The Best in Heritage 2014, 25 - 28 September, Dubrovnik

The Useful Heritage
Efficiency and excellence in the public memory sector

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Best in Heritage is a two-day conference about professional excellence in public performances of heritage institutions demonstrated by the 24 presentations of awarded museum, heritage and conservation projects from all over the world.

It is preceded by a fascinating eCultValue Dialogue Day on the use of ICT as a cohesion factor for the entire public memory sector. This year, we add to this conference of excellence a one day symposium to be held on **Sunday, September 28th** on the theme of **"Efficiency and excellence in the public memory sector"**. We are looking for about 20 scientific quality papers to be presented. The book volume of presented contributions will be pre-published for the conference, distributed to the participants and made available on-line.

Contributions should come from all the institutional facets of heritage: we all have our notion of what should be praised as excellence and how to achieve it, - for the noble and practical reasons, - in a world that offers but more and more challenges to this ambition. This may seem too wide an approach, but from the point of our users we are parts of the public service using collective and social memory for the quality of living. Our excellence in public memory cannot exist without being well selected, researched, conserved, cared for and responsibly and beautifully communicated. We prepare our *theatre* behind the scenes but our users are generally interested in the end effect.

Our claim is that all heritage organisations and institutions (museums, conservation, libraries, archives, hybrid and cyber institutions, heritage actions and networks, living heritage etc.) continue to demonstrate a constant convergence of their practices. Their theories converge to imply the need for a common science, - a higher conceptual level. This emerging science (Heritology? Mnemosophy, Cultural Heritage Science?) is another cohesion factor for the many diverse heritage occupations which each have their own theories (e.g. Museology, Archivistics, Librarianship, Computer science etc.).

Besides sharing ICT and theory, the heritage sector also shares a focus on visitors and users and the same mission in society: we all want to turn the heritage from the past into a noble and scientifically based wisdom that can then be used for the harmonious development of our society. Those shared values, together with the analysis of good daily practice, from eco-museums to citizen heritage action, should be the *leitmotiv* of the papers and presentations we expect to receive.

This call for papers is in fact a plea for like-minded sympathizers and allies to join us in the project of a future grand profession, uniting all our heritage occupations in a concerted effort to turn our collective public memories into a Useful Heritage.

Authors are expected to present their contribution in person, in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, preferably not reading; each presentation should not exceed 15 minutes.

The symposium will begin with a brief introductory lecture and end with a discussion session. The choice of best presentations will be filmed and posted on the web.

Contributors are expected to pay full registration fee for the conference by May 20th. The organiser does not cover travel, accommodation or any expenses (except those covered by the registration fee) related to the stay in Dubrovnik.

The submitted contributions will be peer reviewed. The Advisory Board of the Best in Heritage conference will assume the role of Editorial, Scientific Board to assure the scientific quality of symposium and the publication.

Professor Tomislav Šola
Director, European Heritage Association
Zagreb, February 3rd 2014

Contributions should be sent to <u>org.secretary@thebestinheritage.com</u> no later than April 15th 2014

The authors will be notified of the editorial decision directly via e-mail by May 10th 2014!

When sending your contribution, be sure to include all of the following:

1. Full name and Title
2. Name of organisation/institution you work for (or are associated with)
3. Academic or professional status (PhD student, professor, researcher, curator, librarian, conservator...)
4. Short (100 – 200 words) summary of the proposed paper
5. The original, unpublished paper sent as separate document
6. Brief biography, 90 words max (optional links to all online content)
7. Contact information: e-mail and telephone

Specifications for the paper:

- The length should be 2.300 to 2.500 words (counting title, subtitle(s) and footnotes)
- File in MS Word format (.doc, .docx)
- Only edited and proofread papers in English will be considered
- No graphic or visual content is to be used in the paper