



an initiative of
Heritage Preservation and the
Federal Emergency Management Agency

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American Association for State and Local History
American Institute of Architects
American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works
American Library Association
Association of African American Museums
Association of Art Museum Directors
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Society of American Archivists
Society of Architectural Historians
The Society for Historical Archaeology
Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections
US/International Council on Monuments and Sites
World Monuments Fund

About the Sponsors

Heritage Preservation is a national non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of the United States. By identifying risks, developing innovative programs, and providing broad public access to expert advice, Heritage Preservation assists museums, libraries, archives, historic preservation and other organizations, as well as individuals, in caring for our endangered heritage. Visit www.heritagepreservation.org for more information.

Since 1995, the Heritage Emergency National Task Force has worked to help libraries, archives, museums, and historic sites safeguard collections. Sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Heritage Preservation, this partnership of 41 national organizations and federal agencies is FEMA's liaison with the cultural heritage community. It represents a nationwide network of experience and expertise.

The national Alliance for Response project is made possible by Fidelity Investments through the Fidelity Foundation. Numerous local partners contribute to the success of the Forums. Corporate sponsors have included BMS Catastrophe, Belfor USA, Chubb Group of Insurance Companies, Cultural Property Protection Group, Iron Mountain, Munters Moisture Control Services, and Preservation Technologies, L.P. Alliance for Response Forums in California were underwritten by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

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ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSE

A NATIONAL PROGRAM ON
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND DISASTER
MANAGEMENT



sponsored by
Heritage Preservation in support of the
Heritage Emergency National Task Force



Protecting Cultural Heritage

Floods, fires, and other disasters can harm or destroy irreplaceable cultural and historic treasures. But the institutions and organizations that safeguard art, artifacts, books, and historic buildings can prepare for emergencies and minimize damage. One of the keys to preparedness is a relationship with the first responders and emergency managers who are integral to response and recovery.

Connecting local emergency responders with representatives of the cultural heritage community is a priority of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force. Regardless of the scope of the emergency, the first response will always be local. The need for dialogue is clear, and partnerships must be in place before disaster strikes.

Since 2003, Heritage Preservation has been promoting these connections through its innovative national program, Alliance for Response. The initiative begins with a one-day Forum for cultural leaders and emergency professionals and leads to new partnerships and local projects. Alliance for Response Forums foster cooperation among cultural and historic preservation organizations, improve local planning efforts, and enhance the protection of heritage resources.

New Relationships, New Projects

Alliance for Response Forums have led to new cooperative networks and creative preparedness efforts around the country. Among the examples:

- The Cultural Emergency Management Team (CEMT) in Boston gained a “seat” for cultural heritage at the city’s Emergency Operations Center.
- Following the Forum in New York City, the local committee sponsored tabletop training exercises tailored to museums and libraries.
- In Atlanta, the Heritage Emergency Response Alliance (HERA) developed a local listserv that includes both cultural heritage staff and emergency professionals; members worked together to respond to severe tornadoes in March 2008.
- After the Alliance for Response Forum in Philadelphia, the number of official liaisons from local cultural institutions to the city emergency management agency increased from 11 to more than 100.

- The northeast Ohio Alliance for Response group sponsored a session on fire suppression and recovery at the 2009 annual meeting of the Ohio Museums Association.

Future Alliances

Heritage Preservation will sponsor four Forums in 2009, in Denver, Raleigh, Savannah, and the State of Vermont. But the benefits from the kinds of partnerships Alliance for Response promotes can be experienced in every community. Resources to assist in the development of successful collaborations are available online at www.heritagepreservation.org and include the *Forum Planning Handbook*, program templates, and information about past and future Forums.

Alliance for Response Forums have been held in 12 cities since 2003.

Atlanta
Boston
Cincinnati

Dallas
Los Angeles
New York City

Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Sacramento

San Diego
San Francisco
Seattle

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