heritage derived platitudes and failing to provide meaningful data upon which policy makers can act.

BIOGRAPHY

Larry is an archaeologist affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania. He was motivated to start SPI after witnessing first-hand the power of community and economic-based solutions to heritage preservation. Larry was the director of Proyecto Inkallakta, focusing on a monumental Inka site in Bolivia, and co-editor of 'Archaeology of Performance: Theater, Power and Community'. He is the founder of Tremis Energy and has held various positions in the energy and environmental sectors.

LGBTQ+ Heritage Sites for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion



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ABSTRACT

What does it mean to have equity, diversity, and inclusion in heritage sites and spaces? Using Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer (LGBTQ) spaces as a framework and impetus, this discussion focuses on the ways by which we can incorporate issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion in understanding heritage sites. LGBTQ people are often rendered invisible and ignored in the writing and teaching of histories and subsequently in the conservation of heritage sites. Grounded on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the discussion advocates for the need to reassess and integrate LGBTQ spaces as vital components in achieving a just, sustainable, and equitable society and world. This discussion argues for a more dynamic, nuanced, and complex view of conservation that is more inclusive of lived experiences especially of historically underrepresented and marginalized communities.

BIOGRAPHY

Edson G. Cabalfin, Ph.D., educator, architect, designer, historian, and curator, is the Associate Dean for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and concurrently serving as Director of the Social Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship program, and Professor of Practice in Design Thinking in the School of Architecture at Tulane University (New Orleans, Louisiana). He was the curator of the Philippine Pavilion at the 16th Venice Architecture Biennale in 2018. He received his Ph.D. in History of Architecture from Cornell University (Ithaca, New York) in 2012. Through a Fulbright Fellowship from 2001 to 2003, he received his M.S. Architecture degree from the University of Cincinnati (Cincinnati, Ohio). Prior coming to the U.S. he received his professional Bachelor of Science in Architecture and Master of Architecture degrees from the University of the Philippines in 1996 and 2001 respectively. His research is at the intersection of architecture history and theory, cultural studies, gender and sexuality studies, Southeast Asian studies, spatial justice, public interest design, and heritage conservation. He is a member of ICOMOS-Philippines.