



Call for Application

WORLD HERITAGE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FORUM **Protecting Heritage in an Ever-changing World** **Bahrain, 17-26 June 2018**

As an integral part of the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee, and in line with the UNESCO World Heritage Education Programme, the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities will be hosting the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2018 under the theme of “Protecting Heritage in an Ever-changing World”. The Forum is addressed to young professionals and aims to transmit the values of World Heritage, highlighting the potential that World Heritage education may have for facilitating sustainable development. At the end of each Forum a declaration is produced from the participants and presented to the World Heritage Committee.

Forum 2018: Protecting Heritage in an Ever-changing World

Heritage, following the pace of human evolution, keeps changing and evolving. When it comes to protecting heritage, specialists constantly face new challenges, yet new tools and advanced technologies are now available for them. Evolution and change are as old as human history. What is different nowadays is the increased speed of these changes and subsequently the need for faster adaptation. How do contemporary changes reflect upon decision making and actions on heritage protection? Where do they create obstacles and how could we turn these challenges into opportunities? This is the core question that people from different countries will be called upon to think about and debate on, taking as case study the world heritage site of the Kingdom of Bahrain: “Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy”.

The Young Professionals Forum “Protecting Heritage in an Ever-changing World”, will offer participants the possibility to reflect upon the everlasting conflict between preserving the past and moving on towards the future. Bahrain, being a small island state with an intense population movement and rapid transformations, becomes thus an ideal case study. Participants, with the guidance of local and foreign experts, day by day will reflect on the influence of historic evolution on heritage, on its ability to adapt to changes but also on an analysis of the risks emanating from a rapidly mutating world, progressively adding elements of reflection.

BACKGROUND

World Heritage Youth Forums are among the main activities of the World Heritage Education Programme, designed to foster intercultural learning and exchange by bringing together young people, educators and heritage experts from different parts of the world.

World Heritage Youth Forums are now also organized and held in conjunction with the annual sessions of the World Heritage Committee. One of the exciting highlights



of these forums is meeting members of the World Heritage Committee and its Advisory Bodies, to discuss the Convention and its implementation. A youth delegation also presents the results of the Youth Forum to the World Heritage Committee. “Protecting Heritage in an Ever-changing World” is the 40th WHYF, and has been designed on the basis of the experiences of previous World Heritage Youth Fora and focused on introducing Bahrain’s heritage to the world as a case to enjoy and learn from. For further information, please visit: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/youth-forum/>.

OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Having Bahrain and the urban property components of the World Heritage Site of Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy, as the case study, the participants will be invited to reflect upon the complexity of preserving heritage in a constantly evolving world with the help of local and foreign experts, progressively adding elements of reflexion, day by day. Please visit <https://pearlingpath.bh/en/> for further information.

The Forum will be an opportunity for participants to develop a deeper understanding of the World Heritage Convention. They will also have an insight into their working practices through comparing with others of different cultural and natural heritage backgrounds. This will offer them wider means for engaging more efficiently in the future and promote international cooperation.

The Forum’s objectives are for participants to develop a deeper understanding of:

- 1972 World Heritage Convention;
- future and challenges of the 1972 World Heritage Convention;
- working practices through comparing with others with different cultural and natural heritage backgrounds;
- international cooperation projects;
- Interrelation between culture, history, heritage and continuous development.

In terms of the **expected outcomes** of the forum, participants will acquire greater self-assurance and confidence so as to produce a meaningful final declaration about the influence of changes in heritage protection and the opportunities they bring. In addition, they are expected to create a small exhibition about their reflection process, from the beginning to the end.

CONTENTS

The different topics which will be presented and considered during the Forum are:

- **History**, local and global, and how heritage is affected
- **People**, native, migrants of a few generations back, foreigners, and the influence on each other
- **Land**, deeply altered by human actions
- **Materials**, adapting, evolving, transforming, disappearing, addition of new ones
- The near **future**, threats and opportunities



- **Difficulties and prospects** of the changes in heritage protection in our days
- **Awareness** about heritage protection and interaction with the local community
- The **World Heritage Convention** towards its 50th anniversary
- **Simulation** of the World Heritage Committee
- **Declaration** of World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2018

METHODOLOGY

The participants of the forum will focus on a new aspect of the main topic each day, so as to progressively assimilate its various parts and acquire the ability to make proposals. These day by day activities will end up in finally producing a declaration from the 2018 Young Professionals Forum in Bahrain.

Based on analysing the case study of Bahrain's heritage (Pearling), the methodology includes different approaches aiming at the stimulation of active participation of all participants, as well as at sharing and exchanging their own perspectives and approaches.

TEAMWORK: All activities will be developed on the basis of teamwork and its principles.

SITE VISITS: Site visits will help participants familiarize with the local history of the place and the evolutionary changes affecting heritage over the years.

EXERCISES: Dynamic activities with the aim of opening discussions and debates.

PRESENTATIONS: Key presentation on the subject of the day

ROUND TABLES: Round table discussions and daily conclusions will lead to the final declaration.

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: The hands on activity of the present forum will allow the participant to experiment with the local techniques.

DISSEMINATION/ AWARENESS: Short activity together with local University students and or schools.

DECLARATION PREPARATION: The final deliverable of the forum is a declaration, to convey that message to the international community.

ORGANISATION

The World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2018 will take place in the context of the 42nd World Heritage Committee session in **Bahrain, from 17 to 26 June 2018**. The participants are expected to arrive on 16 June.

All travel and accommodation costs for the selected participants will be covered by the Kingdom of Bahrain- for the duration of the forum. The organizers will assist in the travel preparations (including visas) and bookings.

If any participant wishes to extend their stay until the end of the Committee session, all related costs should be covered by the participant with the consent of the State Party concerned. This information should be communicated to the organizers in advance to make the necessary arrangements.



ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Participants of the Youth Forum will come from different heritage fields and countries and must be specifically interested in World Heritage. Thirty participants will be selected to take part in this year's forum taking into account gender equality and regional representation. Applications can be sent through the UNESCO National Commissions or other respective governmental institutions, or directly from the applicants to the organizer.

EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Applicants should be recent young professionals between the ages of 23 to 30 with at least one year experience in the field of either Cultural or Natural heritage. We accept a wide range of backgrounds including but not limited to archaeology, architecture, conservation, urban planning & regeneration, restoration, art history, lawyers, heritage managers.

LANGUAGE

The working language of the Forum is English. A good knowledge of English is essential, for the benefit of the individual participants and the development of the forum.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Basic computer skills will be required to collaborate to draft the final declaration and a small exhibition about the Forum itself.

Handwork and visits requires a good physical condition due to the climate of the region.

APPLICATIONS

Candidates who wish to apply for participation in the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum should fill in and submit the **online application form**. Please visit www.42whcbahrain2018.bh.

Please note that candidates should attach **their CV**, as well as a **document of endorsement** signed by a supervisor and their own signature (e.g. professional supervisor, university professor etc.).

Please make sure that you include all the required information in the application form and you attach the requested documents. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The deadline for applications is March 31, 2018, at 23:59 CET (Bahrain) time.



SELECTION CRITERIA

- The selection will be made based on the requirements above, with a specific focus on: Balanced geographical representation,
- Dissemination of gained experience in the country or institution of origin
- Gender equality,
- Diversity of professional backgrounds.

The applicants will be informed upon completion of the selection process, by mid-April 2018.

CONDITIONS

Participants are expected to be actively engaged and participate in all aspects of the forum. Please note that attendance for the full duration of the event (arrival 16 June 2018, earliest departure 26 June 2018) is mandatory. Each participant is required to give a short presentation on one of the World Heritage Sites in their representative country that is experiencing evolutionary changes happening in the world today.

ORGANIZERS

World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2018 is organized by Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (www.culture.gov.bh) in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre in the framework of the World Heritage Education Programme. The scientific programme is developed in cooperation with Non-Governmental Organization Diadrasis (www.diadrasis.org).