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Current Practices and Challenges in Built Heritage Conservation

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November 2, 2020 marked the opening of the online International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Work (IIC) Edinburgh 2020 Congress under the theme *Current Practices and Challenges in Built Heritage Conservation*.

Mr. Julian Bickersteth Fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts (FRSA) and President of the IIC gave a very warm welcome to participants and put the congress into the context of the current times: that the culture and heritage sectors have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and many organizations are closed or operating at lower levels of performance. He highlighted the fact that this was IIC's first fully online Congress and was very enthusiastic about addressing a global audience.

The Getty Foundation awarded scholarships to professionals from Latin America and the Caribbean to attend the IIC Edinburgh 2020 Conference. Participants embarked on a full programme of virtual events. Ms. Ana Starkey Collections Care Manager at the National Museums Scotland presented on "Twenty Years of the Museum of Scotland and Looking Forward to the Future", noting that the preventive conservation team had a clear intention to use supporting data to refurbish and replace the displays at the Museum of Scotland. A tour of Hill House, built by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, gave an overview of the leading technology which created 3D documentation to better understand the house's structure and preservation needs. This gave great insight into scientific approaches behind conservation efforts in Scotland to deal with climate change and set the pace for the future preservation strategies.

In the following days there were various sessions and poster presentations, virtual tours and talks, all with question and answer segments. The programming showcased the incredible work that conservationists are undertaking in the field. One session on Sustainability/Climate Change spoke to climate control in Historic Museums, and practices to be taken into consideration for housing collections.

On the final day of the conference, the Getty Grant Awardees attended the IIC Congress 2020's - Getty "Leadership and Advocacy Workshop". The workshop provided an invaluable tool called "servant leadership" to help navigate the conservation profession.

The workshop was personalized by placing participants into small break out groups and this allowed everyone to speak to their work and the challenges experienced in their various parts of the world. Conservationist Sarah Staniforth, Beatrix Haspo, IIC Fellow Beatrix Haspo from APOYOnline, Debbie Hess Norris Chair of the Art Conservation Department at the University of Delaware, and Professor of Photograph Conservation and Bob Norris consultant in Business Transformation & Leadership Agility did a great job engaging participants.

Questions were posed in real time and concepts were clarified by practicing conservators. Furthermore, it was empowering to hear experienced organizations with similar challenges and a shared passion for their disciplines. The Saint Lucia National Trust is grateful to the Getty Foundation for giving Ms. Germaine Joseph a front row seat inside of Museums, Historic Buildings and scientific research showcased during the IIC 28th Biennial Congress in Edinburgh.

