



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE *of* AMERICA

# SITE PRESERVATION

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



[archaeological.org/sitepreservation](http://archaeological.org/sitepreservation)



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**Want to stay up-to-date on our activities throughout the year?**



**"LIKE" US ON  
FACEBOOK!**

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 being employed to save archaeological sites.

The AIA's unique and innovative approach to site preservation combines direct funding for preservation with support for outreach, education, and advocacy. 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 encourages local communities to get involved in the preservation of their cultural heritage and supports endeavors that benefit both sites and communities.

The AIA promotes site preservation through its important and well-established outreach tools:

- Membership of over 200,000 individuals;
- Popular programs including International Archaeology Day, the National Lecture Program, and an Annual Meeting that reach tens of thousands of people every year;
- Websites that 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 publication dealing with the archaeology of the Classical world;
- Over one hundred local societies that reach out to their communities through public outreach programs;
- 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 the sixth annual report of the AIA Site Preservation Program. We are proud of what we have achieved this year and 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-six 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.

During 2015 the protection of four important archaeological sites was advanced through grants and awards. We continued our support for the conservation of the spectacular Preclassic murals at the Maya site of San Bartolo, Guatemala. We funded a project to promote stewardship of the pre-Roman necropolis at Narce, Italy. A grant was provided to the site of Tahcabo in Yucatan, Mexico to promote local awareness and stewardship of a 17th century church. At the AIA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, we presented a Best Practices in Site Preservation award to the Temple of the Winged Lions Cultural Resource Management Initiative, a comprehensive preservation and outreach approach to the conservation of an important Nabataean temple at Petra, Jordan.

At the Annual Meeting we also presented the Conservation and Heritage Management Award to Dr. Elizabeth Pye of University College London's Institute of Archaeology for her pioneering work in creating a scientific framework for archaeological conservation and for several decades of training and educating new conservators.

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

Respectfully,



Paul Rissman



Stephen Koob



Chairmen Paul Rissman  
(top) and Stephen Koob  
(bottom)

## 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, outreach, and 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.

## CURRENT PROJECTS



**NEW!** One of our newest projects will protect the remains of a 17th century church in the Yucatec-Maya community of **TAHCABO, MEXICO**. The Alliance for Heritage Conservation will work with the community to implement programs that promote community stewardship of Tahcabo's archaeological remains including heritage workshops for students, the establishment of the Tahcabo Heritage Center, and maintenance of the church and its grounds.



**NEW!** The spectacular ancient murals found at the Preclassic Maya site of **SAN BARTOLO, GUATEMALA**, will be preserved by the Image, Documentation, Environment, and Access project. These fragile paintings offer a rare glimpse into Maya belief systems, providing insights into deities, myths, and ideology. The grant will provide financial support for the digitization of the murals, creation of on-site displays, and off-site exhibits to minimize impact on the site.



The necropolis at **NARCE, ITALY**, a frontier site between the Faliscian and Etruscan cultural legions, dates from the 8th to the 3rd centuries B.C. and contains tombs that detail the site's evolution. A \$24,000 grant will encourage the local community's rediscovery of their ancient heritage through classes and site tours while directly contributing to the site's preservation through the creation of a volunteer site management crew and an archaeological trail complete with interpretive signage.



**TULIX MUL, BELIZE** is home to some of the rare surviving murals produced by the Maya. A \$25,000 grant is preserving the site through digital recording and the construction of a protective door to seal off the mural from disturbance and limit damage by environmental degradation. A permanent outreach program that includes lectures, community workshops, and a tour guide training program will encourage the local community's involvement in the long-term preservation of the site.



A \$16,000 grant was awarded to the **ST. DAVID AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CEMETERY** in Sag Harbor, New York. The Eastville Community Historical Society is protecting the cemetery by combining aspects of direct preservation with education and outreach initiatives that will promote site stewardship within the local community. Funds will support protective fencing, an Adopt-a-Grave program, school group visits, community workshops, and other awareness events.





**CARR PLANTATION** in Little Bay, Montserrat is one of the few colonial sites that survived 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 is 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.



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 the fragile remains that 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 and the public.

## SINCE 2009, SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AT:

- Assos, Turkey
- Banteay Chhmar, Cambodia
- Blackfriary, Ireland
- Easter Island, Chile
- Gault, USA
- Hoyo Negro, Mexico
- Kissonerga, Cyprus
- Lod, Israel
- Queen Anne's Revenge, USA
- Stafford, USA
- Thimlich Ohinga, Kenya
- Tulsk Priory, Ireland
- Umm el-Jimal, Jordan



## AWARDS

The AIA's **BEST PRACTICES IN SITE PRESERVATION AWARD** is presented to projects and individuals recognized by their peers for doing outstanding work in the field of site preservation and conservation. Recipients receive an award of \$5,000 to further their activities and programs. We presented the 2015 award to the **TEMPLE OF THE WINGED LIONS CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT** (TWLCRM). This is a cooperative effort to conserve, protect, and present the Temple of the



Winged Lions, a majestic Nabataean temple overlooking the site of Petra in Jordan. The project is also developing guidelines and building local capacity for the long-term management of the temple and the site.

### PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

2014: California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program — California, USA

2013: George Bey — Kaxil Kiuic, Mexico

Cristina Vidal Lorenzo & Gaspar Muñoz Cosme — La Blanca, Guatemala

2012: Donald Haggis and Margaret Mook — Azoria, Crete

2011: Giorgio Buccellati — Tell Mozan, Syria

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. The 2015 award recipient was Elizabeth Pye, Emeritus Professor at University College London's Institute of Archaeology. She was recognized for her groundbreaking efforts in transforming conservation into a science-based discipline and for over four decades of teaching, mentoring, and inspiring students from around the world.



### RECENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

2014: Staffordshire Hoard Conservation Program

2013: Sudharshan Seneviratne

2012: James R. McCredie

2011: Archaeological Conservancy

Visit [archaeological.org/awards/conservationheritage](http://archaeological.org/awards/conservationheritage) for the complete list of winners.

## ADVOCACY

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 have included asking members to testify in Washington D.C. to the U.S. Cultural Property Advisory Committee (CPAC) and organizing letter writing campaigns. The AIA has also participated in the Cultural Resources Preservation Coalition and has created web resources that explain preservation related legislative issues to the public. In the past year, AIA President, Andrew Moore, issued a joint statement on the cultural destruction happening in Iraq, wrote an op-ed published in The New York Times, and appeared on CCTV.





## CONFERENCES

AIA representatives present papers on responsible site preservation and best practices at academic conferences around the world. The past year's papers include:

“Heritage and Community: Funding Non-traditional, Holistic Approaches to Sustainable Preservation”

Heritage and Healthy Societies, Amherst, MA—May 2014

“Site Preservation, Heritage Tourism, and Local Community Involvement”

European Association of Archaeologists, Istanbul, Turkey—September 2014

“Bridging the Great Cultural Tourism Divide: Working with the Tourism Industry”

“Keeping up with the Times: Evolving Programs and Publics”

Society for American Archaeology, San Francisco, CA—April 2015

## RESOURCES

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

**TOURISM GUIDELINES:** [www.archaeological.org/tourism\\_guidelines](http://www.archaeological.org/tourism_guidelines)

Download these 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](http://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](http://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.

**HERITAGE, CONSERVATION & ARCHAEOLOGY:** <https://www.archaeological.org/sitepreservation/hca>

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.

## FUNDRAISING

Since 2007, the Site Preservation Program has awarded twenty grants to sites around the world thanks to the generosity of our donors. The critical work of preservation at archaeological sites around the world depends on this generosity. Even small contributions make a large difference for the future of archaeological sites. We appreciate any level of support you are able to offer. On behalf of the Archaeological Institute of America and the Site Preservation Program Trustees and staff, we would like to extend our sincere thanks for your loyalty and commitment to preserving sites around the world and giving communities the opportunity to educate themselves about their shared cultural heritage.



# DID YOU KNOW?

## THE AIA SITE PRESERVATION PROGRAM...

has supported 26  
projects in 16 countries  
with a total of \$604,885  
given in grants?



## THE AIA SITE PRESERVATION PROGRAM WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

### Inner Circle (\$10,000+)

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### Benefactor (\$5,000+)

The Robert and  
Georgia Anderson  
Charitable Fund

### Patron (\$2,500+)

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### Friend (\$1,000+)

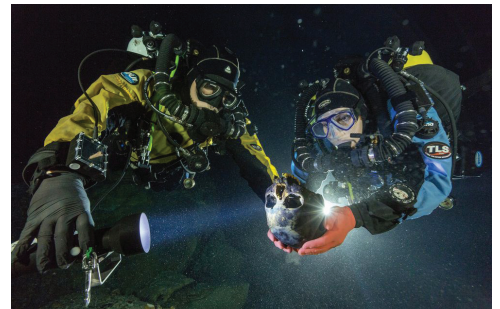
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