



SITE HISTORIQUE DE LYON
15 ANS D'INSCRIPTION AU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL



ORGANISATION DES VILLES DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL
ORGANIZATION OF WORLD HERITAGE CITIES
ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS CIUDADES DEL PATRIMONIO MUNDIAL
منظمة مدن التراث العالمي
ORGANIZAÇÃO DAS CIDADES DO PATRIMÓNIO MUNDIAL

CITIES AND HERITAGE MEETING
LYON (FRANCE) MAY 22, 23 AND 24, 2013

**“Changing Cities and Heritage Management:
New Players? New Practices?”**

In collaboration with their partners, the City of Lyon (France) and the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) are planning a World Heritage cities and historical cities meeting on May 22, 23 and 24, 2013, to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the inscription of the «Historic site of Lyon» on the World Heritage List and the development of a management plan for this site.

This meeting builds on the project entitled: “Historical Cities in Development: Keys for Understanding and Acting” (a compilation of case studies on the conservation and management of historical cities). This project aimed at documenting the cities expertise in urban development by highlighting urban projects focusing on cultural heritage (see the final report at: www.ovpm.org).

The world changes and cities change along with it... What is the role of heritage as a lever of development in urban strategies? What can be learned from the practices of cities which place human values at the centre of urban development? Which type of on-going approach to exchange, capitalization and cooperation should be initiated?

Why do we need to discuss this topic now?

At the start of the second decade of the 21st century, the issue of urban heritage is confronted with decisive changes.

The heritage of our cities has been strengthened by a half-century of local, national and international recognition, by legal protection and by intensive action on restoration, revitalization and social appropriation. At the same time, globalised exchange, the urbanization of the planet and the changes in the centers of gravity linked with the growth of cities, the constraints on mobility, the social and economic balances, the demands of tourism and the environmental priorities strongly increase the pressure on urban heritage. The development of emerging countries and the European crisis amplify this pressure even more.

The evolution and sharing of responsibilities between national institutions and local authorities, in addition to the growing desire of residents to have an influence on their environment and their future, are advantages which allow to take a new look at the cultural, social and symbolic values of heritage and to develop new ways to provide solutions.

A shared initiative

The City of Lyon aims to be a dynamic OWHC member. The organization’s mission – on an international level with the Secretariat-General and on a regional level with the regional secretariats – is to support the commitment of cities, to promote and share their practices and to stimulate cooperation between mayors, administrators and residents.

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre encourages and supports the initiatives of its Member States that have ratified the World Heritage Convention, which enables spreading and sharing good practices in the conservation, management and development of heritage assets. One of this tools is The Recommendation on the Historical Urban Landscape, which promotes an approach that takes culture into account in development strategies.

The Council of Europe, the Directorate of Democratic Governance, Culture and Diversity, and the French Ministry of Culture and Communication recognize the economic and social dimensions of the rehabilitation process in old districts which require new practices respecting the shared values and ethical principles which they aim to promote. Within the framework of the France-UNESCO Convention, France mobilizes its expertise on urban conservation issues.

ICOMOS, the ICOMOS French Committee and the International Committee on Historical Towns and villages (CIWHI), the Association of French world heritage assets, the French national association of towns and regions of art and history and towns with protected areas – which are made up of networks of experts and cities, sites on the World Heritage List or historic districts – contribute to a better understanding of local experiences and participate in renewing practices.

Who is the Lyon Meeting for?

The meeting is primarily addressed to mayors and elected officials, as well as practitioners and players in World Heritage cities, especially historic cities, and aims to include an European regional focus.

The experience and expertise of cities, as well as their questions, will be highlighted as a series of concrete practices designed to meet national or international strategies and the opinions of experts in the fields of culture, heritage and urban planning.

Proposed format

To continue the dynamics, methodology and analyses implemented through the compilation of case studies, we have decided to keep the same three entry points :

- The preservation and enhancement of heritage through case studies dealing with the reconversion of monuments or sites involving new uses;
- The role of local inhabitants through case studies on the sharing of heritage values, social appropriation or governance, which address issues of good citizenship;
- The strategy of local authorities through case studies dealing with urban projects for which the question is: how to implement a global development scheme?

The case of Lyon, which will present the city's history, settings and urban project on the regional scale, will illustrate these three themes with the reconversion of the Hôtel Dieu, a former hospital located at the heart of the historical site; the shared coordination of the European Heritage Days to tell the story of the urban territory; and the project for the urban development of the Saône riverbanks, a major public space to be redeveloped as a part of the historical site and of the city of the 21st century.

As the starting point for discussions, the Lyon practices will be compared to those of other French and European cities from in the fields of methods of implementation within the regulations, economic mechanisms, citizen participation and technical and political management.

The Cities and Heritage Meeting aims to contribute to the debate on operating methods which promote an interaction between values and heritage, urban projects and the expectations of local residents. The goal is to identify concrete initiatives, such as an exchange and cooperation program about new players and new practices.

www.rencontrevillesetpatrimoine.lyon.fr

