

CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDAT AU POSTE DE VICE PRÉSIDENT

Leonardo Castriota

Brasil - Brésil



Leonardo CASTRIOTA (Brazil). Distinguished Professor at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais. Senior Researcher at the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological

Development (CNPq). Trustee of the Brazilian National Institute of Historic and Artistic

Heritage / IPHAN. Member of the Board of the Brazilian Institute of Architects (IAB). Former

GUEST SCHOLAR AT THE GETTY CONSERVATION INSTITUTE. PRESIDENT OF ICOMOS BRAZIL SINCE 2015.

PLATFORM / PLATE-FORME / PLATAFORMA

As stated in its Statutes, the mission of ICOMOS, as a global non-governmental organization associated with UNESCO, is “to promote the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of monuments, building complexes and sites”. As we all know, the field of cultural heritage has undergone a dramatical expansion over the last three decades, with an intense international debate concerning its foundations, methodologies, and practices.

The role of heritage in a globalized world is increasing, as paradoxical as it seems: faced with the homogenization of everyday life, people all over the world are revisiting their tradition and heritage, in search for meaning and identity. At the same time as it gives rise to group movements and identity politics, heritage has also proven to be a powerful commodity, and is being used by states and markets to promote places and touristic destinations, bringing new opportunities and threats to communities and to the heritage itself.

This is the framework with which our organization is faced at the beginning of the 21st century, being its main role, in our view, to redefine heritage as a field, a discipline, a profession, or even as “a mode of post-disciplinary teaching and research”, as described by Tim Winter. As an Advisory Body of the World Heritage Committee for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention of UNESCO, as well as an international advocacy group, ICOMOS has to face this new status of heritage in a globalized world, prospecting the theoretical, methodological, and practical consequences of this important shift.

The priorities for the next three years should consider this challenge, being some strategies to address it:

1. Working in close collaborating with national and scientific committees to construct a road, inclusive, and multicultural agenda for ICOMOS.
2. Relying on the cultural and social diversity of our organization, always building on the diverse and complementary professional, national and cultural backgrounds of our members.
3. Increasing the exchanges between countries, promoting joint thematic and internship/ professional exchange programs between NCs. Besides the essential North-South dialogue, it seems to us vital to increase South-South exchanges.
4. Decreasing obstacles for ICOMOS membership worldwide, especially for emerging professionals.
5. Strengthening the relation between ICOMOS and universities / research centers in the field of heritage, with joint programs, publications, and events, among other strategies.
6. Fostering free access to qualified information in the field of heritage. In these last decades, with the advent of the Information Technology we have broadened the possibilities for people all over the world – experts and non-experts – to gain immediate access to an immense amount of information. ICOMOS, as an organization of experts, could serve as a gateway to qualified information in our field, making our website a real web portal to all kinds of online reliable resources.
7. Designing strategies for providing sustainability to ICOMOS, identifying new possibilities of funding from public and private sources.

During my career in the field of heritage, which combined professional practice, academia, and institutional management, I have been deeply aware of its multidisciplinary and transcultural nature, and also of the possibility of heritage being used as a platform for a better understanding of the “other”. Therefore, I’ve always engaged in projects that tried to foster the cooperation and dialogue between different cultures and nations, especially in Latin American, but also in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa, mission I which I intend to continue if elected as ICOMOS Vice-President. In my point of view, ICOMOS is the ideal organization to, through heritage preservation, connect peoples and cultures in the pursuit of a more peaceful and generous world.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Education:

Architect and urban planner and PhD in Philosophy from Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil

Current Positions:

Distinguished Professor, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil
Coordinator of the Postgraduate Course on Built Environment and Sustainable Heritage, promoted by the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil
Senior Researcher at the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq)
Trustee of the Brazilian National Institute of Historic and Artistic Heritage / IPHAN
Trustee of the Minas Gerais State Institute of Historic and Artistic Heritage / IEPHA-MG
Member of the Board of the Brazilian Institute of Architects (IAB)

Professional Experience:

2014 – present: Distinguished Professor at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais
2010: Fellow of the Carolina Foundation at the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain
2000: Guest Scholar at the Getty Conservation Institute, Los Angeles
1994-1999: Associate Professor at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais

ICOMOS Positions:

2015 - present: President of ICOMOS – Brazil

Selected Publications:

Castriota L., Um plano para a paisagem cultural do Serro, Brasil: Novas possibilidades para o patrimônio. Identidades: territorio, proyecto, patrimonio, Barcelona (2016). Castriota L.
Regulating Tradition, Fostering the Intangible Cultural Heritage: The Master Craftsmen Program in Brazil. Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review, (2016). Castriota, L.
Patrimônio cultural: conceitos, políticas e instrumentos, Annablume, São Paulo, (2009), pp.380. Castriota L. (ed.) Urbanização Brasileira: Redescobertas. 1. ed. Belo Horizonte: Editora C/Arte, 2003, pp. 270.