

Annual Report

2019

ORGANIZATION OF WORLD HERITAGE CITIES (OWHC)



OVPM . OWHC . OCPM

Memory of the World, Cities of the Future.

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Message of the Secretary General



It is with great pleasure that I present to you the annual report for 2019 of the Organization of World Heritage Cities. Upon my recent arrival in office as the new Secretary General, I learned that it is the first time in its history that our organization produces such an annual comprehensive report. I am convinced that the information provided in this new yearly overview document will be useful to our membership, our partner organizations, and the general public.

Considerable effort has been made to make the information easily accessible and user-friendly at an aggregate level. The use of infographics and pictographs will enable the reader to quickly find out the key data that he or she is looking for, presented in a clear and transparent manner. We very much welcome your reactions and recommendations on how we can further optimize the presentation of annual data in next year's annual report.

The highlight of the year 2019 was undoubtedly the 15th World Congress in Krakow, Poland (2-5 June). The theme of the scientific symposium “Heritage and Tourism, Local communities and visitors - sharing responsibilities” proved to be highly relevant to mayors, municipal policymakers, and heritage experts.

Another highlight was the awarding of the Jean-Paul L’Allier Prize for Heritage 2019 to the city of St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, in recognition of its successful transformation of five industrial heritage sites (factories) into creative spaces for dynamic social and cultural activities.

Last but not least, the Vienna conference “Preservation, Development, and Management of World Heritage in Dynamic Cities” deserves to be mentioned here. It brought together elected municipal officials and heritage professionals from 25 cities across the world, enabling the sharing of best practices and interactive debates. This is an excellent example of how one of the key objectives of our organization is brought into practice: the exchange of information and expertise related to the conservation and management of urban heritage.

Robert J. Quarles van Ufford
Secretary General

About the OWHC

History

Created in 1991 following the First International Symposium of World Heritage Cities, which took place in July of that year in Québec (Canada), the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) was officially founded on 8 September 1993 in Fez (Morocco). The OWHC represents a collective intelligence on all issues related to the urban management of a World Heritage property.

Mission

Assist member cities in adapting and refining their heritage management methods in relation to the specific requirements of having a site registered on the World Heritage List.

MAIN GOALS OF THE ORGANIZATION:

Promote implementation of the World Heritage Convention

Encourage cooperation among members

Enable the exchange of information and expertise related to the conservation and management of urban heritage

Develop a sense of solidarity among member cities

Key Moments — 2019

VIENNA CONFERENCE
“PRESERVATION,
DEVELOPMENT AND
MANAGEMENT OF WORLD
HERITAGE IN DYNAMIC CITIES”

13-15 February
Vienna



9TH REGIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE EURO-ASIA

28 April-2 May
Denpasar

15TH WORLD
CONGRESS OF THE
OWHC

2-5 June
Krakow



INTERNATIONAL VIDEO PRODUCTION
COMPETITION AND THE JEAN-PAUL-L'ALLIER
PRIZE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

3 June
Krakow

INAUGURATION
OF THE
JEAN-PAUL-L'ALLIER
PRIZE PLAQUE

1ST October
St. Petersburg



2ND REGIONAL
CONFERENCE OF
THE CENTRAL
AMERICA,
THE CARIBBEAN
AND MEXICO

11-13 Nov.
Xochimilco
and Ciudad
de México



49TH MEETING OF THE OWHC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

11-13 December
Krakow

47TH MEETING OF THE OWHC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4-6 March
Québec

48TH MEETING OF
THE OWHC BOARD
OF DIRECTORS AND
21ST OWHC GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

1 and 5 June
Krakow



APPOINTMENT OF
THE NEW SECRETARY
GENERAL

5 June
Krakow



26TH SOLIDARITY DAY OF
WORLD HERITAGE CITIES

8 September

RENEWAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE OWHC
AND ICOMOS

22 October
Marrakech

RENEWAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE OWHC AND
THE ARAB TOWNS ORGANIZATION (ATO)

26 November
Tunis

Key Numbers — 2019

133

Active cities
within the network

in 2019

64

Registered cities
at the General Assembly

Europe: 27 Asia: 17
Americas: 17 Africa and the
Middle East: 3

9

New member cities in 2019

Boeun Muharraq
Dujiangyan Naumburg
Karangasem* Yangsan
Haenam Yeongju
Mombasa

**Observer member*

8

Permanent programs
offered by the OWHC

*+ programs from the
Regional Secretariats*

23

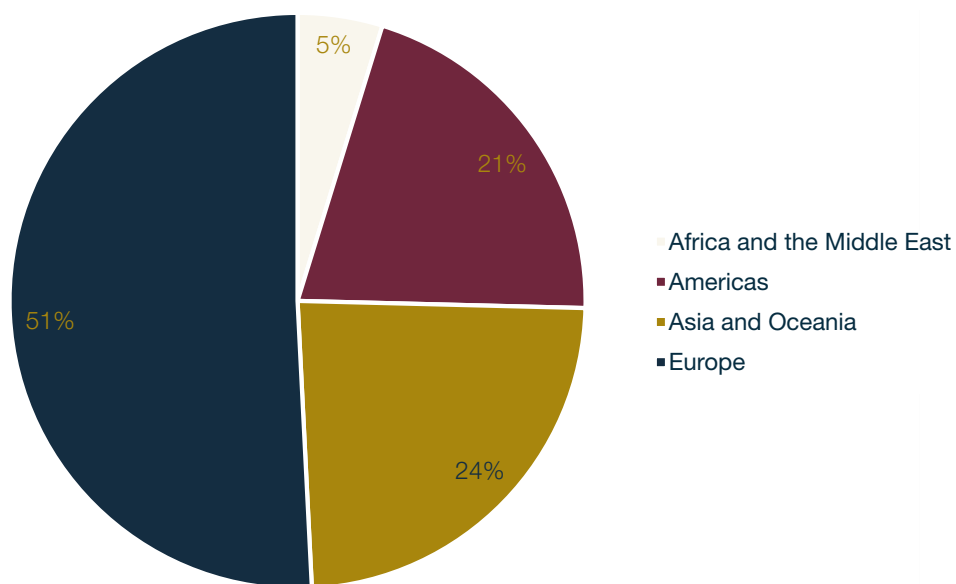
Events, conferences
and meetings in
which the OWHC
participated

3

Meetings of the OWHC
Board of Directors in 2019

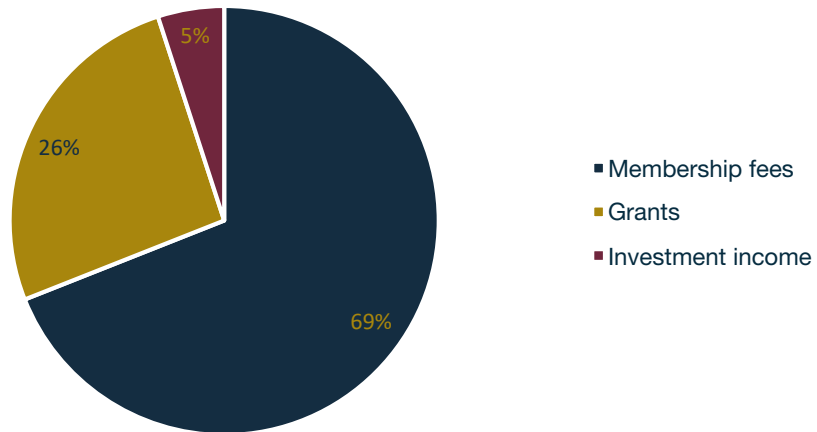
March 2019 June 2019 Dec. 2019
(Québec) (Krakow) (Krakow)

Where are
the members
from?

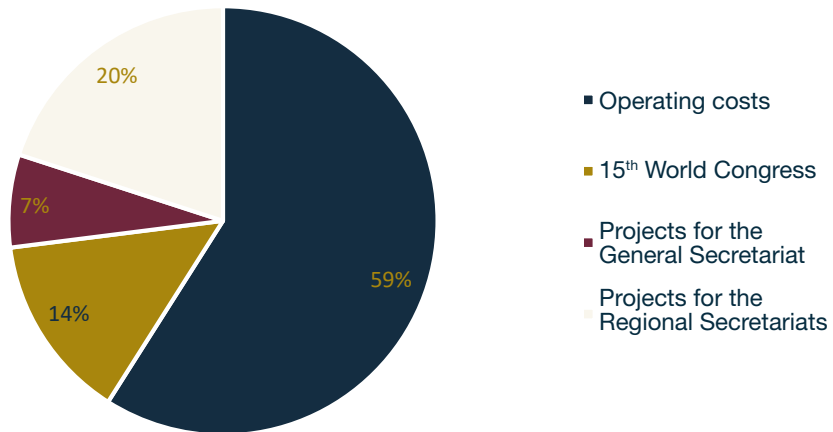


Finances — 2019

Income



Expenditure



Financial support

The OWHC especially wishes to thank the following partners for their financial support.

Québec 

VILLE DE
QUÉBEC
*l'accent
d'Amérique*

SERGE MARTIN
INTERNATIONAL

Partners

Contributions from our partners

The OWHC has several partners around the world. They are part of a large international network that enables the organization to fulfill its mission and thus support its members in the management of their site inscribed on the World Heritage List.

A full list of partners is available on the OWHC website.



UNESCO

- Member of the jury - The Jean-Paul-L'Allier Prize
- Member of the Scientific Committee - World Congress
- Invited speaker - World Congress
- Mayors and Experts Workshops Organizer - World Congress
- Member of the jury - International Video Production Competition



THE WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF PORT CITIES (AIVP)

- Joint working meetings (OWHC, ICTC and AIVP) in Krakow (June) and Québec (November) to address the issue of cruise tourism in historic cities



LAVAL UNIVERSITY (QUÉBEC, CANADA)

- Coordination of the Journalists' Workshop (jointly with the city of Krakow) - World Congress
- Member of the jury - International Video Production Competition



ICOMOS - INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

- Renewal of the memorandum of understanding between the OWHC and ICOMOS for the period 2019-2024 during the ICOMOS Annual General Assembly
- Participation of the Secretary General of the OWHC to the ICOMOS Annual General Assembly in Marrakech



Climate Heritage NETWORK

CLIMATE HERITAGE NETWORK (CHN)

- The OWHC is one of the founding signatories of the Climate Heritage Network's memorandum of understanding



UCLG - EURASIA

- Support for the 9th Regional Conference of the Euro-Asia World Heritage Cities in Denpasar



ICOMOS - INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF HISTORIC TOWNS AND VILLAGES (CIVVIH)

- Member of the jury - The Jean-Paul-L'Allier Prize



THE ARAB TOWNS ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION DES VILLES ARABES

ARAB TOWNS ORGANIZATION (ATO)

- Relaunch of the memorandum of understanding between the OWHC and the ATO



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEXICAN WORLD HERITAGE CITIES A.C.

- Study on sustainable tourism in World Heritage Cities



ICOMOS - INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL TOURISM COMMITTEE (ICTC)

- Joint working meetings (OWHC, ICTC and AIVP) in Krakow (June) and Québec (November) to address the issue of cruise tourism in historic cities



“The OWHC has shown considerable leadership to address the overtourism impacts that member cities have been dealing with as increasingly popular destinations. The ICOMOS International Cultural Tourism Committee is subsequently very pleased to partner with the OWHC and port cities on the development of cruise tourism guidelines from operational and cultural heritage practitioner perspectives to develop a realistic, viable destination management approach.”

Fergus Maclaren, President, ICOMOS International Cultural Tourism Committee (ICTC)

World Congress — Krakow 2019

Overview

The 15th World Congress of the OWHC took place in the city of Krakow, Poland, from June 2 to June 5, 2019. This congress was a great success. Following is a summary of the event.



World Congress — Krakow 2019

337

Participants

133

Cities represented

57

Countries represented

Scientific Symposium

Once again, OWHC cities were at the heart of debates on the scientific theme of “Heritage and Tourism: Local communities and visitors – sharing responsibilities”. The day began with a welcoming address by Professor Jacek Purchla, Chair of the Steering Committee, and the keynote speech by Professor Francesc Muñoz, Professor of urban geography at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Mr. Doug Lansky, tourism development thought leader, was on hand throughout the day to facilitate discussions.

The cities of Philadelphia, Regensburg, Colonia del Sacramento, Bordeaux, Dubrovnik, Aranjuez, Zamosc, Visby, Oaxaca, Québec and Vigan each took turns presenting inspiring projects to improve heritage and tourism management in their cities. Moreover, each of the four sub-themes discussed during the day were introduced by renowned experts, namely Professor David Fleming, former Director of National Museums Liverpool; Dr. Ko Koen, Associate Professor at Breda University of Applied Sciences and co-author of the UNWTO report on overtourism; Dr. Jyoti Hosagrahar, Deputy Director for the World Heritage Centre at UNESCO; and H.E. Shaikha Mai Bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities.

Parallel activities

In addition to the main program, several workshops and events took place in parallel with the Congress. Many participants also attended these activities:

- Capacity Building Workshop on citizen participation: 10
- Promotional stands of the OWHC cities: 18
- Young Professionals Forum: 19
- Journalists’ Workshop: 20
- Poster Exhibition: 26
- Spectators during the Opening Ceremony: more than 1000



General Assembly

Without doubt, the flagship event of the World Congress is the General Assembly, during which members are called upon to make important decisions regarding the Organization’s future. In the afternoon, 64 official delegates were present, proudly representing their city as active members of the Organization. During the Assembly, the host city of the next World Congress was announced: congratulations to the city of Québec (Canada) on their win!

Thank you once again to the city of Krakow and its Mayor and new President of the OWHC, Mr. Jacek Majchrowski, for their wonderful welcome and organization. It will be a pleasure to see you again in 2021 in Québec!

Find out more

A COMPLETE REPORT OF THE CONGRESS
[OVPM.ORG/CONGRESS/2019-KRAKOW-POLAND/](https://ovpm.org/congress/2019-krakow-poland/)

THE CONGRESS PROCEEDINGS
[OVPM.ORG/PROCEEDINGS-WORLD-CONGRESS-KRAKOW_ENG_WEB](https://ovpm.org/proceedings-world-congress-krakow_eng_web)

PHOTOS OF THE EVENT
[FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/OVPM/COLLECTIONS/72157710395942251/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/ovpm/collections/72157710395942251/)

Programs and Activities

SEVCABLE PORT, ST. PETERSBURG



The Jean-Paul-L'Allier Prize for Heritage 2019

Congratulations to the city of St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, for its project *Redevelopment of industrial cultural heritage sites and their grounds for public projects*, winner of the Jean-Paul-L'Allier Prize for Heritage, 2019 edition.

The nomination includes five industrial heritage sites that were redeveloped into new modern public open spaces. Those sites are “New Holland”, “Planetarium No. 1”, “Sevcable Port”, “Petrovsky Arsenal” and “Tkachi”. In the past, those sites were used as factories but today they have been converted into unique heritage sites and have gained a second life as places for different kinds of social activities like festivals, exhibitions, lectures, concerts and many others. Most of them are restored, but the process of restoration is still in progress.

A project summary can be found here: [OVPM.ORG/PROGRAM/THE-JEAN-PAUL-LALLIER-PRIZE-FOR-HERITAGE/2019-ST-PETERSBURG/](https://ovpm.org/program/the-jean-paul-lallier-prize-for-heritage/2019-st-petersburg/)

Zoom on Urban Heritage

Zoom on Urban Heritage is a program to encourage cities to publicize their best practices on managing and enhancing urban heritage. Cities are invited to produce a video to educate and inform the public about heritage. The OWHC YouTube channel and subtitles in French, English and Spanish increase the global outreach of the videos.

Three new videos were released in 2019:

- Colonia del Sacramento (Uruguay)
- Queretaro (Mexico)
- St. Petersburg (Russian Federation)

To view the videos: [OVPM.ORG/PROGRAM/ZOOM-ON-URBAN-HERITAGE/](https://ovpm.org/program/zoom-on-urban-heritage/)

Programs and Activities

Youth on the Trail of World Heritage

In September 2019, the OWHC announced the launch of the 2019-2020 edition of the school twinning program, Youth on the Trail of World Heritage. The program consists of twinning schools located in World Heritage Cities, making it possible for groups of young people aged 15 to 18 to become familiar with the concept of World Heritage. Pairing students from different cities allows them to virtually exchange ideas, knowledge and work on the subject. The students become aware of the universal value of their heritage and the challenges of managing heritage at the international level.



Additionally, the OWHC offers a twinning scholarship of CAD \$10 000 to fund a field trip to a twin city for one or two groups of students. This allows young people to meet each other in person rather than virtually and discover, in situ, the heritage of their twin city.

This year, a total of 10 twinning arrangements were made.

To learn more about the program: [OVPM.ORG/PROGRAM/YOUTH-ON-THE-TRAIL-OF-WORLD-HERITAGE/](https://ovpm.org/program/youth-on-the-trail-of-world-heritage/)

International Video Production Competition

The OWHC launched the 5th edition of the International Video Production Competition at the end of 2018. The competition was open to all young people in two age groups: ages 14 to 17 and ages 18 to 21. After accepting the OWHC's invitation, young people from the cities that registered for the competition were asked to produce a video up to five minutes long on a World Heritage City.

Something new was added to the competition during this edition: the theme of the World Congress in Krakow. This year's theme, related to heritage and tourism, was: "A day in a World Heritage City...".

Major prizes were awarded:

- 1 prize of CAD \$1500 to the ages 14 to 17 category winner: Valeria Sindimirova from the city of Kazan (Russian Federation) for the video "Tsar's Dream";
- 1 prize of CAD \$3000 to the ages 18 to 21 category winner: Nihad Nebili from the city of Baku (Azerbaijan) for the video "Amazing City - Baku";
- Certificates of honour were presented to the mayors and young people from the winning cities during a ceremony that took place during the World Congress;
- The videos were posted on the OWHC website and YouTube channel and showcased during the World Congress.

To view the videos made by the finalists and the winners: [OVPM.ORG/PROGRAM/INTERNATIONAL-VIDEO-PRODUCTION-COMPETITION/FINALISTS-2019/](https://ovpm.org/program/international-video-production-competition/finalists-2019/)



Programs and Activities

OWHC Grants

OWHC Grants is a program:

- To provide practical and financial assistance to the cities of the OWHC facing certain challenges or difficulties managing their World Heritage;
- To support member cities that wish to participate in a technical meeting to benefit from the knowledge and best practices of other member cities.



In 2019, the first grant was awarded to the city of Philadelphia as part of the OWHC Grants program. The project “Philadelphia and San Antonio: Sharing Best Practices in Heritage Tourism and Public Education” took place during San Antonio’s annual “World Heritage Festival” held September 4-8, 2019.

A project report may be found here: : [OVPM.ORG/PROGRAM/ THE-OWHC-GRANTS/PHILADELPHIA-AND-SAN-ANTONIO/](https://ovpm.org/program/the-owhc-grants/philadelphia-and-san-antonio/)

To apply for a grant: [OVPM.ORG/PROGRAM/THE-OWHC-GRANTS](https://ovpm.org/program/the-owhc-grants/)

Capacity Building Workshop

In 2017, the OWHC Regional Secretariat for Northwest Europe and North America organized a successful workshop on heritage management and communication in Vienna. During this workshop it became clear that knowledge and expertise in citizen and local community involvement is an important factor contributing to the successful work of heritage managers.



The OWHC General Secretariat then organized another training workshop for experts on citizen participation in cultural heritage. Offered to all OWHC members, the event took place on June 1-2, 2019, in Krakow.

This new workshop was interactive and integrated different kinds of approaches: theoretical input, practical participation with the instructor, practice exercises on methods, discussions on the exercises/methods, working on personal cases/issues presented by participants, group discussions, individual reflection, Q&A sessions, etc.

A report may be found here: [OVPM.ORG/OWHC_WORKSHOP_ KRAKOW_2019/](https://ovpm.org/owhc_workshop_krakow_2019/)

Mayors & Heritage Interviews

The *Mayors & Heritage* interviews gave us the opportunity to interview mayors of OWHC member cities. These interviews made it possible to learn more about the political careers of each mayor, their role in the protection of heritage and their cities’ aspirations.

To read the interviews: [OVPM.ORG/PROGRAM/MAYORS-HERITAGE/](https://ovpm.org/program/mayors-heritage/)

Programs and Activities

CORDOBA, SPAIN



AREQUIPA, PERU



Solidarity Day of World Heritage Cities — 8 September

On September 8, 1993, the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) was officially founded in Fez, Morocco. To commemorate this important event, September 8 has been declared the “Solidarity Day of World Heritage Cities.”

Each year, the OWHC encourages its member cities to take advantage of this day to highlight their singular responsibility in the preservation and enhancement of World Heritage and draw attention to the privilege of having this prestigious heritage in their community. Cities can organize various activities to showcase the uniqueness of their heritage and its exceptional universal value.

Here are some examples of activities carried out in 2019:

- Free guided and interpretive tours of World Heritage for visitors and citizens (Angra do Heroísmo, Québec)
- Performance of the City Choir at the entrance to the World Heritage Site (Colonia del Sacramento)
- The City and OWHC’s flags hoisted during a ceremony (Cordoba)
- A five-day World Heritage Festival offering various activities with different partners (San Antonio)
- Conference on the listed site (Mitla)
- World Heritage City Celebration (Philadelphia)
- The opening ceremony of an exhibition on the World Heritage City (Cidade Velha)
- Solidarity walk across the city (Arequipa)

To find out more about the festivities on September 8: [OVPM.ORG/2019/09/26/FESTIVITIES-OF-THE-26TH-SOLIDARITY-DAY-OF-THE-OWHC/](https://ovpm.org/2019/09/26/festivities-of-the-26th-solidarity-day-of-the-owhc/)

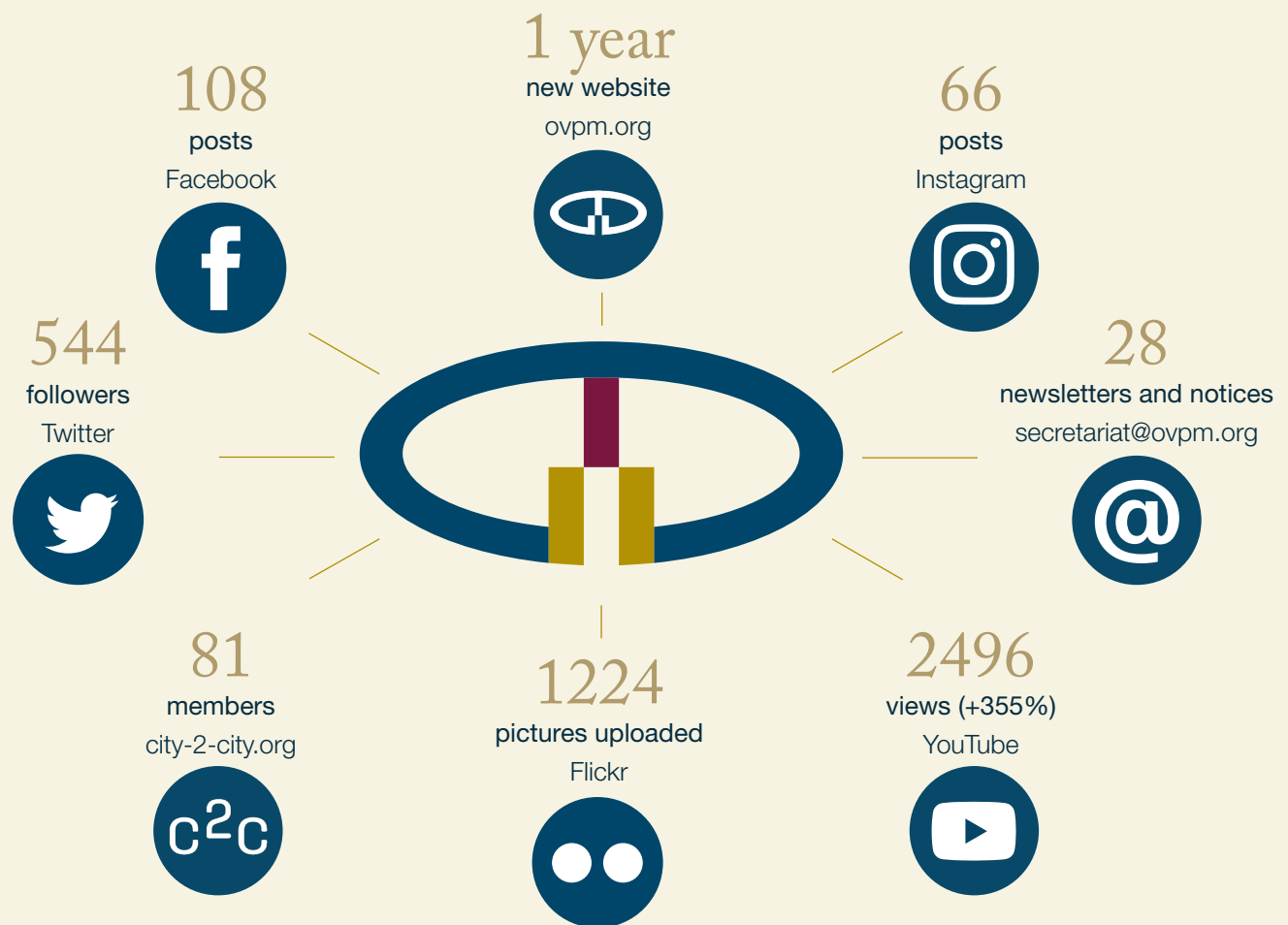
Communications

Join the international community

The OWHC has developed several communication tools in order to maintain a privileged link with member cities, partners, and heritage enthusiasts from all over the world. In particular, relevant content is frequently posted on the OWHC Facebook page and Instagram account, and broadcasted on its YouTube channel. Through these media, subscribers keep abreast of the latest news concerning urban World Heritage. The General Secretariat also regularly sends out a newsletter to OWHC members and partner organizations.

At the end of 2019, the OWHC began to implement a digital strategy to re-focus its use of social media. This strategy will allow the organization to feed its platforms more consistently and develop suitable and efficient content to increase the outreach of its actions. The strategy will be pursued in the coming years.

2019 in figures



Board of Directors

Directors

The Board of Directors is made up of up to eight mayors and the Secretary General. It is elected by the General Assembly and meets at least once a year. Its current President is Mr. Jacek Majchrowski, Mayor of Krakow and successor of Mr. Régis Labeaume, Mayor of Québec.

Board of Directors 2019-2021

**Mr. Jacek
Majchrowski**

Vice-President
Mayor of Krakow



**Mr. Dirk
De fauw**

Vice-President
treasurer
Mayor of Bruges



**Mr. Victor
B. Medina**

Vice-President
Mayor of Cuzco



**Mr. Nakyoung
Joo**

Vice-President
Mayor of Gyeongju



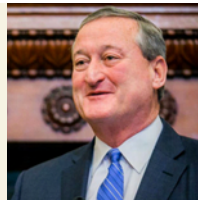
**Ms. Lydie
Polfer**

Vice-President
Mayor of
Luxembourg



**Mr. Jim
Kenney**

Vice-President
Mayor of Philadelphia



**Mr. Luis Alberto
Villarreal García**

Vice-President
Mayor of San
Miguel de Allende



**Dr. Huang
Yong**

Vice-President
Representative of the
City of Suzhou



Board of Directors 2017-2019

**Mr. Régis
Labeaume**

President
Mayor of Québec



**Mr. José Gabriel
do Álamo Meneses**

Vice-President
treasurer
Mayor of
Angra do Heroísmo



**Mr. Philippe
Close**

Vice-President
Mayor of Brussels



**Mr. Manuel
Monteiro de Pina**

Vice-President
Mayor of Cidade Velha



**Mr. Nakyoung
Joo**

Vice-President
Mayor of Gyeongju



**Mr. Mauricio
Rodas Espinel**

Vice-President
Mayor of Quito



**Mr. Luis Alberto
Villarreal García**

Vice-President
Mayor of San
Miguel de Allende



**Mr. Michael
Ludwig**

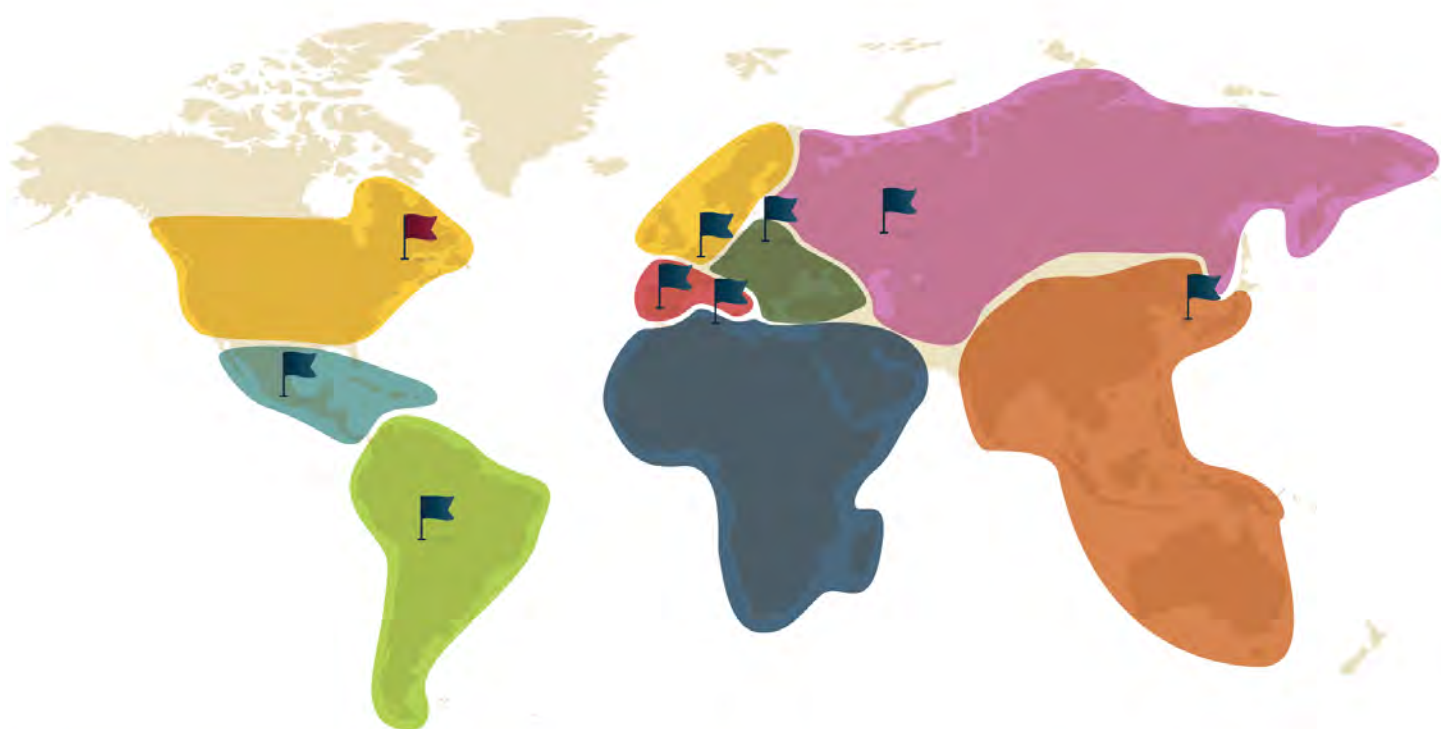
Vice-President
Mayor Vienna



Regional Secretariats

Objectives

A Regional Secretariat represents the link between member cities of a given region and the General Secretariat. Each of them organizes activities in its region to promote and share the values, goals, and objectives of the OWHC.



-  GENERAL SECRETARIAT
-  REGIONAL SECRETARIATS

-  Northwest Europe and North America
-  South America
-  Southern Europe and Mediterranean
-  Eastern and Central Europe
-  Central America, Caribbean and Mexico
-  Africa and Middle East
-  Asia-Pacific
-  Euro-Asia



“Just like heritage management takes its full force and efficiency at the city level, where local leaders have more knowledge about the problems and closer contact with citizens, the Regional Secretariats and their Regional Coordinators play a similar role and are essential for the organization. Indeed, we maintain direct and permanent contacts with the cities, their mayors, advisers and technicians through our regional conferences and the projects that we develop throughout the year.”

Rafael Pérez de la Concha Camacho, Regional Coordinator, Regional Secretariat for Southern Europe and the Mediterranean

Regional Secretariats

Africa and the Middle East Tunis (Tunisia)

The year 2019 marked the relaunching of the Regional Secretariat for Africa and the Middle East (AME). From its very inception, the Regional Secretariat had played a very active and unifying role in setting up a regional network to strengthen the bonds between the region's World Heritage Cities. However, in the wake of the Arab Spring, the situation became volatile and the cities faced more pressing priorities than the promotion of World Heritage. As a result, activities of the Regional Secretariat AME ground to a halt, given its inability to recruit new members and ensuing lack of funds.

The visit to Tunis by outgoing Secretary General Denis Ricard in March 2019 served to outline priorities for the Regional Secretariat AME and review the action plan for its recovery. It also provided the opportunity to organize a meeting with the Mayor of Tunis, Ms. Souad Ben Abderrahim, who expressed her full commitment to the OWHC and support for the pioneering role played by the Association de sauvegarde de la médina (ASM) de Tunis in the preservation of the region's architectural and historic heritage. She also confirmed the choice of Ms. Amel Meddeb, urban architect and General Director of the ASM, as the Regional Coordinator for the Regional Secretariat AME.

In November, the Arab Towns Organization (ATO) invited the Secretary General to attend a conference in Tunis entitled *Le rôle des villes intelligentes dans la préservation du patrimoine* (The

Role of Smart Cities in Heritage Conservation) organized jointly by the ATO and the *Forum des villes intelligentes* (Smart Cities Forum). During the event, the agreement between the two organizations signed in October 2003 was renewed, providing an opportunity to strengthen relationships between the different cities and organize worthwhile activities for their individual development and heritage preservation.

Moreover, to further cement the agreement and during the Regional Conference of the AME planned for December 2020, an international conference will be organized concurrently. The event will rally member cities from each organization and experts to discuss the sustainability and "inclusiveness" of historic cities.



Asia-Pacific (Gyeongju, Republic of Korea)

The Asia-Pacific region is experiencing rapid changes in economic development, population growth, urbanization, social transformation and technological development. The World Heritage Cities in the region face countless challenges. The Regional Secretariat for Asia-Pacific (OWHC-AP) attaches great importance to understanding the problems that its member cities face and tailoring activities to their specific needs.

Asia-Pacific is currently one of the regions of the OWHC with the highest increase in membership within the organization. In 2019, six of the nine new member cities were from the Asia-Pacific region in China, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea. This sustained growth is a testimony to the dynamism and efforts deployed by the Regional Secretariat since its foundation more than four years ago.

OWHC-AP offers a variety of programs to its members, including the Case Study Book, the Photo Contest and Photo Exhibition, the Pen Network & Photo Essay, the #HeCiTag Magazine, the Content Creators, the Hands-in-Hands Summer Camp and the World Heritage Cities Nomads. All the details are on the website of the Regional Secretariat: [HTTP://OWHC-AP.COM/ENG/](http://owhc-ap.com/eng/).

At the end of 2019 the Regional Coordinator, in office since the creation of the Regional Secretariat, left his position and a selection process was started in early 2020 to choose his replacement.



Regional Secretariats

Central and Eastern Europe (Budapest, Hungary / Warsaw, Poland*)

**At the end of 2019, there was a change in the position of Regional Coordinator. Members of the region decided to entrust Warsaw coordinate the Regional Secretariat for Central and Eastern Europe (CEER). The new Regional Coordinator will be Michał Krasucki, head of the heritage department of the City of Warsaw.*

Cities joined in the Regional Secretariat for Central and Eastern Europe (CEER) were very active in many fields. Some of these activities were projects started in the past, but some of them present new trends of the OWHC.

Education projects

- “Our Hiding Memories – My First Book on Cultural Heritage”
Created by Dr. Katalin Kiss, this workbook was published in March 2019. The program of the book is recommended for pupils attending the 3rd-4th years of elementary school. Our workshop aims to show the children how sensitive questions can arise concerning heritage, and we hope it will help them understand their responsibility when they grow up.
- Educational seminar “World Heritage Cities – Nice Places to Live and Visit”
The secondary school educational seminar was held in Banská Štiavnica with the participation of Banská Štiavnica, Budapest, Krakow, and Riga. Five pupils (up to 18 years old), one teacher, and one project coordinator participated from each city. The main goal of the program was to promote awareness among young people of the importance of preservation of architectural and cultural heritage through the UNESCO World Heritage Convention and the OWHC.
- International primary school program “World Heritage and Tradition”
The international primary school program was the continuation of the previous international cooperation among World Heritage Cities belonging to the CEER, namely Banská Štiavnica, Budapest, Krakow, and Kutná Hora. Four pupils (up to 12 years old), one teacher, and one project coordinator participated from each city in the seminar aiming to get to know one another’s tangible and intangible heritage.
- Drawing contest “World Heritage – A Youthful Vision 2019”
The ceremonial opening of the exhibition of the children’s drawing contest “World Heritage – A Youthful Vision 2019” was held in on 25 September in Banská Štiavnica. The ceremony was also honored by the presence of Ákos Capdebo executive Regional Coordinator and Dr. Katalin Kiss, former Regional Coordinator.



Interregional Meetings

- Vienna, Conference
More than 50 representatives of nearly 25 World Heritage Cities took part in a conference of the OWHC at Vienna City Hall. It was a forum for exchange and deliberation on the challenges facing dynamic cities between the development and preservation of their World Heritage Sites combined with a workshop for mayors of the cities. We closed it by signing the “Vienna Declaration on the Preservation, Development, and Management of World Heritage in Dynamic Cities”.
- Warsaw, Training course (2 days)
At the beginning of October in Warsaw met representatives of cities from both Regional Secretariats – CEER and Northwest Europe and North America. A two-day workshop helped us to share our experiences and perception of heritage.

Regional Secretariats

Euro-Asia (Kazan, Russian Federation)

One of the key events organized by the OWHC Regional Secretariat for Euro-Asia was its 9th Regional Conference. The conference took place from April 29 to May 2, 2019, in the city of Denpasar (Indonesia) at the kind invitation of Mayor Ida Bagus Rai Dharmawijaya Mantra on the theme “Resilient Heritage and Tourism”. The participants included representatives of Russia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, South Korea, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Canada, Ukraine, and China. The capital of Bali, Denpasar, has become an essential platform for the discussion of climate change affecting the state of ancient cultural and architectural monuments. An important step towards the development of heritage tourism through practical exchange and cooperation among member regions was the signing of the Denpasar Commitment. Among the main points of the Commitment are capacity building in heritage conservation and heritage tourism, involvement of tourism professionals and academia, and cooperation amongst member cities.



Within the frameworks of the conference, on April 29, the children’s drawings competition “Heritage Through Children’s Eyes” took place. It was held with the participation of more than 200 Denpasar schoolchildren.

Within the frameworks of the project “Heritage of Eurasia”, two World Heritage Cities Bolgar and Denpasar exchanged the images of their heritage as well as signed the Letter of Intention to build the twinning relations. The historical and architectural complex of the Kazan Kremlin and the Bulgarian historical and archaeological complex were painted in Denpasar. On May 1, 2019, the opening ceremony of the image was attended by the Secretary General of the OWHC. Later on that summer, the image of Denpasar’s heritage Catur Muka appeared in the city of Bolgar.

Southern Europe and the Mediterranean (Cordoba Spain)

The year 2019 was characterized by management complications that followed municipal elections held in Spain in May 2019. There were sweeping changes made to municipal governments, as well as to some technical teams. This resulted in delays in project administration and the processing of 2019 membership fees paid considerably later than usual. Despite this, the activity level of this Regional Secretariat was relatively satisfactory and is summarized below:

- Second Encounter of Young Ambassadors held in Ibiza from March 20 to 22;
- 19th Regional Conference of the Regional Secretariat attended by numerous representatives from member cities;
- 2019 Solidarity Day on September 8. The Regional Secretariat’s theme, Heritage and Tourism, served to showcase the many activities held in our cities;
- Project meeting held in Segovia, Spain, from October 16 to 19 during which participants worked on projects underway and proposed new programs for development in 2020;
- Second local crafts market and Second Meeting of the Craftsmen of World Heritage Cities on December 20, 21 and 22 in the city of Evora, Portugal;
- Completion of Project “Heritage and Mobility” coordinated by the city of Cordoba. In the wake of several years of analysis and research, the outcome of the project was a publication that highlights the most important measures – based on their unique or exemplary nature – taken in certain member cities of the Regional Secretariat.



Once again this year, the Regional Secretariat for Southern Europe and the Mediterranean is the region with the most member cities, with 32 cities in 13 different countries.

Regional Secretariats

Northwest Europe and North America (Regensburg Germany)



The first major project of the Regional Secretariat for Northwest Europe and North America in 2019 was the creation and publishing of a new Image Brochure for its 23 member cities. “World Heritage Recipes” was created as an attractive new format and first presented on the occasion of the 15th World Congress in Krakow in June. It offers a variety of specialty recipes from different member cities as well as a description with many photos of all their World Heritage Sites. The booklet is available online as PDF to be distributed actively by all members and can be printed locally on demand. It can be used for promotional purposes over a longer period and will be part of a social media campaign also in 2020.

Our “Young Travelling Scholarship” for people aged 18-28 was held for a second time: seven scholars/teams were selected out of a total of 77 international applications. Between August and October 2019, they traveled our World Heritage Cities with a granted travel budget of 1000 Euros each and reported their experiences and encounters on the Travel Blog WWW.OWHC-YOUNGTRAVELLING.COM as well as on all social media channels. Thanks to colleagues in member cities, personal encounters with the travelers were enabled and were a highlight of their travels. As output and wrap-up of the 2019 edition, the travelers created material for an exhibition in the Regensburg World Heritage Visitor Center, which was presented from March – April 2020.

In November 2019, our Regional Secretariat cooperated with the hosting City Warsaw to offer the second edition of our Training Courses. We also invited member cities of the Central and Eastern Europe region, and we were able to hold a highly informative workshop on the topic of “Heritage Interpretation” in the Museum of Warsaw and Heritage Interpretation Centre. 13 participants from 11 OWHC cities gave highly positive feedback for this cross-regional activity.

With our now 24 active member cities, our Regional Secretariat looks forward to continuing its dedicated work also in 2020.

Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico (Morelia, Mexico)

On November 11 and 12, 2019, the 2nd Regional Conference of the Regional Secretariat for Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico (ACCYM) took place. The event was organized jointly by the cities of Xochimilco and Mexico in cooperation with the National Association of Mexican World Heritage Cities (ANCMPPM).

On November 11, two international speakers were invited, Angelica Arias Benavides, former director of the *Instituto Metropolitano Patrimonio* (Metropolitan Institute of Heritage) in Quito, and Eulogio Tapia Deza, Regional Coordinator of the OWHC Regional Secretariat for South America. The conferences focused on quality of life and management plans in historic centers.

On November 12, the ACCYM Regional Conference took place in the morning and in the afternoon a panel of academics presented studies on the quality of life in Mexican cities.

South America (Cuzco, Peru)

In June 2019, during a strategic meeting of the cities of South America held within the framework of the OWHC World Congress, the city of Cuzco (Peru) was chosen to house the headquarters of the Regional Secretariat for South America. The Mayor of Cuzco, Victor B. Medina, present for the occasion, confirmed his desire to strengthen the presence of the OWHC in the region and contribute to the success of the organization’s activities in the coming years.

Deliberations have been initiated on the future activities of this Regional Secretariat under the leadership of Eulogio Tapia Deza, Director General of International Technical Cooperation in the Municipality of Cuzco, in partnership with South American cities.



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