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# 9th Annual US/ICOMOS International Symposium From World Heritage to Your Heritage

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**Conference:  
9th Annual US/ICOMOS International Symposium  
From World Heritage to Your Heritage**

**Conference announcement posted**

**[athttp://www.icomos.org/usicomos/Symposium/SYMP06/2006\\_Symposium.htm](http://www.icomos.org/usicomos/Symposium/SYMP06/2006_Symposium.htm)**.

*The World Heritage List as a rich source of models for the protection and management of heritage sites with a particular focus on World Heritage cities.*

The long conversation between the American preservation experience and international programs has had a huge influence on the protective and management standards established in the World Heritage Operational Guidelines, something that continues to this day. In the international back-and-forth exchange of ideas contributions are adapted and transformed in ways that often improve them beyond recognition. When these return to our shores, along with fresh innovations from abroad, they find new applications as entirely new solutions to our own domestic challenges.

It is in this spirit of learning from each other that the 9th US/ICOMOS International Symposium will convene on 20 to 22 April, 2006, in historic Newport, Rhode Island, to look once again at the World Heritage Convention and its List as a rich source of models to improve the protection and management of the vast heritage of the United States, as well as to share with others some of our more recent national, state and local initiatives and approaches that may be applicable to World Heritage sites, with a particular focus on World Heritage cities, but not to the exclusion of other categories of sites.

*The World Heritage Convention is not just about the World Heritage List, but about every country's "duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage . . . situated on its territory" (Art 4 of the Convention).*

While the World Heritage List may seem like a tool for international cooperation exclusively for the sites inscribed in it, it really accomplishes more than that. By establishing minimum standards for significance, authenticity and management for all sites inscribed, the List also helps each country in developing the know-how needed to protect the full range of its cultural and natural resources, and in setting up paradigms that have broad national applicability.

**The 9th Symposium will also look at the participation of the United States in the World Heritage Convention in relation to other countries to identify ways in which US/ICOMOS and other US heritage organizations can support our official agencies in fulfilling our international cultural commitments to both the Convention and to UNESCO.**

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**Related announcement: The Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove in Nigeria has been added to the World Heritage List. UNESCO's announcement describes this cultural property as follows: "The dense forest of the Osun Sacred Grove, on the outskirts of the city of Osogbo, is one of the last remnants of primary high forest in southern Nigeria. Regarded as the abode of the goddess of fertility Osun, one of the pantheon of Yoruba gods, the landscape of the grove and its meandering river is dotted with sanctuaries and shrines, sculptures and art works in honour of Osun and other Yoruba deities. The Grove, which is now seen as a symbol of identity for all Yoruba people, is probably the last sacred grove in Yoruba culture. It testifies to the once widespread practice of establishing sacred groves outside all settlements."**

