



FRIENDS of FLORENCE



Protecting Cultural Heritage in an Uncertain Time - Symposium
Final Schedule - Washington, DC Conference #1

Sponsored by: Friends of Florence, La Pietra Dialogues, The Brademas Center, Italian Embassy in the USA, City of Florence

FINAL SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 26, 2016

- 9:30am** **DOORS OPEN** - Registration/ Continental breakfast available
Participants Arrive/ Check-in

- 10:00am** **Ellyn Toscano**, Executive Director, NYU La Pietra

- 10:05am** **The Honourable Dario Nardella**, Mayor of Florence, Italy

- 10:20am** **Countess Simonetta Brandolini d'Adda**, President, Friends of Florence

- 10:25am** **His Excellency Armando Varricchio**, Ambassador to the United States

Panelist introductions will be provided by **Michele Marincola**, Sherman Fairchild Distinguished Professor of Conservation, NYU Institute of Fine Arts; Conservation Consultant, Villa La Pietra. Michele will also facilitate discussion and Q&A at the close of each panel.

Panel 1 - *Conservation Challenges in Emergency Preparation*

- 10:40am** [Norbert S. Baer](#), Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Conservation,
Conservation Center, Institute of Fine Arts, NYU - norbert.baer@nyu.edu

- 11:00am** [Stephanie Hornbeck](#), Director of Conservation, Caryatid Conservation
Services, Inc. - shornbeck@caryatid-conservation.com

- 11:20am** [Alda Benjamin](#), PhD, Research Associate, Cultural Rescue Initiative,
Smithsonian Institution - benjamin@umd.edu

- 11:40am** **Discussion and Question/Answer Session**

12:00pm Lunch Break

Session 2 - *Methods of Documentation*

1:15pm [Cheikhmous Ali](#), Université de Strasbourg; Fellow, Paris Institute for Advanced Study (Fall 2016) - ayazali12@yahoo.fr

Translator: Séverine de Lartigue, Alliance Francaise - executive.assistant@francedc.org

1:35pm [Scott Branting](#), Assistant Professor, University of Central Florida, Arches Project, The Getty Conservation Institute - scott.branting@ucf.edu

1:55pm [Donald H. Sanders, Ph. D.](#), President, Learning Sites, Inc - dsanders@vizin.org

2:15pm **Discussion and Question/Answer Session**

2:35pm **Coffee Break**

Session 3 - *The Feasibility, Desirability and Ethics of Reconstructing Destroyed Cultural Properties*

3:15pm [James Janowski](#), Professor of Philosophy, Hampden-Sydney College - jjanowski@hsc.edu

3:35pm [Anna Paolini](#), Director of the UNESCO office in Doha, Qatar - a.paolini@unesco.org

3:55pm [John Childs](#), Director of Museum Collection Services at Peabody Essex Museum (former, Head of Conservation Services, 9/11 Memorial Museum) - johndchilds@mac.com

4:15pm **Discussion and Question/Answer Session**

4:35pm **Closing Remarks - Ellyn Toscano**

4:45pm **Reception**

6:00pm **Reception End**

PURPOSE/SYNOPSIS

Purpose: Friends of Florence, in partnership with New York University and the City of Florence will convene two meetings in the fall 2016 to commemorate the anniversary of “L’Alluvione,” a flood that ravaged the city of Florence and damaged countless pieces of art of immeasurable value, some irreparably. On the occasion of that commemoration, the two conferences, one in Washington, DC and the other in Florence, will call attention to an equally devastating *contemporary* challenge to our cultural patrimony: intentional destruction of cultural property for ideological reasons.

This symposium will bring together regional actors together with international experts and scholars from the fields of art, conservation and museums, international culture, law and law enforcement agencies and organizations to discuss the challenges and solutions to protecting *our* cultural heritage.

Synopsis: Cultural heritage is increasingly in danger of intentional destruction or incidental damage in the context of war and terrorism. The attack on the temples and burial towers of Palmyra in Syria is the latest shocking example of a systematic campaign of bombing, smashing, bulldozing and otherwise destroying irreplaceable cultural properties, for ideological reasons, across the Middle East and North Africa. In addition, extremist groups are generating income trafficking items looted from archaeological sites and museums in these conflict areas. The international community is struggling to cope with the destruction, which seems to be continuing unabated. The United Nations Security Council, in a resolution addressed to the destruction by ISIL and the Al-Nusra Front of cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria, called upon the international community to take steps, in cooperation with Interpol, UNESCO and other international organizations, to prevent the trafficking in items of cultural, scientific and religious importance illegally removed from either country during periods of conflict.

The meetings in Florence and Washington, DC will examine this cultural heritage crisis from a variety of perspectives and disciplines. Topics will include:

- Iconoclasm and the propagandic use of destruction: What is motivating destruction?
- Methods of documentation and preservation of endangered artifacts and at-risk sites of cultural heritage;
- Parallel case studies from natural disasters and their impact on cultural heritage;
- The feasibility, desirability and ethics of reconstructing destroyed cultural properties;
- National and international efforts to secure and protect cultural properties;
- Strategies to control illicit trafficking of art; and
- Protocols for the collection, maintenance and repatriation of looted antiquities.