HERITAGE TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Connecting people and preservation through enriching experiential programs that SAFEGUARD HERITAGE and FOSTER COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY
INTRODUCTION

Adventures in Preservation remains engaged in creating social impact through historic preservation. The visible impact of our work is the conservation of valuable historic architecture. However, our true value is in the positive social impact we influence through our building conservation projects.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017

Enhancing Outreach
New Website: We are building a new website with the help of professionals, who are donating their time and expertise. Work is well underway, and we’re catching up with the fast paced digital age, making easy access for all mobile devices. The new website will optimize outreach to those searching for a hands-on heritage travel opportunity such as AiP’s.

Targeted Social Media Strategy: One of AiP’s board members is successfully developing a targeted social media strategy. Initial efforts are focused on Facebook, where posted information has greatly increased our interaction with supporters. A group page for Kosovo jammers was also set up, giving the group an easy way to stay connected.
Project Interest Exceeds Capacity: The Burgie glasshouse project in northern Scotland generated such a high level of interest that the spaces filled quickly, and we were forced to keep a waiting list. It was a very positive “problem” that will allow us to return to the site in 2019 to complete additional work. Our successful outreach efforts brought a sufficient number of jammers to the project to allow for four weeks of onsite work between June and October.

Meeting new friends, spending time in the glorious Highlands, being able to work in such an interesting historic place. The entire project was extremely rewarding.
Meg Reznicek, Burgie glasshouse project, Scotland.

GOODBYE TO AiP CO-FOUNDER, JAMIE DONAHOE
After sixteen years of committed service to Adventures in Preservation, our co-founder Jamie Donahoe has “retired”, moving on to new adventures and other interests.

We are feeling the pain, as Jamie took care of the AiP website and social media, as well as writing our popular newsletter and too much more to mention. We are slowly learning and taking over what she did on her own with great enthusiasm. Efforts are underway to find new talented AiP supporters to take on these tasks. Join us as we find new and innovative ways to move AiP forward and improve our service to communities in need of building conservation assistance.

We continue to miss Jamie, and still occasionally go to her to fill information gaps. THANKS, Jamie!

OUR VISION
AiP envisions a world where people use, understand, and appreciate historic buildings that are vital to economic and environmental sustainability and preserve cultural identity.
Our 2016 Kosovo Kula project successfully completed repair and transformation of the historic kulla’s second floor for use as a B&B. Hosting tourists has become a valuable way to create sustainable incomes following a very destructive war.

AiP jammers stayed with the Mazrekaj family. Nita Mazrekaj was born the year after the war ended and at the age of 15 is helping her family make the transition from an agricultural-based income to hosting tourists and providing traditional meals.

Nita taught herself English using social media and now serves as translator for guests and her family, optimizing the experience for both. Jammers stay in touch with Nita and her family; one jammer returned for a visit in 2017 and other return visits are planned.

The bond that develops between volunteers and local hosts is one of the most fulfilling aspects of our trips.

2017 HANDS-ON PROJECTS

**Moray County, Scotland – Returning an Edwardian Greenhouse to Grandeur**

AiP’s most successful project to date took place at the Burgie Edwardian-era glasshouse. This glasshouse, or greenhouse, which was largely forgotten as it sat on the Burgie country estate, caught the interest of building conservation enthusiasts from the US, Canada and Australia.

The glasshouse, originally built in 1912, belongs to a world that no longer exists. The social structures of Edwardian Britain eroded after the First World War, and the
rural economy and lifestyle changed forever, leading to the demise of the glasshouse.

By 2017, the greenhouse was in disrepair. As glass panels broke, they were replaced with fiberglass, hiding the former grandeur of the structure. The owner, Hamish Lochore, was making good use of the historic glasshouse even in its deteriorated state. Hamish has spent the past 12 years creating an 80 acre arboretum on his estate, where he grows both endangered Scottish species, as well as exotic species that his international network send him from all over the world. He's realized that all eight of Scotland’s native surviving species have been negatively affected by climate change, and are increasingly vulnerable. He feels the future of Scottish forestry most likely requires investigating alternative species.

Thanks to 21 incredible AiP jammers, who didn’t mind hard work, the Burgie Edwardian Glasshouse is now largely repaired and completely enclosed with glass. Fifteen team members traveled to Scotland for two weeks in June and completed all the prep work – replaced deteriorate astragals, sanded and primed wood, painted the entire structure, installed lead flashing, sanded and painted gutters. It was such a large undertaking there was no time for glazing. We knew the glazing had to be completed before the cold winter weather set in, or the seedlings would be at risk.

Local roofer jumps in to assist AiP jammers in placing 250 panes of glass!
AiP put out an emergency call for volunteers, and six people responded, including a glazier from the US. The six-member team spent the last week of September and first week of October putting in around 250 panes of glass with linseed oil putty. It was an amazing learning experience that even we didn’t think would be finished in time. With the help of two remarkable local craftsmen, the final day saw us puttying the last panes!

AiP received an email from Hamish in December saying:

[The glassed-in] greenhouse has been a Godsend with all this year’s seed trayed up and ready to germinate in the spring!!!

Combining building conservation and environment conservation was a great success thanks to volunteers who donated 931 hours of work.

Fundraising is underway that will allow AiP to return to Burgie in 2019. The historic south room, built only a year after the central glasshouse, is beautifully styled and near collapse. The roofs main support beam has cracked and needs to be replaced. **We are looking for funders who would like to support the next phase of this inspiring project.**

**ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI, USA –**

**SAVE THE CRUMBLING CRACKER HOUSE**

The Cracker House Project, a local nonprofit in St. Joe, worked on their own for a year in efforts to save the Frank Sommer house. The community provided a great deal of support to bring the house back from the brink. Frank Sommer invented a soda cracker for settlers needing supplies as they traveled westward in covered wagons. His cracker eventually became the Saltine cracker and provided the nickname for the house.

Although the end result was uncertain, AiP agreed to work with the local community for one year to see what could be accomplished. Two weeks in May featured knowledgeable experts who encouraged hands-on participation. Tom Rinderknecht of T & G Custom Millwork in St. Joseph led a session, taking volunteers through the step-by-step process to repair some of the house’s 145-year-old windows.

AiP’s own board member, Craig Deller, is an objects conservator, and taught jammers how to clean and restore decorative wall paintings and intricate parquet flooring. Other work included repointing, documentation, and relaying of the herringbone sidewalk.

We were so fortunate to have Abatron as a project sponsor. In an article Abatron stated that they “could not have been more impressed upon hearing of the project and the astounding efforts made by all involved.” They donated both LiquidWood
and WoodEpox to complete essential steps of the project as the team worked to repair and restore trusses, windows, baseboards, and crown molding.

Unfortunately, when the old roof was removed, the walls sustained structural damage and rain hampered the replacement allowing a great deal of water into the house. It now appears that the house may need to be demolished.

In spite of this, Samantha Coppola, who used the project as a university internship for her interior design degree, stated:

_As I began to work hands on, I became really excited. ... We learned how to restore the original windows, we learned how to tuck-point bricks, and my favorite part was putting in the herringbone sidewalk. This was fun because not only did I learn something I never thought I would, but I also was able to do everything that needed to be done. I never realized my potential._

_After my trip I found myself constantly talking about my experience to my classmates, friends, and family. I told them about the wonderful things I learned to do. I am so thankful to AiP and the members of the Sommer house project for opening my eyes to historic preservation, and giving me the most extraordinary opportunity of a lifetime._
GLOUCESTER, VIRGINIA, USA –
LINKING ARCHAEOLOGY WITH PRESERVATION
AT THE FAIRFIELD PLANTATION

The Fairfield Plantation project, which combines archaeology with preservation, remains AiP's most successful and popular long-term project. 2017 jammers attended sessions in both June and August giving 350 hours to continue uncovering the secrets that surround the 1694 plantation manor house. Lives of both slaves and plantation owners are being researched.

Workshop participants learn to distinguish brick bats from brick fragments amidst building rubble

A new phase of the project began in 2017 to create 3D modeling of the entire site. The Fairfield Foundation reported events at AiP's August session:

[In August] we hosted our second Adventures in Preservation (AiP) workshop of 2017 and made great progress at Fairfield Plantation. We opened a new excavation block on the south end of the house foundation, and continued work around a collapsed chimney that we've been excavating for the past two summers. We opened a few new excavation units on the southern end of the manor house, and the Jammers did an excellent job carefully removing layers of soil and rubble debris to reveal the corner of the foundation.
We kicked off our new 3D modeling project! Before the excavation started, we surveyed the area the Jammers would be working on with our new drone and developed our first digital model of the site, which will be the basis for the 3D printed model prototype we’ll be putting together this fall. This is an exciting step toward our goal of developing an interactive 3D model of the entire manor house and surrounding landscape, and we were happy to incorporate our digital preservation efforts into this year’s AiP learning experience.

This work will continue at AiP’s 2018 sessions at Fairfield and is open to all, regardless of experience.

GYUMRI, ARMENIA –
SAVE GYUMRI’S ENDANGERED ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Our project in Gyumri, Armenia, gained momentum in 2017. We received a grant from the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies in the amount of $1000, jointly administered by NAASR and the Knights of Vartan.

The grant supported creation of a database to manage documentation information collected on historic buildings in Gyumri’s Kumayri Cultural Museum Preserve. Funds were also used to purchase archival documents that remained in Tbilisi, Georgia, after the breakup of the Soviet Union. These documents were scanned and stitched together to create a complete picture of Gyumri in 1887, when the historic district was the active center of Gyumri.

June and September jammers worked primarily on the Gallery of Mariam and Eranuhi Aslaamazyan Sisters.

Saving Gyumri’s distinctive wooden balconies
The sisters gave their house, with their artwork, to the city to be opened as a museum and gallery. Shortly after the gallery was established, the Spitak earthquake hit, and the museum was used for temporary housing. Repair and conservation has been underway for several years, as this museum is key to building Gyumri’s economy through heritage tourism.

Work completed by AiP volunteers was of extremely high quality, inspiring the Director of the gallery to write the following about one of our jammers:

*Hosting Cynthia Taylor was a great experience for us because of her professional skills and expertise. Volunteering is a global powerful tool, which is used for uniting people and helping communities like Gyumri. I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your assistance.*

Plans are set for a group to travel to Gyumri in May 2018 to continue conservation of the gallery’s wooden balcony. Armen Hovsepyan, AiP’s onsite partner, explained the importance of AiP volunteers:

*The trip you will be making here is very important. Due to the recent events the museum has been informed that they don’t know what is going to be happening with the funding promised. It is very vital for the city, because people like you and volunteers who are going to come to Gyumri will help the museum which is becoming more and more popular month by month. Your trip will help create a safer environment for the children and tourists who come to the museum.*

**PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

**Dunans Castle and Bridge Conservation**

AiP was approached by Dunans Castle Limited in Glendaruel, Cowal Peninsula, Scotland, to partner with them on hands-on conservation work over a minimum of the next three years. With the great success of our Burgie glasshouse project, due to US volunteers’ interest in traveling and volunteering in Scotland, we decided this project provided a great opportunity for us.

Dunans Castle Limited was formed initially as a private limited company, but recently transitioned into a Social Enterprise. The castle will be a public building when finished, having space for events in the ground floor and self-catering apartments in the top two floors. These uses should provide for a sustainable future for the building long-term. All profits generated by the company are used in the development of the site and in the restoration.

Our partners describe their economic impact on the region:

*The Dunans project affects two communities concerned with the building. The first is the community in geographical proximity, which is declining and aging. Dunans*
already employs between 9-12 people in full and part-time roles to develop and maintain the project, and therefore we are having a direct input into the local economy.

The second community numbers over 200,000, with Dunans contributing to the local holiday/visitor accommodation and services industry, providing a yearly uptick of revenue for these businesses of between 5-15%. This second community is worldwide and increasing yearly by between 20K-30K. All are invited to Dunans to take a tour of the project, and when the castle is restored will provide the building with its first holiday-makers and events-users.

A magical site welcoming volunteers to help bring the castle back to life

We are already receiving many emails expressing interest in attending the project to be held in September 2018, and we expect a very positive outcome.

ORGANIZATIONAL ADVANCES

Board Activity

Board member, Jolie Diepenhorst, has directed her efforts at developing the AiP facebook page. She has greatly increased our number of followers and their
interaction with AiP. This interaction has boosted the number of registrations, and we hope will allow us to increase our time at each project site.

Jolie also provided support for our St. Joseph, Missouri partners as we organized the new project at the Cracker House. In addition, she attended the work session, handling logistics. Board member, Craig Deller, served as one of the onsite experts in St. Joe, donating his time and expertise as an objects conservator.

Yvonne Caragounis helped develop a summary form to record the impact of each AiP project at its conclusion. This form is vital for grant requests as it measures AiP’s successes in financial terms as well as identifying the impact on community members, onsite trainees and the project building itself.

Volunteers

Jordan Grover came to AiP between jobs with an impressive resume and a desire to share with AiP the skills she learned working for a nonprofit in South America. She developed a questionnaire for AiP jammers, handled data collection and compilation, and is currently assisting us in the best means to show our Measurable Results.

With data collected through this process, Jordan will assist us in inserting measurable results into our Project Reports, Annual Reports, and in our search for strong board members. Ultimately, our ability to attract corporate sponsors and funders will be greatly enhanced by our new knowledge of the best means to highlight AiP’s measurable results.

Tammy Demelier and Michael Anderson generously volunteered to develop a much needed new website for Adventures in Preservation. Mike did initial site setup, and Tammy is currently working on site and page design. Creating this site would not be possible without their donation of time and expertise.

A HUGE THANK YOU to all of AiP’s talented volunteers!

Interns

Katie Roberts, a graduate student at University of Denver’s School of Media, Film and Journalism Studies, selected Adventures in Preservation as the focus of a project on strategic messaging for nonprofits. Ms. Roberts created a strategic communication campaign plan. It included an analysis of publics, messaging themes, goals, objectives and strategies. She also created a new press release, media advisory and story pitch. Her excellent work greatly benefitted AiP.
**Maria Pastor**, a resident of Puerto Rico, returned to school to gain a Masters degree in Interior Design. She attended AiP’s Kosovo project in 2016, and used her experience there to complete an internship.

The project goal was to complete restoration of Kulla Isuf Mazrekaj. This three-story stone tower house (or kulla) is one of the few intact historic kullas that survived the war in the 1990s. AiP join Cultural Heritage without Borders, Kosovo, to restore the historic house for use as a B&B to enhance local heritage tourism. The family hosts tourists and provides traditional meals.

Ms. Pastor completed the following work, giving a total of 120 hours to the project:

- Learn about the site and its community
- Outline measurements and specifications needed for drawings
- Research the kulla’s decorative style
- Document building materials and techniques used during original construction
- Identify design needs
- Create a layout plan for the interior design with specifications

Maria’s 12-day stay at the site, participating in building conservation activities, was added to her student portfolio to successfully complete her academic requirements.

Following this project, Maria became an AiP volunteer, using her impressive computer skills to create an improved version of the AiP logo.

**Samantha Coppola** is a student at Kean University Robert Busch School of Design in New Jersey. She chose the historic Sommer house, or Cracker House, in St. Joseph, Missouri as the subject of her freshman year interior design internship. She spent two weeks onsite completing measurements and drawings. Samantha was a great asset to AiP in St. Joe, and as you saw expressed above, the project had an amazing impact on Samantha.

**GRANT AND CORPORATE SPONSOR SUPPORT**

Google again provided a valuable grant via **Google AdWords**, allowing AiP to improve our marketing and broaden our outreach. The value of our AdWords campaign in 2017 totaled $56,434.53.

Two AiP projects received valuable support, one from a grant and the other from a corporate sponsor.

The **Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies** provided a grant of $1000 to help create a database for documentation of Gyumri, Armenia’s 1200 historic structures in the city's Kumari Museum Preserve. This is one step in the long
process of recording, and saving as many as possible, buildings sitting damaged since the devastating 1988 earthquake. The ultimate goal is to restore the shrinking economy through heritage tourism – only possible if the city’s historic core is saved.

**We invite other sponsors** to join the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies in supporting this urgent and compelling project in Gyumri.

**Abatron, Inc.** joined building conservation efforts at the Cracker House in St. Joseph, Missouri. Abatron formulates, manufactures, and sells an extensive line of products for historic building restoration, and the company very generously donated products for jammers to use.

Richard, our enthusiastic Abatron contact, stated:

*I love the idea of supporting the project. In fact I love the concept of volunteer preservation work, in general. When I have a bit more free time on my hands I could definitely see myself taking one of your restoration vacations. We’re certainly willing to donate some materials to the project.*

Abatron’s LiquidWood and WoodEpox were essential to the group's wood conservation efforts. **We hope to work with Abatron again!**

**FINANCIALS**

AiP, and our supporters, brought in revenues to successfully run hands-on building conservation sessions at three project sites, as well as run our always successful archaeology + preservation project. In addition, significant progress was made in developing a second project in Scotland.

Our advances are made possible by the substantial impact our volunteer staff and jammers make through their ever-increasing donations of time and talent. In 2017, jammers at our four project sites donated a total of 1600 hours.

Securing grants and corporate sponsorship to become financially sustainable continues to be AiP’s top priority. This year, we operated with a budget of $122,287. Revenue from our hands-on projects was the highest ever at $52,226, which is a huge milestone for AiP.

Full financials can be accessed from our IRS Form 990 found on GuideStar (www.guidestar.org).