

UNESCO's voice to be "heard publicly in Liverpool for the first time"

As Liverpool stands on the brink of losing UNESCO World Heritage Site status, UNESCO representatives visit the city to discuss why and give local representatives a chance to voice their concerns.

Residents of Liverpool are being urged to register for a series of upcoming seminars that according to organisers "will make UNESCO's voice heard publicly in the city for the first time". With Liverpool's world heritage status at critical risk, the series aims to give the people of Liverpool the chance to find out more, and to hear UNESCO's perspective on why Liverpool is on a par with world famous heritage sites such as the Taj Mahal, the Acropolis, and the Great Wall of China, as a site of "outstanding universal value".

Organised by **Engage Liverpool CIC**, a social enterprise that seeks to make a positive contribution to the liveability of Liverpool City Centre and Waterfront, the autumn seminar series is entitled "**Liverpool UNESCO World Heritage Site – A Status worth fighting for?**" and will bring heritage officials to three seminars to speak of their own analysis of what Liverpool is doing wrong to leave it within critical risk of losing its status of world heritage whilst talking to a panel of local representatives about what the city can do to maintain its cultural crown.

Seminar One will feature **Isabelle Anatole-Gabriel, UNESCO's Chief of the Europe and North America Unit** in Liverpool Town Hall on 4th October where the overarching question will be "**UNESCO World Heritage Site – What's it all about?**" before seminar two introduces **Michael Tuner, UNESCO Chair in Urban Design and Conservation Studies at Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem** to pose the question "**Why the conflict?**" on 18th October at Museum of Liverpool. The final seminar will be held on November 1st in St George's Hall where **Minja Yang, Former UNESCO Deputy Director & Coordinator WH Cities** will speak on the subject of "**Where's the value?**"

A meeting in Krakow earlier this year concluded that Liverpool has until February 2018 to fight for its status as one of 31 World Heritage Sites in the United Kingdom. A recent poll saw that 75% of local residents felt the status of World Heritage was worth fighting for and now the city only has just over five months to have the voice of local residents heard.

Liverpool was inscribed as a WHS in 2004 covering six areas of Liverpool's city centre and docklands. The award was made in recognition of the city's global significance as one of the world's major trading centres in the 18th and

19th centuries, and also for its part in the development of mass movements of people.

However, UNESCO and The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) have warned that redevelopment in the area – including the Liverpool Waters scheme – “would fundamentally adversely affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property”. Liverpool is now one of only two endangered UNESCO sites in Europe.

The first seminar starts with refreshments at 17.15 and the speakers commence at 17.50.

Gerry Proctor, Chair of Engage Liverpool CIC said *“With time running out for Liverpool, we are creating an urgent civic conversation asking if we have sufficiently valued the status that being a UNESCO World Heritage Site city confers”*

“UNESCO’s voice has never been properly heard in the city, except perhaps in negative ways. In bringing three UNESCO representatives to Liverpool, alongside a local panel of specialist speakers and councillors, we aim to generate discussion that considers both the potential impact of the loss and what could be gained from development and conservation working together.”

Those wishing to register for the seminar series can do so at www.engageliverpool.com.

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For further information, please contact:

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Listings

Liverpool UNESCO World Heritage Site – A Status worth fighting for?

Wednesday 4 October 2017

Seminar 1: UNESCO World Heritage Site – what’s it all about?

Isabelle Anatole-Gabriel: UNESCO Chief of the Europe and North America Unit at the World Heritage Centre, Paris.

Local panel speakers:

Henry Owen-John, Historic England, Head of International Advice

David Fleming, Director, National Museums Liverpool

Dr Beatriz Garcia, Director, Institute of Cultural Capital, University of Liverpool

Councillor Barry Kushner, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services

17.15 – 19.30, Liverpool Town Hall, High Street, Liverpool, L2 3SW

[Book here.](#)

Wednesday 18 October 2017

Seminar 2: Development and Conservation – why the conflict?

Michael Turner, UNESCO Chair in Urban Design and Conservation Studies at Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem.

Local panel speakers:

Adam Wilkinson, Director, Edinburgh World Heritage

Michael Birkett, Group Chief Executive, Regenda Group

Professor Dinah Birch, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Cultural Engagement, Chair to the Heritage, Arts and Culture Committee, University of Liverpool

Hetty Wood, Chair of Regeneration, Housing & Sustainability, Select Committee.

17:15 – 19:30, Venue TBC

[Book here.](#)

Wednesday 1 November 2017

Seminar 3: Heritage Assets – where's the value?

Minja Yang: former Deputy Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris and Director of the UNESCO WHS Regional Office in Delhi, currently President and Professor at Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium.

Local panel speakers:

Chris Blandford, President, World Heritage UK

Pat Power, Director, Harcourt Developments, Stanley Dock

Professor Lin Foxhall, Head, School of Histories, Languages and Cultures, Rathbone Professor of Ancient History and Classical Archaeology, University of Liverpool

Councillor Alice Bennett, Mayoral Lead for Heritage & Design

17.15 – 19.30, St George's Hall, St George's Place, Liverpool, L1 1JJ.

[Book here.](#)

Notes to Editors

UNESCO and ICOMOS (overview originally published by Save Britain's Heritage)

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee is composed of 21 states, appointed on a rotating basis. The Committee is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. It has the final say on

whether a property is inscribed on the World Heritage List. It examines reports on the state of conservation of inscribed properties and asks State Parties to take action when properties are not being properly managed. It also decides on which properties should be on its “at risk” list, known as the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ICOMOS has an official role in advising the Committee as an expert in conserving the world’s monuments and sites.

Management of each UNESCO World Heritage Site is the responsibility of the respective national government.

Engage Liverpool CIC

Engage Liverpool CIC is a social enterprise, run by volunteers who live in the apartments of the Waterfront and City Centre.

It is a fully democratic institution where all Board members are elected by residents who are members of Engage and who hold the Board to account at each AGM. We care passionately about sustainable living in the City Centre and are committed to making it a place where people would want to live out the whole of their lives and not just for a brief transitional period in their youth.

We have run projects that make a positive contribution to the liveability of the City Centre and Waterfront (Neighbourhood Planning in the Baltic; Liverpool Air Project; Blue-Green Liverpool). We encourage and promote debate about urban living in our annual Seminar Series (2015: Liveable Liverpool - apartment living in a European city 2016: Reclaiming the City - from consumer and stranger to citizen and neighbour) in 2017 the theme is our UNESCO World Heritage Site designation which is at risk.

We hold Workshops to assist residents and leaseholders to better manage the apartment buildings where they live. We are available for direct consultations and support on any issues facing City Centre residents.