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ICH NGO Forum
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INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
The Role of Local Communities in Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage
within Heritage Ensembles and Monuments

Villa Rufolo, Ravello, Salerno, Italy
November 9 – 11 2026



The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), UNESCO's advisory body for the World Heritage Convention, brings together national and scientific committees dedicated to safeguarding cultural heritage for the benefit of humanity's history, identity, and sustainable development.

Within this framework, the International Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICICH) was established to highlight the vital role of intangible heritage as a living force that sustains the meaning, vitality, and continuity of tangible heritage ensembles and monuments. Intangible heritage and cultural diversity are inherent, inseparable and an essential part of the cultural, social, and economic dimensions of communities, and its safeguarding is central to resilience, identity, and sustainability across generations.

The **ICOMOS Charter on Intangible Cultural Heritage of Monuments (2024)** provides a global reference point for integrating intangible heritage into heritage management. It underscores the importance of local communities as custodians of traditional knowledge, practices, and values that give life to monuments and heritage ensembles. In the face of climate change, migration, and global conflicts, these communities are indispensable for linking tangible and intangible heritage and for developing adaptive strategies rooted in lived experience.

The **International Symposium: The Role of Local Communities in Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage within Heritage Ensembles and Monuments**, reflects ICICH's dual commitment: strengthening its organisational governance while advancing scientific dialogue on the pressing challenges facing intangible heritage today.

The symposium will begin by situating intangible heritage within the global framework of ICOMOS and ICICH, then explore regional perspectives from around the world, and finally turn to Italy as the host country. Italy's millennial heritage and long-standing expertise in integrating conservation with development provide a meaningful setting for this dialogue. By linking global challenges to local realities, the event will highlight how communities safeguard and revitalise intangible cultural heritage associated with monuments and ensembles, ensuring resilience and sustainable futures.

This scientific symposium aims to raise awareness, share knowledge, and suggest practical strategies adaptable to various settings. Together, they will contribute to ICOMOS's wider mission of protecting heritage as a foundation for identity, community well-being, and sustainability.

This symposium seeks to foster collaboration between international professionals, local communities, and institutions, ensuring that cultural and natural heritage are preserved, celebrated and transmitted to future generations.

All communications must be directed to:

icichagmitaly.2026@gmail.com

ICICH / ICOMOS Bureau 2026

President, Ángel Cabeza Monteiro (Chile)

Vice President, Ana Lucía González Ibáñez (México)

Vice President, Oluwatoyin Z. Sogbesan (Nigeria)

Secretary General, Mrinalini Atrey (India)

Treasurer, Anna Yau (China)

Coordinator ICICH / ICOMOS Symposium in Italy: Carla Maurano

<https://icich.icomos.org/>



Monday November 9th, 2026

Programme

9.00 – 10.00

Registration of participants in Villa Rufolo

10.00 – 11.00

Opening Ceremony

Paolo Vuilleumier, Mayor of the Municipality of Ravello

Alfonso Andria, President Centro Universitario Europeo per i Beni Culturali

Maurizio Di Stefano, President ICOMOS Italy

Angel Cabeza, President ICICH ICOMOS

Carla Maurano, ICICH ICOMOS Italy

Valentina Parisi, Senior Advisor - Italian Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security

Paola Salciarini, Councillor for Culture of the Municipality of Gubbio

Leandro Ventura, Director of the Central Institute for Intangible Heritage; Italian Ministry of Culture

11.00 – 12.00

Performances by Pagani's Paranze

Introduced by Anna Onesti, Soprintendente Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio di Salerno ed Avellino



The Pagani *tammurriata* can be traced back to the *genus* of the Agro Nocerino-Sarnese *tammurriata*, albeit with specific musical and choreutic peculiarities.

It is typically performed by groups known as *paranze*, featuring a *fronna* vocal invocations that precede the songs. These are punctuated by frame drums and accompanied by traditional instruments—such as *castagnette*, *putipù*, *scetavajasse*, and *triccheballacche*—as well as the accordion and/or *organetto*. The singing is paired with a traditional dance performed in couples, which follows the rhythm dictated by the singers and the drum through specific figures and movements.

As early as the beginning of the 1950s, documentation of the “*pizzica-tarantella di campagna*” was recorded by ethnomusicologist Alan Lomax, and subsequently studied by Roberto De Simone in the 1970s. (photo by Serena Pepe)

12.00 – 14.00

Lunch/Bufferet



Monday November 9th, 2026

Programme

Afternoon session

14.00-18.00

ITALIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL DEBATE

Chair: Maurizio Di Stefano (10 minutes each speaker, 15 minutes for questions and comments)



14.00 - 15.10

1. Patrizia Miggiano - *Il Placetelling come pratica generativa di territorializzazione: il ruolo delle comunità locali nella produzione del patrimonio culturale immateriale*
2. Simonetta Baroni & Federica Bertini - *Street art in Provincia: documentare, catalogare e risignificare il patrimonio materiale e immateriale nei contesti locali*
3. Francesca Brancaccio - *The Arab Phoenix Reborn: Community Resilience, Urban Redesign, and the Restoration of Ardea Purpurea in Beirut*
4. Gionata De Vico et al. - *Living Heritage, Living Health: The Role of Universities in Mediating Traditional Medical Knowledge within the One Health Framework*



15.10-16.20

5. Riccardo Liberotti - *Relational Heritage Protection”: Bridging Material and Intangible Values in Modern and Contemporary Architecture Conservation*
6. Maurizio Lazzari et al. - *Radici in dialogo: reti di custodi e comunità per un patrimonio vivo e resiliente. Casi di studio nel Salento (Puglia), Basilicata e Sabina (Lazio)*
7. Anna Onesti and Fusco Girard - *Istituzioni e comunità per la salvaguardia del patrimonio culturale immateriale. L’approccio ibrido della SABAP di Salerno e Avellino*
8. Francesca Merz - *Quando il patrimonio nasce dalla comunità: ricostruzione della memoria urbana e pratiche di co-progettazione culturale tra Firenze e Arezzo*

16.20- 17.40

9. Ornella Ricchiuto – *“Liquilab e la Scuola di Storia delle Tradizioni Popolari: un modello di mediazione tra comunità locali, ricerca scientifica e reti internazionali per la salvaguardia del patrimonio culturale immateriale”*
10. Caterina Sanasi – *Paesaggi relazionali in Campania. Arte pubblica e legami di comunità*
11. Nicola Urbino and Stefania Del Re – *Narrazioni territoriali e salvaguardia partecipata. Il modello BORGHI tra patrimonio immateriale e comunità locali*
12. Marco Marchetti – *Festa dei Ceri di Gubbio. Il rito di una comunità, l’identità di una città*



Tuesday November 10th, 2026

Programme

Morning session

9.00 – 13.00

Theme 1: THE ICOMOS CHARTER AND ICH

Chair: Fabio Pollice (15 minutes each speaker, 15 minutes for questions and comments)

9.00 - 9.55

1. Andrew Hall (South Africa / Saudi Arabia) - History, development and scope of the ICH Charter
2. Karin Berkemann (Germany) - *Has the ICOMOS Charter Forgotten Religion?*

10.00 – 10.55

3. Ebtisam AlWehaibi (Saudi Arabia) - *Translating the Global into the National*
4. Vaggelis Gettos, Christina Charalambidou and Marina Katsari (Cyprus) - *Activating Medieval Monuments through Participatory Storytelling: Intangible Heritage, Children's Engagement and AI-Mediated Conflict Resolution in Lusignan Castles of Cyprus*

11.00 – 11.55

5. Giuseppina Padeletti (Italy) - *ICH and Climate Change implications: Actions "on field" for its safeguard and valorisation*
6. Carole Idczak (Cambodia) - *Performing ICH at Angkor*

12.00 – 12.55

7. Ahmad Baik (Saudi Arabia) - From Digital Documentation to Living Heritage: A Community-Centred Framework for Integrating Tangible and Intangible Heritage
8. Wang Lan (China) - *Community Custodianship in Maçao*

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch/Bufferet



Tuesday November 10th, 2026

Programme



Afternoon session
14.00 – 18.00

Theme 2: IDENTITY, CREATIVITY, RESILIENCE

Chair: Andrew Hall (15 minutes each speaker, 15 minutes for questions and comments)

14.00 – 14.55

1. Ruo Yang Zhang (Canada/Hong Kong, China) - *Memories of Kowloon*
2. Zuzanna Augustyniak and Kamil O. Kuraszkiewicz (Poland) - *Living Heritage Between Rescue and Recognition: Community Partnership and Interdisciplinary Research at the Old Mosque of Negash (Tigray, Ethiopia)*

15.00 – 15.55

3. Abigail Buchanan (USA) - *Corporeal Chronologies*
4. Dilip Changkakoty (India) - *Kamrupi Sacred Soundscapes*

16.00 – 16.55

5. Mihaela Grigorean (Romania) - *Traditional Architecture in Oaş*
6. Violeta Đerković (Serbia) - *Heritage Communities in Almaški Kraj*

17.00 – 17.55

7. Damla Yeşilbağ (Turkey) - *Sustaining Rural ICH under Pressure*
8. Patrizia Biscarini (Italy) - *From Gubbio to the United States. The Festa dei Ceri di Gubbio in Jessup (Pennsylvania, USA): a community that cherishes its roots*



Wednesday November 11th, 2026

Programme



Morning

9.00 – 13.00

Theme 3: RESCUE & INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

Chair: Francesco Caruso (15 minutes each speaker, 15 minutes for questions and comments)

9.00 – 9.55

1. Chang Xu (China) - *Rethinking Communities: An Integrated Approach to the Safeguarding of Macanese Intangible Cultural Heritage*
2. Özden Bulutbeyaz & Maria Pettersson (Germany/Sweden) - *Politics of Memory in Berlin & Stockholm*

10.00 – 10.55

3. Elina Mkhitarian (Armenia) - *Safeguarding Living Heritage beyond the Cultural Landscape: Challenges Following the Complete Forced Displacement of the Indigenous Community of Nagorno-Karabakh*
4. Fadela Mohatar and Manuel Peregrina (Spain) - *La cultura como espacio de encuentro en una ciudad intercultural - Melilla, Spain*

11.00 – 11.55

5. Nermine Faour, Leen Dirani et al (Lebanon) - *The Knowledge of Return: Traditional Farming Knowledge as Intangible Cultural Heritage in Southern Lebanon*
6. Sanjay Kumar Jain and Tine Vekemans (Belgium) - *Community-Led Safeguarding of (Intangible) Religious Heritage: Sustaining the Traditions of Jain Brahmins in Karnataka*

12.00 – 12.55

7. Abacilar Simbini (Mozambique) - *From Safeguarding to Creative Value: A Community-Centered Approach to Intangible Cultural Heritage, Intellectual Property and Media Innovation*
8. Zaynab Nemr & Rami Zurayk (Lebanon) - *Reading the Land from Below*

13.00

Lunch Buffet



13.30 – 14.00

Guided Tour of Villa Rufolo

led by Maria Carla Sorrentino, assisted by the students of the Amalfi Linguistic High School (Liceo Linguistico di Amalfi)

Wednesday November 11th, 2026

Programme



Afternoon session

14.00 – 18.00

Theme 4: PROFESSIONALS & SAFEGUARDING

Chair: Giuseppina Padeletti (15 minutes each speaker, 15 minutes for questions and comments)

14.00 – 14.55

1. Hena Velázquez Vargas (Mexico) - *Guardians of Cultural Heritage in Mexico City*
2. Charles Akinde (Nigeria) - *Spotlighting the Role of Community in Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage: Lessons from the Oke Idanre Cultural Landscape, Nigeria*



15.00 – 15.55

3. Abdulelah Jali (Saudi Arabia) - *Multidisciplinary Approaches for Resilience*
4. Mohamed Chakor (Morocco) - *Participation des communautés locales à la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel: une approche fondée sur les droits culturels dans le contexte maroco-italien*



16.00 – 16.55

5. Mireya Danilo Brzovic (Chile) - *Custodias: Women Explaining Heritage*
6. Christian Zavala (México) - *La carpintería de armar como patrimonio cultural inmaterial: saberes tradicionales y comunidades locales en la conservación de las cubiertas mudéjares del siglo XVI en México*

17.00 – 17.55

7. Mohammed Ba Nafea (Yemen) - *Revitalizing Historic Spaces Post-Conflict: Cinema Arwa in Aden as a Model for Community-Led Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage*
8. Giuseppe Barbalinardo (Italy) - *“Rovesciare un paradigma: il quartiere Tamburi di Taranto come ecomuseo”*



Wednesday November 11th, 2026

Programme

CLOSURE

19.00 – 20.00

Alfonso Andria, President Centro Universitario Europeo per i Beni Culturali (Italy)

Angel Cabeza, President ICICH / ICOMOS (Chile)

Andrew Hall, Former President ICICH / ICOMOS (South Africa / Saudi Arabia)

Oluwatoyin Z. Soghesan, Vice President ICICH/ICOMOS (Nigeria)

Carla Maurano, ICICH / ICOMOS (Italy)

PERFORMANCES BY PAGANI'S PARANZE



USEFUL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

- **Conference Languages:** Italian and English.
- **Online Attendance:** The conference will be streamed as a webinar for remote participants.
- **Simultaneous Translation:** Available via Zoom. **All participants** (both in-person and remote) wishing to use the translation must join the webinar and log in via the Zoom app (**using a smartphone and earphones is mandatory for in-person participants**).
- **How to Join the Webinar**

To attend the webinar, simply click the link below at the scheduled time. No prior registration is required. Please ensure your Zoom app is updated to the latest version to properly access all features, including language interpretation.

9/11/2026	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85162830060
10/11/2026	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87842718498
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