



DECLARATION ON THE NEED TO PROTECT AND SAFEGUARD CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

The inaugural Inter-American and Caribbean Cultural Heritage Working Group Meeting was graciously hosted by the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP), in the Congregaç o Room of the Instituto de Filosofia e Ci ncias Humanas, on 11 and 12 August 2015 in Campinas, Brazil. The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen anthropological theory and practice in cultural heritage and to establish the Inter-American and Caribbean Cultural Heritage Forum. The initiative for the meeting rests with the Anthropology Department of UNICAMP, with the support of the Associa o Brasileira de Antropologia (ABA). Representatives of the American Anthropological Association (AAA), ABA, Asociaci n Latinoamericana de Antropologia (ALA), Canadian Anthropology Society/Associacion Canadi enne d'Anthropologie (CASCA), Col gio de Etn logos y Antrop logos Sociales de M xico (CEAS), Society for American Archaeology (SAA), Sociedade de Arqueologia Brasileira (SAB), UNICAMP Anthropology Department, and individual contributors met to discuss issues related to cultural heritage in the Americas and how we, as anthropologists, should engage with these issues to foster outcomes in the best interest of society.

The participants created and affirmed the following *Declaration on the Need to Protect and Safeguard Cultural Heritage in the Americas and the Caribbean* and encourage all those who are in sympathy with its goals and objectives to likewise affirm their acceptance.

1. WHEREAS, in the face of social, political, and economic change, past and present, decisions are made that affect civil society in ways that disrupt traditional cultural practices, changing societies in unanticipated and often unwelcome manners, and sometimes threatening their survival, and because heritage is integral to a group's identity, placing them in relation to others and shaping their aspirations for their future, protecting and safeguarding this heritage is critical not only to these groups but to society in general, and
2. WHEREAS, cultural heritage is an inalienable human right and results from complex negotiations in the public sphere between and among social agents, state institutions, private investors, and a wide range of mediators, including academic researchers, independent consultants, and professionals working for public and private institutions, and

3. WHEREAS, cultural heritage has been defined in many ways in international conventions and charters as well as explicitly in many national laws, all definitions share certain similarities that recognize the importance of tangible and intangible resources of value to people at local, national, and international scales, but differ in specifics that fit the particular community of interest. We do not find the need to endorse any particular definition of cultural heritage, as this declaration is applicable to all legal jurisdictions and communities of interest worldwide, and
4. WHEREAS, we recognize the economic, political, and legal differences among the various countries of the Americas and the Caribbean at the same time we acknowledge that cultural heritage, particularly that of indigenous peoples and traditional populations, is under threat from various forces throughout the region, we affirm that research on the cultural heritage of all segments of society is needed and such research should be conducted collaboratively with communities as equal partners, whereby the community is incorporated into all stages of research from planning to research and finally to documenting results and forwarding recommendations, and
5. WHEREAS, cultural heritage research needs to be encouraged throughout the Americas, we need to strengthen both the methods and theories used to study cultural heritage, and
6. WHEREAS, we recognize the responsibility of consultants as well as the agents of private and public institutions, all cultural heritage research should be conducted according to the ethical codes of each participating society, and all research products, including collections (i.e., artifacts and records), should be curated appropriately, and
7. WHEREAS, the state is a key stakeholder in the safeguarding of heritage, we must work to strengthen laws and regulations protecting cultural heritage and insist that state's agents enforce their legal mandates through a transparent process for safeguarding heritage in the public interest, and
8. WHEREAS, civil society organizations and the affected populations¹ that act as social agents should be empowered in their negotiations with public or private agencies directly or indirectly responsible for the implementation of heritage policies or projects,

NOW, THEREFORE, the professional societies and academic institutions signing this declaration will endeavor to carry out to the best of their abilities, recognizing that the declaration is signed solely on a voluntary basis with no obligations, the following:

¹ The term "affected population" is used here in the broadest sense possible to include social groups that use heritage as a means of self-identification. The term includes, but is not limited to, what others have variously termed indigenous, local, descendant, migrant, traditional, and ethnic social groups.

1. Through the Inter-American and Caribbean Cultural Heritage Forum, coordinate efforts to identify and to establish a network of partners in our efforts and encourage collaboration among heritage researchers representing all of the subfields of anthropology.
2. Establish working procedures for the forum by common agreement at the group's next meeting.
3. Promote symposia, workshops, or other activities as a way of contributing to the exchange of experiences and to improving our knowledge about heritage, particularly on the following themes, among others:
 - a. Relations between tangible and intangible heritage;
 - b. Relations between heritage, land rights, and customary representations of territoriality;
 - c. Relations between heritage and economic development;
 - d. The role of heritage, including traditional knowledge, in sustainable development;
 - e. Intellectual rights related to cultural expressions and traditional knowledge;
 - f. Effects of heritage policies on the lives affected by such policies, either as holders or practitioners of intangible cultural heritage, or as landowners or inhabitants of protected sites, conservation units, or historic city centers;
 - g. Threats of economic, political, moral, military, ecological, demographic, or other nature to the continuity of cultural heritage.
4. Stimulate and encourage the publication and dissemination of works on cultural heritage, both printed and electronic.
5. Support the creation of independent, fair, and open-minded bodies to monitor the effects of cultural heritage policies and to promote the establishment of safeguards and policies for cultural heritage when they are lacking.
6. Stimulate capacity building among groups affected by heritage projects or policies as well as among professionals working in public or private institutions.
7. Stimulate the inclusion of themes related to cultural heritage in formal and informal education, and promote capacity building among educators.
8. Incorporate other professional societies and academic institutions into the forum as partners at the discretion of the founding members, per the working procedures to be established at the group's next meeting.

FOUNDING SIGNATORIES

Jeffrey Altschul (Past President, Society for American Archaeology)
Antonio Augusto Arantes Neto (Professor, Anthropology Department, UNICAMP)
Michel Bouchard (President, Canadian Anthropology Society/Société Canadienne d'Anthropologie)
Flávio Rizzi Calippo (Vice President, Sociedade de Arqueologia Brasileira)
Artionka Capiberibe (Assistant Professor, Anthropology Department, UNICAMP)
Teresita Majewski (Co-chair, Cultural Heritage Task Force, American Anthropological Association)
Cristina Oehmichen (President, Asociación Latinoamericana de Antropología and Colégio de Etnólogos y Antropólogos Sociales, México)
Silvana Rubino (Assistant Professor, History Department, UNICAMP)
Renata Sá Gonçalves (Co-chair, Heritage and Museums Committee, Associação Brasileira de Antropologia)
Antonio Carlos de Souza Lima (President, Associação Brasileira de Antropologia)
Izabela Tamazo (Chair, Heritage and Museums Committee, Associação Brasileira de Antropologia)

CONVENING SIGNATORIES²

American Anthropological Association (AAA)
Asociación Latinoamericana de Antropología (ALA)
Associação Brasileira de Antropologia (ABA)
Canadian Anthropology Society/Société Canadienne d'Anthropologie (CASCA)
Colégio de Etnólogos y Antropólogos Sociales, México (CEAS)
Departamento de Antropologia, Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP)
Sociedade de Arqueologia Brasileira (SAB)
Society for American Archaeology (SAA)

² “Convening signatories” refers to the institutions represented by the drafting group participants. As of 21 September 2015, ABA, ALA, CEAS, and SAB have agreed to be convening signatories, and their logos are included at the beginning of the declaration. The declaration, originally prepared in English, will be translated into French, Portuguese, and Spanish and will be presented to the governing boards of the remaining convening signatories. Upon ratification, their logo will be added to the declaration. Future members of the forum will be invited to become “concurring parties” to the declaration.