The Archaeological Institute of America’s Site Preservation Program works to safeguard the world’s archaeological heritage through direct preservation; outreach and education to raise awareness of the threats to cultural heritage; advocacy for the protection and preservation of our past; and the spread of best practices that are being employed to save archaeological sites.

**WHY THE AIA?**

Initiated in 2007, the AIA Site Preservation Program is an important component of the Institute’s commitment to protecting the world’s archaeological resources and cultural heritage for the benefit of current and future generations. The program’s main tenet is that site preservation is achieved not only through direct preservation, consolidation, and conservation of archaeological remains but also through raising local and global public awareness of the issues surrounding the destruction of archaeological sites. The program actively encourages and educates local communities to get involved in the preservation of their cultural heritage and supports endeavors that benefit both the site and the local community.

The program’s unique and innovative approach to site preservation combines direct funding for preservation with outreach, education, and advocacy. The AIA promotes site preservation through its important and well-established outreach tools:

- A **membership** of over 200,000 individuals comprised of both professionals and interested members of the public;
- Popular **programs**, including a National Lecture Program, Archaeology Day, Archaeology Fairs, and an Annual Meeting for professionals and scholars, that reach tens of thousands of people every year;
- **Websites** that currently reach over 2.5 million unique users annually;
- The Institute’s award winning **publications**, including ARCHAEOLOGY magazine, with a readership of over 750,000 per issue, and the American Journal of Archaeology, the leading scholarly journal dealing with the archaeology of the Classical world;
- AIA Programs and Site Preservation are featured in “Dispatches from the AIA,” a regular section of ARCHAEOLOGY magazine;
- Over one hundred **local societies** that reach out to their communities through lectures, field trips, local tours, symposia, film festivals, study groups, and more throughout the United States, Canada, and abroad;
- **Advocacy** supporting the preservation of archaeological sites and cultural heritage;
- The creation and dissemination of **educational materials** for people of all ages, including K-12 students.
Dear Friends of Site Preservation,

It is our pleasure to present to you the fourth annual report of the AIA Site Preservation Program. We are proud of what we have achieved this year and we are excited to detail some of our accomplishments in the following pages.

With the help of the Site Preservation Program’s generous donors, the AIA has contributed to the preservation of twenty archaeological sites across the globe. The Institute’s holistic approach to protecting sites through direct preservation, education, outreach, and local development enables us to promote something sustainable that will not crumble away with the passing years.

Through grants, awards, and a special fundraising initiative at our 2012 Spring Gala in New York City, we aided four additional sites this year. Our most recent Site Preservation Grant recipient is a grassroots, community-based organization in Sag Harbor, New York that is working to protect a historic cemetery in this Long Island town. Last April, the AIA raised funds for the conservation of the Queen Anne’s Revenge Shipwreck, located off the coast of North Carolina, through a special Gala pledge drive.

At the 2013 AIA Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington we gave out two Best Practices in Site Preservation Awards: one to George Bey for his work at Kaxil Kiuic, Mexico, and a second to co-directors Cristina Vidal Lorenzo and Gaspar Muñoz Cosme for their preservation efforts at La Blanca, Guatemala. Reviewing the award nominations showed promising signs for the future of site preservation, as we were unable to choose just one recipient this year.

The Site Preservation Committee has benefited from our combination with AIA’s former Conservation and Heritage Management Committee to form the new Conservation and Site Preservation Committee. This combined group augmented its efforts to spread best practices in the field by sponsoring a conservation workshop entitled “Integrating Conservation and Archaeology: An Exploration of Best Practices.” Archaeologists and conservators from both terrestrial and marine projects in Turkey, the US, Syria, Tunisia, and Egypt came together to discuss the important role of conservation in archaeological excavations.

At this year’s Annual Meeting we presented the Conservation and Heritage Management Award to Professor Sudharshan Seneviratne of the University of Peradeniya, for his tireless efforts to protect and conserve the archaeological heritage of Sri Lanka and, as importantly, to present the shared cultural heritage of the people of Sri Lanka in a manner that respects and celebrates the cultural diversity of the island nation.

We also continue to increase our advocacy efforts. This year our views were represented at State Department public hearings to press for the protection sites in Mali, Guatemala, China, and Cambodia, with hundreds of AIA members joining us in our letter writing campaigns.

The AIA Site Preservation Program is making great progress towards our goal of creating a sustainable future for our finite cultural heritage, but we need your help. Please join us in this effort by reading this report, getting involved in our mission, and contributing as you are able.

All the Best,

Paul Rissman

Stephen Koob

P.S. For the convenience of smartphone and tablet users, use the scanable barcode on the back cover to make an instant donation to the Site Preservation Program!
GRANTS

A major initiative of the Site Preservation Program is providing grants of up to $25,000 to innovative projects that preserve archaeological sites by combining conservation practices with education and outreach to promote community involvement. Grant winners work to preserve sites and create a positive impact on the local community, students, and the discipline of archaeology as a whole.

STAFFORD CIVIL WAR SITES, USA

The AIA awarded a $14,000 Site Preservation Grant to the Stafford Civil War Sites in Stafford County, Virginia to help protect rare 19th century army encampments and educate the public on the rich history of the area. As part of this process, the AIA funded the installation of interpretive signs within a newly established public park to inform visitors about the nature and history of the area. The establishment of this park allows the FSCWS to educate visitors about an incredibly important chapter in U.S. history.

Project Director: Glenn Trimmer

CARR PLANTATION, MONTSERRAT

Carr Plantation in Little Bay, Montserrat is one of the few colonial sites remaining after the 1997 eruption of the Soufrière Hills Volcano that buried much of Montserrat under ash. A $25,000 grant is protecting the site from urban development and increasing local community involvement in the site’s preservation. The project includes an archaeology-focused school program; the installation of interpretive signage around the site; and the development of a guided walking tour to be used in conjunction with the interpretive signs.

Project Director: Jessica MacLean

PAYNES CREEK, BELIZE

The only known surviving Classic Maya wooden structures are located underwater in Paynes Creek National Park, Belize, where a $25,000 grant is helping to protect these fragile remains, which provide us with a rare glimpse of how the ancient Maya used timber. The grant supports the construction of an observation platform; a series of workshops to raise awareness of the site in conjunction with an exhibit; and a website for archaeological tourism with educational information for schools, tour guides, and the public.

Project Director: Heather McKillop

UMM EL-JIMAL, JORDAN

A grant for $25,000 is ensuring the long-term preservation of Umm el-Jimal, Jordan, through education and outreach that increases awareness of this significant agricultural town on the frontier of the Roman, Byzantine, and Islamic empires. The project is creating a virtual museum and education center, a virtual site tour and exhibit, and an educational curriculum that will be integrated into Jordan’s national school system as the foundation for future education, outreach, and development opportunities at the site.

Project Directors: Bert de Vries and Paul Christians
SPECIAL INITIATIVE: GALA PLEDGE DRIVE

The AIA held a pledge drive at its Annual Spring Gala in New York City in April 2012 to raise funding for the Site Preservation Program. The AIA would like to thank all the generous donors who participated in this event.

QUEEN ANNE’S REVENGE, USA

The AIA was pleased to award $5,000 to the Queen Anne’s Revenge Recovery Project to help fund conservation efforts and educational activities connected to this 18th century shipwreck off the coast of North Carolina. Currently among the oldest known shipwrecks in the United States, the Queen Anne’s Revenge was once the flagship of the infamous pirate Blackbeard and since its rediscovery in 1996 has produced thousands of artifacts from the Golden Age of Piracy. The constant threat of hurricanes and erosion, however, has greatly increased the need to preserve this fragile site. In addition to its conservation efforts, the project actively promotes the shipwreck through articles in the media, museum exhibits, and outreach activities for school groups and families.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Since 2010, projects have been completed at:

- Assos, Turkey
- Banteay Chhmar, Cambodia
- Blackfriary, Ireland
- Easter Island, Chile
- Gault, USA
- Hoyo Negro, Mexico
- Kissonerga, Cyprus
- Lod, Israel
- Thimlich Ohinga, Kenya
- Tulsk Priory, Ireland

AIA SITE PRESERVATION PROJECTS: A GLOBAL IMPACT

archaeological.org/sitepreservation
AIA Site Preservation

**BEST PRACTICES IN SITE PRESERVATION AWARD**

The AIA's Award for Best Practices in Site Preservation is presented to projects and individuals recognized by their peers for doing outstanding work in the field of site preservation and conservation. The recipient receives an award of $5,000 to further their activities and programs. In 2013, facing two outstanding nominations and enough funding for only one award, members of the Conservation & Site Preservation Committee donated the $5,000 needed to give a second award.

**2013 Award Recipients**

A 2013 award was given to George Bey for his work at Kaxil Kiuic, Mexico. Bey spearheaded Millsaps College’s efforts to purchase and develop 4,500 acres of land into a bio-cultural reserve. To preserve Maya cultural materials uncovered on the reserve, Bey developed a method of conservation that focuses on preserving standing architecture while monitoring and mitigating any damage occurring through natural processes. To promote long-term preservation, Bey implemented a number of educational outreach activities, including site visits and conservation training, for local communities.

The second award was given to Cristina Vidal Lorenzo and Gaspar Muñoz Cosme, who, as co-directors of the La Blanca Project in Guatemala, combined research and heritage conservation with economic development and education for local communities. Vidal and Muñoz developed a conservation program that was integrated at all stages of research, ensuring the protection and stabilization of archaeological remains before, during, and after excavation. The project’s outreach programs provide conservation training, educational workshops, and a tour guide training course to help ensure the long-term preservation of this Classic Maya city.

**CONSERVATION & HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AWARD**

The AIA’s Conservation and Heritage Management Award recognizes the exceptional achievement of an individual or institution in the fields of archaeological conservation, heritage management, conservation science, and public awareness of conservation through education and publication.

**2013 Award Recipient**

The 2013 award recipient was Sudharshan Seneviratne of the University of Peradeniya for his tireless efforts to protect and conserve the archaeological heritage of Sri Lanka, as well as his work to present and celebrate the diverse heritage of the people of this island nation. Seneviratne’s efforts include archaeological conservation, advocacy, education and training, and raising cultural awareness. He has served as the Archaeological Director of the Jetavana Project; the Director General of the Central Cultural Fund; and as Head of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Peradeniya.

**CONSERVATION AND SITE PRESERVATION WORKSHOP**

The Conservation and Site Preservation Committee sponsored a workshop at the 114th Annual Meeting of the AIA in Seattle, Washington on Sunday, January 6, 2013. Entitled “Integrating Conservation and Archaeology: An Exploration of Best Practices,” the workshop brought together conservators and archaeologists to discuss the role of conservation in field archaeology.

Moderated by Committee members Claudia Chemello, Stephen Koob, and Thomas Roby, the workshop consisted of both archaeologists and conservators from institutions around the world covering a wide variety of projects, from ancient to historical, terrestrial to maritime. Panelists included Brian Rose (University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology); Giorgio Buccellati (Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA); Matthew Adams (Institute of Fine Arts, NYU); Robert Neyland (Underwater Archaeology Branch, U.S. Navy); Alice Boccia Paterakis (Kaman-Kalehöyük, Turkey); Paul Mardikian (Clemson University); and Thomas Roby (Getty Conservation Institute).

The workshop was a great success, with panelists speaking to a full room. After the initial presentations, audience members were invited to ask questions and an active discussion, covering topics from funding conservation to relating the importance of these activities to the general public, ensued.
A D V O C A C Y

The AIA utilizes its membership of over 200,000 individuals to advocate for the preservation of sites at a national and international level. To date, AIA advocacy efforts include: members testifying in Washington D.C. to the U.S. Cultural Property Advisory Committee (CPAC), letter writing campaigns, participation in the Cultural Resources Preservation Coalition, and the creation of web materials to explain preservation related legislative issues to the public.

This past year the AIA called upon its members and other individuals to send hundreds of letters to the CPAC supporting the renewal of bilateral agreements with Cambodia and China. These agreements restrict the import of archaeological materials from these countries into the United States in the efforts to curtail looting and the destruction of our shared cultural heritage. Several preexisting agreements were renewed in 2012-2013, including those for Peru, Cyprus, Mali, and Guatemala. In addition, the U.S. established a new bilateral agreement with Belize, which hopes to reduce the incentive for pillage and illicit trafficking in cultural objects from the Pre-Ceramic to the Late Colonial Periods (ca. 9000 BC to 1750 AD).

The AIA tackled several other important issues this year as well. Officers of the AIA, including President Elizabeth Bartman and Vice President for Professional Responsibilities Laetitia La Follette, expressed their support of new restrictions from the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) on museum acquisition of artifacts with questionable or unknown provenance. The AIA also released a statement expressing the importance of protecting the cultural heritage of Syria during the current armed conflict.

C O N F E R E N C E S

The AIA strongly believes that the future of our archaeological heritage rests with an informed public. AIA representatives actively advocate for responsible site preservation by presenting papers at academic conferences around the world. This year’s papers include:

♦ European Association of Archaeologists: “Fostering Heritage Stewardship to Preserve Archaeological Sites”
♦ World Archaeological Conference: “Community-Specific Approaches to Preserving Archaeological Sites”
♦ Society for American Archaeology: “Mitigating the Impact of Archaeotourism on Archaeological Sites”

R E S O U R C E S

The Site Preservation Program creates and distributes resources to groups who encounter site preservation issues in a variety of circumstances. For these and more resources, visit our website: archaeological.org/sitepreservation.

Heritage, Conservation & Archaeology

This original essay series, published on the AIA Site Preservation website, gives preservation specialists from a variety of disciplines the opportunity to write critical pieces, raise concerns, and share field experiences, while inviting readers to comment and discuss these issues with professionals.

Other Resources

♦ Tourism Guidelines: www.archaeological.org/tourism_guidelines
  Download these newly revised archaeological tourism guidelines to learn how you can do your part to ensure our archaeological heritage is protected for future generations.

♦ Outside Funding List: www.archaeological.org/sitepreservation/outsidefunding
  This list provides up-to-date information on institutions and organizations that offer funding for conservation and preservation projects across the globe.

♦ Heritage Protection & Law Enforcement: www.archaeological.org/sitepreservation/HPLE
  Visit our website for an overview of how U.S. law enforcement works to protect cultural heritage across the nation and around the world.
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**Every Donation Matters—Examples of Where your Money Goes**

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**THE AIA SITE PRESERVATION PROGRAM WOULD LIKE TO THANK**

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