

## MINUTES OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> OWHC REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTHERN EUROPE AND MEDITERRANEAN

In the city of Córdoba (Spain) from November 19 to 21, 2018, the following people meet in the Orive Room of the City Council of Córdoba, representing the World Heritage Cities of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean. integrated in the OWHC:

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Isabel Ambrosio Palos, Mayor. Córdoba (Spain)
- Pedro García Jiménez, Deputy Mayor. Córdoba (Spain)
- Emilio Aumente Rodríguez, Deputy Mayor. Córdoba (Spain)
- Claudia De Santos Borreguero, Councillor. Segovia (Spain)
- João Eduardo Pessôa Lopes De Lacerda Tavares, Councillor. Sintra (Portugal)
- . Silvano Augusto Da Graca Barbosa Barros, Councillor. Cidade Velha (Rep. Cape Vert)
- . Eduardo Jorge Pratas Fernandes Luciano, Councillor. Évora (Portugal)
- . Vitória Júlia Damião Rita Branco, Councillor. Elvas (Portugal)
- Rosa Lara Ruiz, Technician. Córdoba (Spain)
- Antonio Valdenebro, Technician. Córdoba (Spain)
- Paula Cristina Flora Cordeiro, Technician. **Bruxelles** (Belgium)
- Regina Wiala Zimm. Technician. Viena (Austria)
- Eugenio Corpas Olmos, Technician, **Oviedo** (Spain)
- Pedro López López, Technician. **Granada** (Spain)
- Ferdaouss Boughlala El Majdoub, Technician. Granada (Spain)
- Gracia Peregrín, Technician. Granada (Spain)
- Maria Carmen Del Pozo Lopez, Technician. Aranjuez (Spain)
- Maria Del Pilar Bravo Povez, Technician. **Tarragona** (Spain)
- Isabel Da Conceição De Almeida Pinto, Technician. Elvas (Portugal)
- Maria Belen Peña Gonzalez, Technician. Segovia (Spain)
- Patricia Otones, Technician. Segovia (Spain)
- Juan José Arteaga, Technician. Cuenca (Spain)
- Ana Chacón García, Technician. Cuenca (España)
- Maria Del Carmen Azabal Page, Technician. Cuenca (Spain)
- Alda Mónica Coelho Bessa, Technician. Porto (Portugal)
- Denis Ricard, General Secretary of the **OWHC** (Canada)
- Mª Carmen Fernández Cañero, External Assistant of Regional Secretariat OWHC.
- Rafael Pérez de la Concha Camacho, Coordinator **Regional** of Secretariat of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean. OWHC

With this regional conference we fulfilled our commitment under the OWHC regulations requiring regional secretariats to arrange periodic encounters for all the cities in the region.

Isabel Ambrosio, the mayor of Córdoba, which is the city that hosts the regional secretariat, and the Secretary General of the OWHC, Denis Ricard, inaugurated the meeting on 19 November in Córdoba; the conference took place over two days in the beautiful heritage setting of Sala Orive.

The Secretary General highlighted the commitment and energy exhibited by this regional secretariat, which has been coordinated by Córdoba since 2001: out of all the OWHC's regional secretariats it is the one that accounts for the greatest number of World Heritage Cities, and half

of the OWHC's Board of Directors, four out of eight members, are drawn from this regional secretariat, something that underscores the important role played by the regional secretariat in the organization.

For her part the mayor declared that "heritage should cease to be a passive subject" as the recipient of subsidies, in order to position itself "in that area of opportunities where, with a much more proactive attitude, prosperity, employment and economic activity may be generated".

The meeting was resumed on Tuesday the 20th at 10 am, with the welcoming of the cities of Split (Croatia) and Portugalete (Biscay, Spain). The latter joins the OWHC and our regional secretariat after the reform of the OWHC's statutes in 2015, as a consequence of which not only cities whose historic or old towns were included on the UNESCO World Heritage List were eligible to join but also those cities that had a monument or UNESCO site as part of their urban fabric, a development that opened the door to numerous cities that had hitherto been unable to join the organization. With these two new additions the regional secretariat now has 31 member cities, plus the Vatican as an observer, making it the largest of the eight regional secretariats that make up the OWHC.

Categorized by country the 31 cities are: Armenia (Ejmiatsin), Austria (Vienna), Belgium (Brussels), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Mostar), Cape Verde (Cidade Velha), Croatia (Dubrovnik, Split), France (Bordeaux, Lyon, Provins, Strasbourg), Greece (Rhodes), Montenegro (Kotor), Portugal (Angra do Heroísmo, Elvas, Évora, Guimarâes, Oporto, Sintra) and Spain (Aranjuez, Baeza, Córdoba, Cuenca, Granada, Ibiza, Oviedo, Portugalete, Santiago de Compostela, Segovia, Tarragona, Úbeda).

Over the course of the conference the Regional Coordinator, Rafael Pérez de la Concha Camacho, presented his management report for the last two years as well as an action plan to be implemented in 2019 and its corresponding budget, totalling €57.603.89. For his part the OWHC Secretary General set out the Organization's activities and projects as well as the 15<sup>th</sup> OWHC World Congress, to be held in Krakow (Poland) from 2-5 June 2019 with the theme of "Heritage and Tourism: Local communities and visitors – sharing responsibilities", where the General Assembly is due to renew the OWHC Board of Directors and elect the host city of the next World Congress, scheduled for 2021.

He also explained that the Regional Secretariat for Africa and the Middle East has not finished getting underway and suggested the possibility that since our Regional Secretariat also covers the Mediterranean and already has an African city such as Cidade Velha of Cape Vert, it could produce an approach between both Secretariats. The Regional Coordinator recalled that this approach and mutual collaboration had already been agreed at the Regional Conference in 2006 and this provision was still in force. He suggested that the Secretary General offer the World Heritage Cities in that area that they wish to adhere to our Regional Secretariat while the Regional Secretariat for Africa and the Middle East finishes organizing and functioning properly.

The coordinators of the Regional Secretariat's various projects presented the forthcoming initiatives to be undertaken.

On behalf of the city of Granada, the coordinator of the "Local Craftsmanship and Visual Contamination" project, Pedro López López, heritage official at the Agencia Albaicín, presented the new website on craftsmanship (www.ciudadespatrimonio.eu). The Director of Tourism at Granada Town Hall, Gracia Peregrín, introduced the 1<sup>st</sup> Craft Market and 1<sup>st</sup> World Heritage Cities Artisans' Encounter, which will take place in Granada on 21, 22 and 23 December 2018, a market and encounter that will be repeated on an annual basis, hosted by different member cities of this regional secretariat.

Aranjuez coordinates the Youth and Heritage Project and the director of the Aranjuez Paisaje Cultural Foundation, María del Pozo, introduced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Young Ambassadors' Encounter, which will be held in Ibiza in March 2019 with the theme of Heritage and Tourism, as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Artistic Expression Competition, the winning entry from which will be used for the official OWHC Day of Solidarity poster in our Regional Secretariat's cities; this will be celebrated, as every year, on 8 September 2019 with the same theme as the World Congress: Heritage and Tourism.

Lastly on behalf of Córdoba, as the city that coordinates the Mobility and Heritage Project, Antonio Valdenebro and Rosa Lara, officers at Córdoba Town Hall's town planning department, introduced their proposal to publish, after numerous years of analysis and research, a document that compiles a series of campaigns, policies and instances of best practice in the area of mobility in the various cities.

Over the course of the afternoon the representatives of the cities in attendance set out the heritage management work, experiences and cases of best practice in their respective cities.

## The following **AGREEMENTS**: were adopted

- 1. Extending a welcome to Split (Croatia) and Portugalete (Biscay, Spain).
- 2. To offer the collaboration of this Regional Secretariat to work jointly with the Regional Secretariat of Africa and the Middle East and invite the cities that wish it to join our Regional Secretariat while that Regional Secretariat finishes organizing and functioning correctly.
- 3. Approval for the 2018 management and economic report submitted by the Regional Coordinator for the sum of  $\epsilon$ 46,529.30 (pending payment of the expenses of the 18<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference and Workshop as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> Craft Market and Encounter).
- 4. Approval for the 2019 budget for the sum of  $\epsilon$ 57.603.89, pending the income finally received from the General Secretariat.
- 5. Approval for the holding of the 2019 Day of Solidarity, with the theme of HERITAGE AND TOURISM.
- 6. Approval for the publication of the Regional Secretariat's introductory leaflet for 2019, in accordance with the outline presented. ( $\epsilon$ 800)
- 7. Approval for the extension of the Youth and Heritage Project, coordinated by Aranjuez. (€11,750.00)
- 8. Approval for the holding of the  $2^{nd}$  Young Ambassadors' Encounter in 2019 in the Ibiza in March 2019.  $(\in 10,750.00)$
- 9. Approval for the running of the  $2^{nd}$  Young People's Artistic Expression Competition for 2019, with the prize for the winning work being its use for the official poster of the 2019 Day of Solidarity for our Regional Secretariat's member cities. ( $\epsilon$ 500)
- 10. Approval for the extension of the Craftsmanship and Visual Contamination Project to 2019. (€9,900)
- 11. Approval for the holding of the  $2^{nd}$  Craft Market and Encounter in World Heritage Cities towards the end of 2019 in a city to be confirmed. ( $\epsilon$ 8,000)
- 12. Approval for the extension of the Mobility and Heritage Project, publishing a leaflet compiling examples of best practice ( $\epsilon$ 3,703.89)

- 13. Approval for the cancellation of the Tourism and Heritage Project, given that this subject will be fully addressed at the OWHC's 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress.
- 14. Approval for the holding of the 2019 Technical Meeting in the city of Segovia (Spain) in the second half of 2019 ( $\epsilon$ 14,400.00)
- 15. Holding the 20th Regional Conference in the city of Elvas (Portugal) in 2020.
- 16. Approval for the 2019 budget for the sum of  $\in$ 57.603.89, subject to the sum received from the General Secretariat in repayment of 12% of the fees paid in 2018 as well as an extraordinary 11% credit requested for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Young Ambassadors' Encounter and the Visual Decontamination in Historic Centres project.
- 17. Renewal of the vote of confidence in Córdoba to continue with the OWHC's Southern Europe and Mediterranean Regional Secretariat.

The meeting ends at 19:30 hours on 20th November 2018, at which point the 18th Southern Europe and Mediterranean Regional Conference is hereby closed.

Rafael Pérez de la Concha Camacho REGIONAL COORDINATOR

SOUTHERN EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN. OWHC