

ST01: Integrating Heritage and Sustainable Urban Development by engaging diverse communities for heritage management

Third sector organizations and community engagement: Towards sustainable conservation

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Heritage conservation is generally considered a public responsibility, but current neoliberal trends and the consequent increase in private sector engagement have necessitated that third sector organizations play a larger role in producing effective conservation outcomes. Such groups include local, community-based organizations, regional or national nonprofits and international philanthropic agents or development banks, among others. All play a vital role in engaging and democratizing the conservation process, often acting as arbiters, community representatives, expert advisors, funding sources, or providing any number of services outside the scope of the public or private sectors.

This panel will examine the role that third sector organizations – in various forms and operating at various levels – play in supporting democratic, equitable and sustainable outcomes for local communities. Presentations from the Getty Conservation Institute and Dronah will highlight these institutions' approaches to and experiences in achieving these goals. Regional experts on Ecuador and Myanmar will examine the broader political and economic context in which such organizations operate. The combination of direct insight from these well-known institutions paired with critical assessment of the political and economic environment in which such organizations function contributes to ongoing efforts to produce models for effective third sector participation and sustainable conservation outcomes.

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The role of third sector conservation institutions in advancing conservation practice: The Getty Conservation Institute experience

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In many parts of the world, public sector resources are in decline, and many of the essential ingredients of the heritage system, such as policy development, advice and grant funding, are no longer core to their services. In other places, the public sector has never been fully resourced to deliver these components. The Getty Conservation Institute is an example of an international third-sector institution working to advance conservation practice and whose work has continued to adapt to recent changes in the roles of the public, private and third sectors. In the area of urban conservation, the GCI is one of the organisations working to assist in building the capacity of professional conservation practitioners in various parts of the world.

Typically working in partnership with national and local organisations, who are host to local partnerships, knowledge and the trust of local communities, the GCI is one part of the heritage ecosystem. This paper will discuss the shifting role of third sector organisations roles in urban conservation with reference to GCI case studies such as South East Asia, and other trans national examples.

Bio:

Susan Macdonald manages the Buildings and Sites department at the GCI where she oversees some twenty international projects that aim to advance conservation practice across a variety of practice areas. Susan has worked as a conservation architect in private practice and in the government sector in Australia, the UK and the USA and has been involved in a wide range of conservation issues from urban planning, development, economics, policy and technical matters. Susan has a particular interest in twentieth-century heritage.

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Negotiating the Global, National and Local for Sustainable Urban Conservation: The India Case by Dronah

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Conscious approach to urban conservation and heritage management in India is recent. It is the 1995 phase of formation of heritage acts in Mumbai and Hyderabad that is credited for preparation of model heritage byelaws applicable for historic Indian cities by the Government of India. Preparation of a city level heritage management plan and recognition of urban conservation planning by the Ministry of Urban Development in India came even much later. The need for heritage focused development for historic Indian cities led to the introduction of the national schemes such as HRIDAY in 2015 with the aim of bringing together urban planning, economic growth and heritage conservation in an inclusive manner to preserve the heritage character of 12 identified heritage cities.

Dronah as a third sector organisation has emerged in the Indian scenario to address specific conservation and urban regeneration challenges in the country that range from linking UN and global policies for culture and development with national level programmes and local aspirations on the ground. In more than 10 years of its existence, the organisation has worked on several urban conservation initiatives at multiple levels of research, policy, projects and outreach with the intention to arrive at solutions for sustained urban regeneration in historic city cores.

It will share its experience of working in collaboration with local NGOs and Government Organisations to develop heritage management initiatives at city level that simultaneously influence policy interventions as well as impact phased implementation of large scale urban conservation projects in the city. Through its case studies of urban regeneration in Indian historic cities, it will emphasise the role of third sector organisations for sustenance and the need for an overarching vision combined with an inclusive participatory approach before, during and after implementation of such works.

Bio:

Shikha Jain is Director, Dronah and steers the outreach arm of its Foundation. Through Dronah, Knowledge Partner for 3 Smart City (Heritage) Plans in 2016, she is heading the Ajmer HRIDAY Project for the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD). She was consultant to UNESCO for Cultural Heritage Toolkit under the Urban Renewal Mission, MoUD. She has received HUDCO national awards and Best Practice from the National Institute of Urban Affairs for her urban conservation works.

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Conservation, Plurality, and Sustainable Development: How third sector organisations are transforming Yangon

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Keywords: sustainability, development, equity, participation

Urban heritage conservation in Yangon, Myanmar's largest city and the country's former capital, is a nascent phenomenon. Borne in a climate of significant political and economic transformation, the Yangon heritage movement has been led by third sector local and international non-governmental organisations. In an effort to demonstrate its commitment to enhanced international engagement, the previously autarkic Union government has instituted a series of reforms resulting in a wave of foreign direct investment, speculative development, and civil society activities. Nowhere is the impact of these global forces felt more strongly than in Yangon, the financial centre of the country. With national heritage laws focused on the protection and management of monuments and archaeological sites, there has been little to no guidance regulating the conservation of the historic urban environment. Third sector agencies have projected visions of integrated planning, sustainable development, enhanced quality of life, and public participation in heritage valuation and conservation processes into this void. In this context built heritage conservation functions as more than an architectural endeavour; it is presented as a mechanism for socio-political, economic, and urbanistic transformation. This paper examines the ways in which various third sector organisations working in Yangon attempt to redefine conservation's relevance by forging a link between conservation, equity, plurality, and development.

Bio:

Kecia Fong is a conservation professional and PhD candidate at the Institute for Culture and Society, WSU. She has worked internationally for the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, US National Park Service, and the Getty Conservation Institute among others. Her doctoral research examines the conservation movement in Yangon to explore what its configuration suggests for an increasingly global practice. She is a Visiting Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania and Senior Associate Editor for *Change Over Time*.

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Third sector organizations and conservation-based urban regeneration: The Ecuadorian experience

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Key words: *Development, equity, sustainability, community*

Like many historic cities around the world, Ecuador's historic urban landscape contains both rich heritage assets and conditions that challenge quality of life, presenting unique conditions and demands for urban regeneration. Historically, third sector organizations – such as the Inter American Development Bank, local universities and non-profit groups – have played a central role in regenerating Ecuador's historic cities. However, recent shifts in political ideology and economic access have restricted these organizations and their ability to manage conservation outcomes.

This paper will examine the ways in which third sector organizations operate and affect the historic built environment, given these recent changes in Ecuador's political and economic context. Analysis focuses on the institutional arrangements that shape the past and present socioeconomic and spatial configurations of these historic centres, paying close attention to how heritage is configured and applied in urban governance with respect to third sector organizations. This discussion is assessed against a model of conservation-based regeneration, defined as a process that integrates conservation and social policy such that improvements to the historic built environment can benefit local, usually low-income, communities.

Bio: Caroline Cheong is an assistant professor in the University of Central Florida's History department. Her research focuses on the relationship between heritage conservation, urban regeneration and poverty. She earned her MS and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in Historic Preservation and City Planning, respectively. She has worked at US/ICOMOS, the Getty Conservation Institute, Heritage Strategies International and Place Economics, where she focused on the economic impacts of historic preservation.