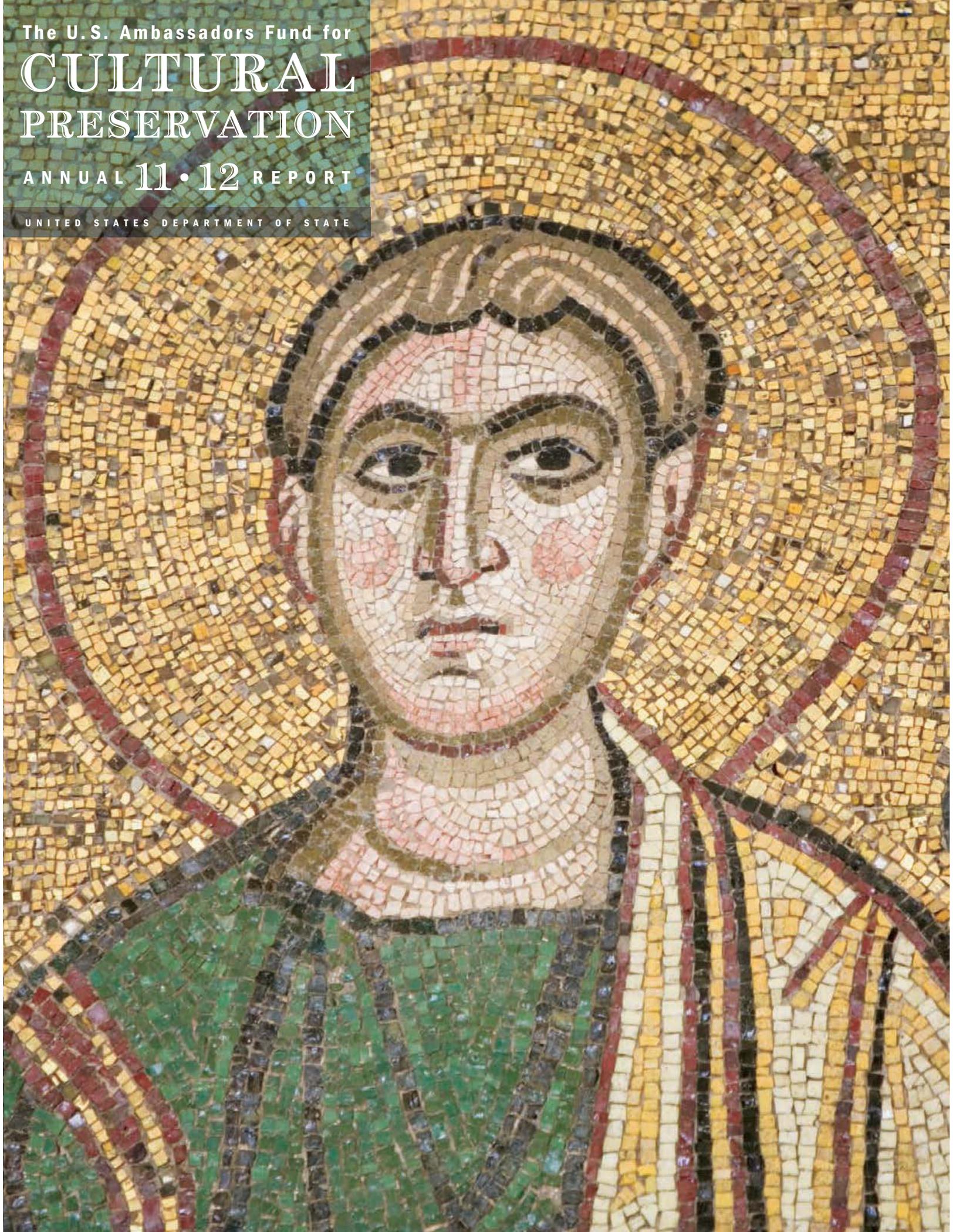


The U.S. Ambassadors Fund for
**CULTURAL
PRESERVATION**

ANNUAL 11 • 12 REPORT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE





Front and back cover: Conservation of 12th-century mosaics in Ukraine. U.S. Embassy Kyiv



U.S. AMBASSADORS FUND FOR CULTURAL PRESERVATION | CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER
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Design: CAESAR JACKSON



Wat Suthat Thepwaram in Thailand. Cultural Heritage Center

Afghanistan • Albania • Algeria • Angola • Antigua & Barbuda • Armenia • Azerbaijan

• Bangladesh • Belarus • Belize • Benin • Bhutan • Bolivia • Bosnia & Herzegovina •

Botswana • Brazil • Bulgaria • Burkina Faso • Burma • Burundi • Cambodia • Cameroon •

Cape Verde • Central African Republic • Chad • China • Colombia • Comoros • Congo

(Democratic Republic of the) • Congo (Republic of the) • Côte d'Ivoire • Djibouti •

Dominica • Dominican Republic • Ecuador • Egypt • El Salvador • Equatorial Guinea •

Eritrea • Ethiopia • Fiji • Gabon • Gambia • Georgia • Ghana • Grenada • Guatemala •

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Senegal • Serbia • Sierra Leone • Solomon Islands • South Africa • Sri Lanka • Sudan •

Suriname • Swaziland • Syria • Tajikistan • Tanzania • Thailand • Timor-Leste • Togo •

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The U.S. Ambassadors Fund for

CULTURAL PRESERVATION

ANNUAL 11 • 12 REPORT

A report of grants made in fiscal year 2011 and implemented in 2012

Introduction

Since 2001, the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation has awarded grants in support of more than 700 projects to preserve cultural heritage in over 120 countries. This achievement represents a major contribution to the preservation of cultural heritage worldwide and demonstrates the depth of America's respect for the cultural heritage of other countries.

In 2011, U.S. ambassadors in more than 90 countries applied to the Ambassadors Fund for support in meeting pressing cultural heritage preservation needs. Among those receiving grants in 2011 were Lebanon's Directorate General of Antiquities for the conservation of the ancient Roman bridge of Jib Jennine in the Beqaa Valley; the Living Traditions Museum in Nepal for the restoration of Chaugara Sattal, a former public rest house at the ancient Hindu temple of Changu Narayan; and the National Council for Culture and the Arts (CONACULTA) in Mexico for the preservation of the 16th-century Father Tembleque Aqueduct.

Also in 2011, the Ambassadors Fund awarded four large grants for projects in Cambodia, India, Jordan, and Tanzania. Among the recipients were the American Center of Oriental Research and the World Monuments Fund.

Speaking at an August 2011 Ambassadors Fund award ceremony in El Salvador, U.S. Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte stressed the importance of cultural heritage preservation as a way to build *"friendship and respect between our countries.... Our governments and each of us share a commitment to preserving, respecting, and protecting the cultural heritage of our societies."*

Cultural heritage endures as a reminder of the contributions and historical experiences of humanity. By taking a leading role in efforts to preserve cultural heritage, the U.S. shows its respect for other cultures.



Preservation of the 16th-century Tembleque Aqueduct in Mexico. Cultural Heritage Center



Conservation of architectural surfaces in Tetovo. Cultural Heritage Protection Office of the Republic of Macedonia

Our Mission

About the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation

Established at the recommendation of the 106th Congress (Public Law 106-553) and administered by the Cultural Heritage Center, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation supports the preservation of cultural sites, cultural objects, and forms of traditional cultural expression in more than 120 developing countries around the world. In establishing the Fund, Congress noted that *“Cultural preservation offers an opportunity to show a different American face to other countries, one that is non-commercial, non-political, and non-military. By taking a leading role in efforts to preserve cultural heritage, we show our respect for other cultures by protecting their traditions.”*

About the Cultural Heritage Center

The Cultural Heritage Center supports the foreign affairs functions of the U.S. Department of State that relate to the preservation of cultural heritage. In addition to the Ambassadors Fund, the Center administers U.S. responsibilities relating to the 1970 UNESCO convention to reduce pillage and illicit trafficking in cultural property and oversees special projects such as the Iraq Cultural Heritage Initiative.

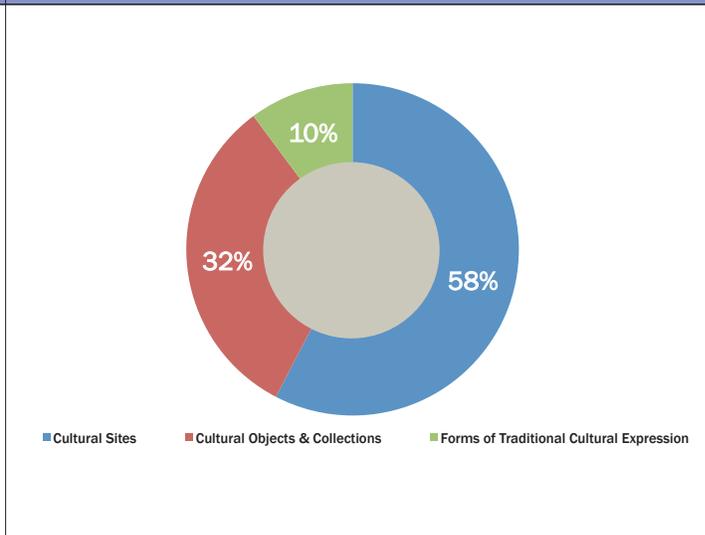
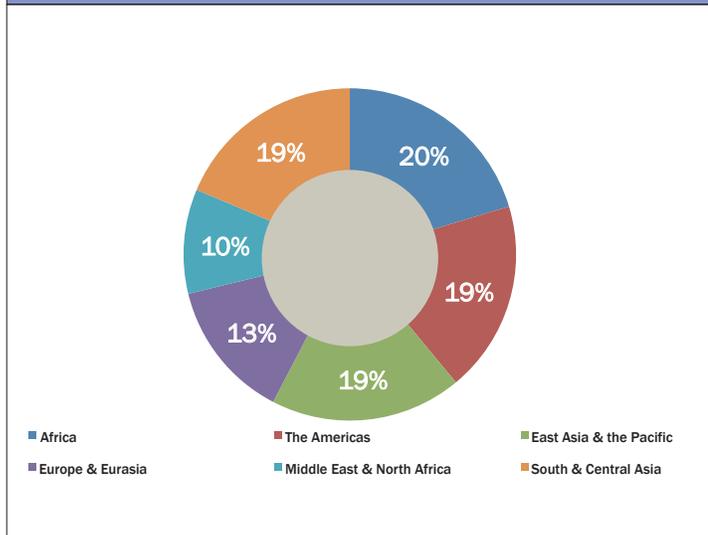


Grants Awarded in 2011

REGION	NO. OF PROJECTS	FUND AMOUNT
Africa*	12	\$1,173,927
The Americas	11	\$668,526
East Asia & the Pacific	11	\$951,890
Europe & Eurasia	08	\$576,691
Middle East & North Africa	06	\$1,942,787
South & Central Asia	11	\$1,311,674
Total	59	\$6,625,495

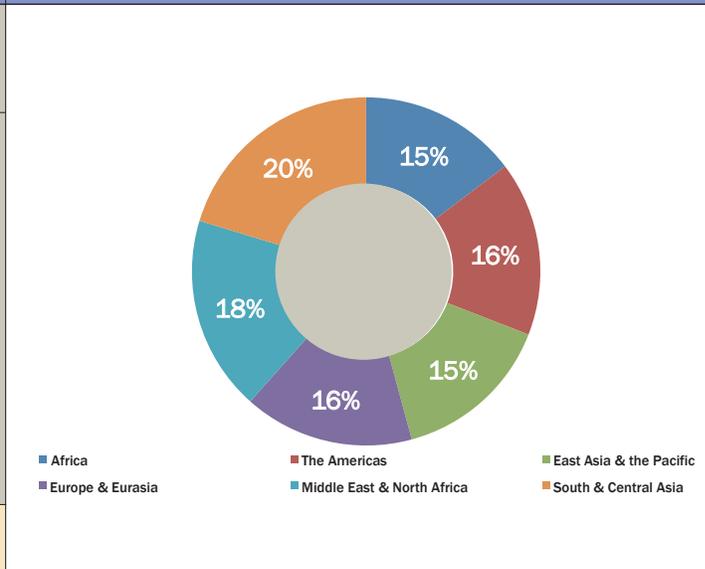
*Includes one grant awarded in 2011 but not implemented

Regional Distribution of Projects • 2011	Types of Projects • 2011
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Response to Calls for Proposals • 2011	Cumulative Distribution of Funds • 2001-11
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REGION	NUMBER OF PROPOSALS	TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED
Africa	31	\$2,666,057
The Americas	41	\$8,872,525
East Asia & the Pacific	34	\$4,122,639
Europe & Eurasia	46	\$9,958,690
Middle East & North Africa	24	\$6,401,002
South & Central Asia	25	\$5,512,453
Total	201	\$37,533,366





From left to right, top to bottom: AFCP-supported projects in Mongolia, India, Mali, Tajikistan, China, Georgia, Laos, and Jordan.

IN 2011, U.S. AMBASSADORS IN 91 ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES SUBMITTED 201 PROJECT PROPOSALS TOTALING MORE THAN \$37.5 MILLION. FOLLOWING A THOROUGH VETTING, REVIEW, AND SELECTION PROCESS, THE AMBASSADORS FUND FOR CULTURAL PRESERVATION AWARDED \$6.6 MILLION IN GRANTS IN SUPPORT OF 59 PROJECTS IN 49 COUNTRIES.

2011 in Review

The 136 countries eligible for support in 2011: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua & Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic of the), Congo (Republic of the), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Samoa, São Tomé & Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

The Cultural Heritage Center uses the U.N. Human Development Index as a guide for determining eligibility.

Program Implementation

Annual Competition

On October 14, 2010, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) issued a request for proposals for projects to preserve cultural heritage in the following three categories—

- **Cultural sites**
- **Cultural objects and collections of objects from a site, a museum, or similar institution**
- **Forms of traditional cultural expression**

Proposals had to address the following: importance of the site, object, collection, or form of expression; need and urgency of the proposed project; and impact of the U.S. contribution. They also had to include detailed project budgets and information on cost sharing (including in-kind contributions) from other governments, international organizations, and the private sector. The Bureau announced the results of the competition on July 25, 2011.

Large Grants Program

On December 2, 2010, ECA invited U.S. ambassadors to 16 countries and the consul general in Jerusalem to submit proposals to the Ambassadors Fund for large-scale projects to preserve major cultural sites or museum collections. Following a technical review by a panel of outside experts, the Bureau awarded grants for projects in Cambodia, India, Jordan, and Tanzania. All four grants supported projects to preserve major cultural sites.

Categories

Cultural Sites serve an important role in communities today. They represent a connection to and continuity with the past while ensuring a cultural inheritance for future generations. Whether preserved as historic sites or adapted for new uses, cultural sites endure as monuments to human achievement.

The Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation supported 35 projects at cultural sites in 2011. Among them were the preservation of the main tower of the citadel at the archaeological site of ancient Byblos in Lebanon, the restoration of the historic Central Railway Station in Asunción, Paraguay, and the conservation of the ruins of the 9th-century city of Kilwa Kisiwani in Tanzania.

Archaeological Sites **29%**

Historic Buildings & Sites **71%**

Cultural Objects and Collections celebrate humanity's creative genius. As movable, tangible heritage, they hold great meaning and value for people throughout the world.

In 2011, the Ambassadors Fund supported 18 projects to preserve cultural objects and collections. Among them were the conservation of decorative panels from the 5th-century Zoroastrian Temple of Fire at Mele Heyran, Turkmenistan, and the conservation of 12th-century mosaics from the former golden-domed Cathedral of St. Michael's in Kyiv, Ukraine.

General Museum Conservation **5%**

Paintings & Sculptures **21%**

Ethnographic Objects **48%**

Archaeological Collections **26%**

Forms of Traditional Cultural Expression are particularly susceptible to changes brought by time and modernity. With the passing of successive generations, communities lose their connections to the traditional dances, music, poetry, language, and crafts which had given them their distinct cultural and communal identities.

In 2011, the Ambassadors Fund supported six projects in the Forms of Traditional Cultural Expression category. Among them were the documentation of three Khmer musical traditions in Cambodia and the documentation of ethnic Katu cultural traditions in Laos.

Music **83%**

Rituals **17%**

Documentation of earthen forts at ancient Merv in Turkmenistan. Cultural Heritage Center



Conservation of bronze wares in Jiangxi Province. U.S. Embassy Beijing



Documentation of the cultural traditions of the ethnic Katu in Laos. TAEC





Preservation of landmarks at Chongoni Rock Art World Heritage Site in Malawi. U.S. Embassy Lilongwe



“SOME OF THE GREATEST WORLD TREASURES ARE FOUND RIGHT HERE
IN THIS MAJESTIC LAND. WHILE THE WORLD CLAIMS THEIR GLOBAL VALUE,
THEY REMAIN UNIQUELY TANZANIAN.”

ROBERT SCOTT, U.S. DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION TO TANZANIA

Africa

Comoros: Conservation of the 16th-century palace of Dhoihira in Moroni, the residence of the last Sultan of Comoros. A touchstone of Comoros’s history and cultural identity, the palace serves as a historical museum for Moroni and an art gallery. The project involves the conservation of the palace, including the palace’s surviving porcelain roof decorations and hand-carved architectural details, and the restoration of the roof, ceilings, walls, and stone floors.

Congo (Democratic Republic of the): Conservation of more than 15,000 ethnographic objects representing daily life in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The objects, in wood, clay, metal, plant-based materials, fabrics, animal skins, and feathers, are the only examples of their kind in a publicly owned collection. The project includes the cleaning and conservation of objects and restoration of the museum building.

Djibouti: Preservation of the 14th-century Korojib Mosque, one of the few surviving examples of coral architecture in Tadjourah and one of the oldest mosques in the Horn of Africa. Time and the elements have taken their toll on the building. This project involves the conservation of the coral walls and stabilization of the roof.

Malawi: Preventive conservation of approximately 9,000 items in the collections of the Museums of Malawi at the Top Mandala House in Blantyre. The collections, which include archaeological artifacts and ethnographic and historical objects, represent Malawi’s diverse cultural heritage. The project involves improvements to the institution’s principal storage facility to ensure the proper storage and protection of the collections.

Malawi: Preservation of more than 125 distinct rock art sites created over 200 years ago in Chongoni, a World Heritage site. Featuring hunter-gatherer scenes painted by women, the rock art sites are threatened by human encroachment and exposure to the elements. The project includes graffiti removal, preventive conservation measures, and community stewardship workshops.



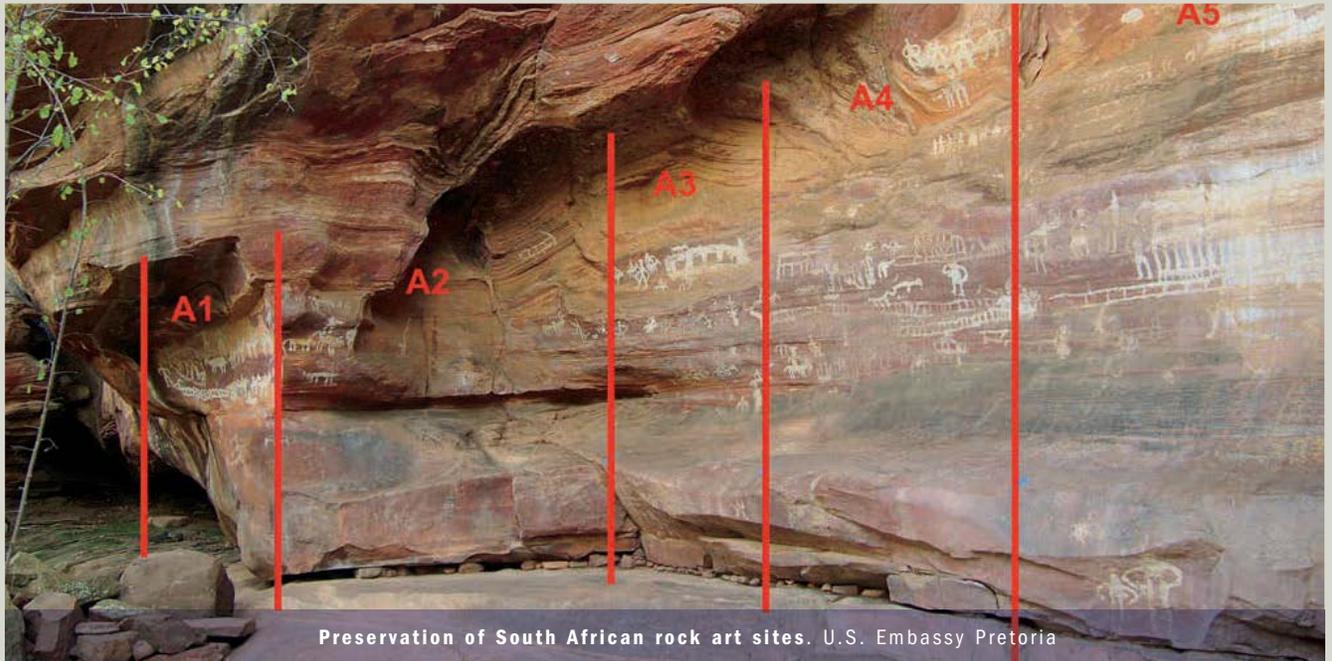
Africa

Mali: Documentation of endangered musical traditions and associated art forms in Mali. Rapid urbanization, cultural upheaval, and the passage of time have contributed to the erosion and abandonment of Malian musical and other cultural traditions, which in the past have helped support cohesion between Malian tribal groups across generations. This project involves the documentation of traditional wind, percussion, and string instruments, as well as the intangible heritage associated with them.



Documentation of endangered musical traditions in Mali. U.S. Embassy Bamako

Niger: Conservation of the traditional costume collection at the National Museum of Niger in Niamey. Consisting of clothing from Niger's main ethnic groups and products by local craftsmen, including the formal traditional attire worn by Niger's first president on the occasion of Niger's independence, the collection is vulnerable to damage and decay due to inadequate storage and display environments. The project includes the installation of suitable display cases, treatment of insect damage, and restoration of the museum roof.



Preservation of South African rock art sites. U.S. Embassy Pretoria



Africa

Nigeria: Conservation of the historic Yoruba pottery collection at the National Museum of Unity in the southwestern city of Ibadan. Consisting of bowls, plates, storage vessels, and other items from the late 19th and 20th centuries used by the Yoruba ethnic group for domestic, ceremonial, and other purposes, the collection represents the important role the Yoruba have played in Nigerian public and cultural life. This project includes improvements to the storage and display spaces and the documentation of items in the collection.



South Africa: Preservation of rock art sites at uKhahlamba-Drakensberg World Heritage site and other locations in South Africa. The historic rock art sites are threatened by human and wildlife encroachment and exposure to the elements. The project involves the cleaning of the stone surfaces and the removal of graffiti and salt deposits.



Conservation of the ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani in Tanzania. Cultural Heritage Center



Tanzania: Conservation of the ruins of the 9th-century Swahili stone town of Kilwa Kisiwani and nearby Songo Mnara, ancient port cities on the Indian Ocean. Spread across two islands and representing more than 800 years of East African history, the ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara are rapidly deteriorating due to coastal erosion and unregulated development. The project involves emergency stabilization and other measures to address the threats to this World Heritage site.



T o g o : Documentation of the traditional rituals and sacred music and dance of the Guin people of southeastern Togo. The traditions of the Guin people are fading quickly from collective memory with globalization and the passage of time. This project involves the audiovisual recording and annotation of Guin traditions for preservation and educational purposes.



Preservation of pre-Columbian tombs and statuary in Colombia. U.S. Embassy Bogotá



“MY GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH HONDURAS IN THE PRESERVATION OF ITS PRICELESS CULTURAL HERITAGE, WHILE STRENGTHENING EDUCATION AND THE IDENTITY OF ITS PEOPLE. THESE EFFORTS ARE PART OF THE RENEWAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED IN 2008 TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS TO THE U.S. OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBJECTS AND MATERIALS OF PRE-COLUMBIAN CULTURES OF HONDURAS.”

LISA KUBISKE, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO HONDURAS

The Americas

Bolivia: Preventive conservation of the archaeological collection at Tiwanaku World Heritage site. The center of the pre-Columbian Tiwanaku culture for more than 14 centuries and today one of the most important pre-Incan ruins in the Americas, Tiwanaku has yielded important artifacts numbering in the hundreds of thousands. This project involves major improvements to the artifacts’ storage environments, including the installation of security and climate control systems, proper storage shelves and drawers, and the formulation of collections maintenance, emergency, and rescue plans.

Colombia: Preservation and protection of the pre-Columbian tombs and statuary in the Tierradentro Archaeological Park, a World Heritage site in El Marne. The unique burials are highly susceptible to damage and destruction from looting, deforestation, seismic activity, and environmental factors. The project includes the development of a geo-referenced site inventory, non-intrusive geophysical surveys, the conservation of funerary structures, and the implementation of protective measures.

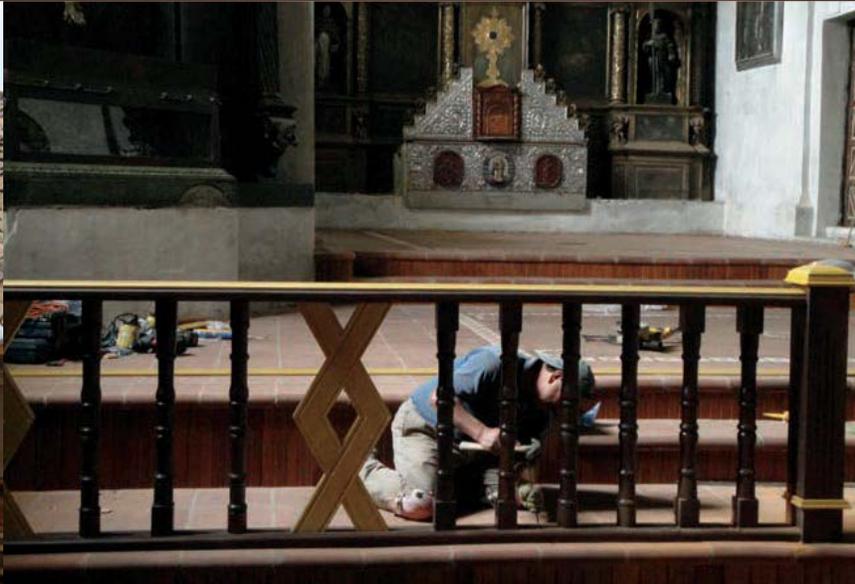
El Salvador: Restoration of the Youth Symphony Orchestra’s historic building in the Flor Blanca district of San Salvador. The early 20th-century neo-colonial-style building requires immediate restoration to reverse the destructive effects of water infiltration. The project involves the restoration of the tile roof and other conservation interventions.



Guatemala: Conservation of the 16th-century Santo Tomás Temple and Convent of the indigenous Chichicastenango people. An important meeting place for the Maya and other communities of the Guatemalan highlands, the site is in urgent need of restoration to reverse decades of deterioration caused by weathering, natural disasters, and neglect. The project involves critical repairs to the roof, walls, doors, stairs, and floor, in order to provide a safe and appropriate environment for stakeholders.



Conservation of the Santo Tomás Temple and Convent. U.S. Embassy Guatemala City



Haiti: Systematic documentation of important historic sites in Haiti. Despite Haiti's abundance of historic structures and sites dating back centuries, the country lacks an authoritative published inventory to help guide preservation and reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of the January 2010 earthquake. The project involves the evaluation of risk damage to historic structures and the compilation or revision of historic site records and the development of a national historic sites catalog for use by public officials and planners.



Honduras: Conservation of 18th-century paintings and objects in the collection of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Comayagua, the colonial and cultural capital of Honduras. The cathedral's historic altarpiece and pulpit are in danger of collapse and in urgent need of stabilization. The project involves the restoration of the painted wooden altarpiece, two wooden sculptures, and the pulpit, as well as workshops to raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding Honduras's cultural heritage.



The Americas

Mexico: Restoration of the 19th-century Garita de Metales in Ciudad Juárez. Located in the city's old Customs Office compound, the historic Garita de Metales building once served as an inspection checkpoint for munitions and all metal-based goods during the Mexican Revolution. The project includes critical repairs to the roof and walls and other interventions to ensure a safe and appropriate environment for cultural and educational activities at the site.



Preservation of the 16th-century Tembleque Aqueduct in Mexico. Cultural Heritage Center



Mexico: Preservation of the Tembleque (Zempoala) Aqueduct in central Mexico, the most important work of hydraulic engineering built in the 16th century in the Americas. Extending more than 43 kilometers, the aqueduct demonstrates sophisticated construction techniques, skills, and materials of indigenous pre-Hispanic origin dating back thousands of years. This project involves the completion of a conservation master plan and a hydraulic engineering feasibility study in preparation for the aqueduct's eventual restoration.



Nicaragua: Preservation and protection of the pre-Columbian statuary of Chontales in the Gregorio Aguilar Barea Archaeological Museum in Juigalpa. The legacy of the pre-Hispanic culture which flourished in the Chantal region of Nicaragua between the 9th and 16th centuries, the statuary are susceptible to theft and damage from exposure to the elements. The project includes critical safety and security improvements to the museum's storage facilities.



Conservation of objects from the royal tombs of Sipán in Peru. U.S. Embassy Lima

Paraguay: Restoration of the historic Central Railway Station in downtown Asunción. An icon of the city and now a museum, the mid-19th-century station is in need of treatment to offset the corrosive effects of water infiltration and the passage of time. The project involves the consolidation of the central platform, restoration of the roof, and waterproofing of the ceiling, walls, cornices, and moldings.



The Americas

Peru: Conservation of more than 900 archaeological artifacts from the Royal Tombs of Sipán in Lambayeque. One of the most important pre-Columbian sites in Peru, the Royal Tombs of Sipán have had a major impact on the field of pre-Columbian archaeology and the study of Mochica culture. The project includes the documentation and conservation of artifacts and improvements to the display environment within the Sipán site museum.



“WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE SUPPORTED THESE IMPORTANT PROJECTS,
WHICH WILL HELP TO ENSURE THAT LAOS’ RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE
IS PRESERVED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.”

KAREN STEWART, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO LAOS

East Asia & the Pacific

Cambodia: Documentation of three rare forms of traditional Khmer music. The traditional art forms—instrumental funerary, classical wedding, and melodic recitation (*smot*) chanting—have ancient Cambodian origins and occupy a central place in Khmer cultural life. This project involves the documentation and audiovisual recording of traditional chants throughout Cambodia and the placement of the recordings on permanent deposit at libraries and resource centers nationwide.

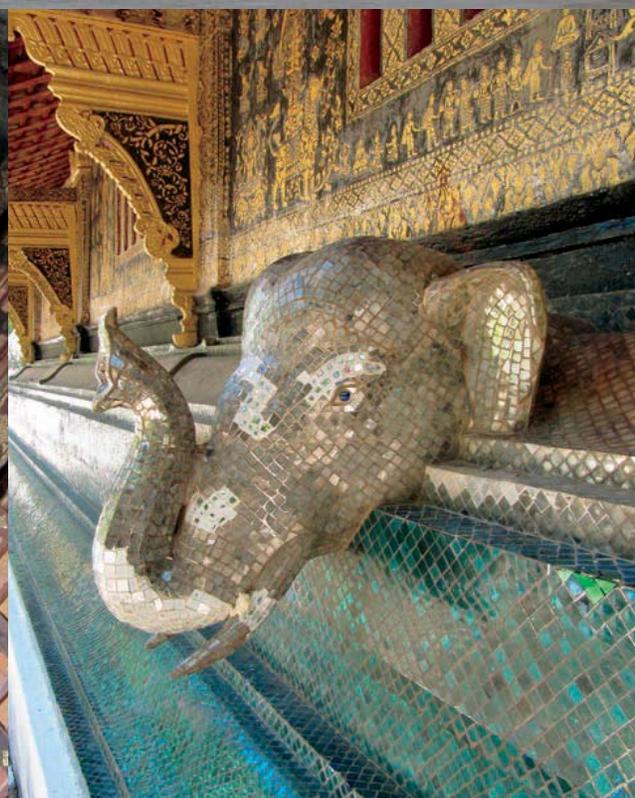
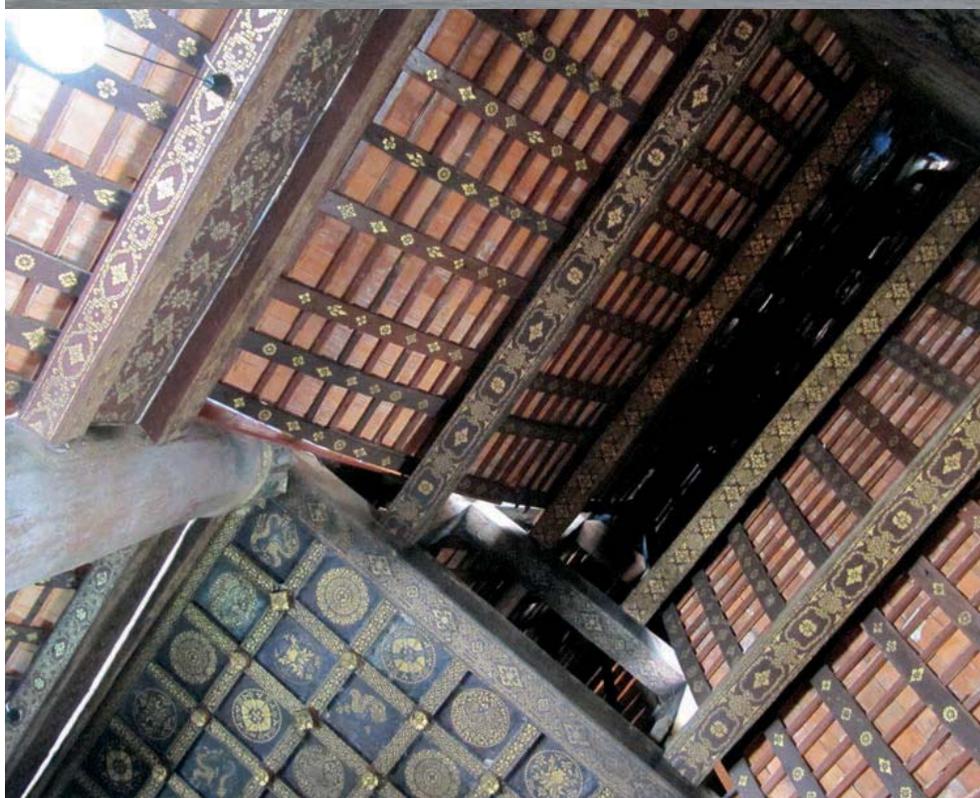
Cambodia: Continuation of work begun under a previous Ambassadors Fund grant to stabilize and conserve the 10th-century Temple of Phnom Bakheng, the most visited temple at Angkor Archaeological Park and one of the greatest cultural achievements of the Khmer Kingdom. The harsh tropical climate and heavy visitation have taken their toll on the ancient monument. This project involves emergency stabilization and conservation of the temple’s north and south facades.

China: Conservation of five Shang dynasty bronze wares dating from 12th century BC, located at the Jiangxi Provincial Museum in Nanchang. The five deteriorated bronzes—three cooking vessels, an axe head, and a tiger carrying a small bird on its back—are part of more than 1,300 bronzes, jades, and ceramic figures and vessels excavated from a single royal tomb in 1989. The project involves urgent conservation treatment to address powdery surface rusting and other forms of deterioration of the bronze wares.

Laos: Documentation of the cultural practices of the Katu minority ethnic group in the Annam Mountains of southern Laos. The Katu people are shifting cultivators, renowned hunters, and spiritual believers, but their revered cultural practices and traditions are fading into oblivion with the passing of the older generation. This project involves the documentation and audiovisual recording of the Katu people’s cultural traditions.



Restoration of Wat Xieng Thong in Laos. Cultural Heritage Center



Laos: Restoration of the 16th-century Wat Xieng Thong, one of Laos's best known temples, in the World Heritage city of Luang Prabang. The coronation temple of generations of Lao kings from the mid-16th century until the dissolution of the monarchy in the 1970s, Wat Xieng Thong requires immediate conservation to reverse the destructive effects of decades of neglect and increased visitation and use. The project involves critical repairs to the temple's wood and tile roof, wall murals, pillars, and other decorative elements.



Micronesia: Continuation of work begun under a previous Ambassadors Fund grant to preserve and disseminate cultural information contained in 20th-century reel-to-reel recordings of traditional dances, chants, and stories of Yap state. This state radio tape collection is highly susceptible to deterioration and desperately needs to be cleaned, indexed, and digitized for preservation and use.

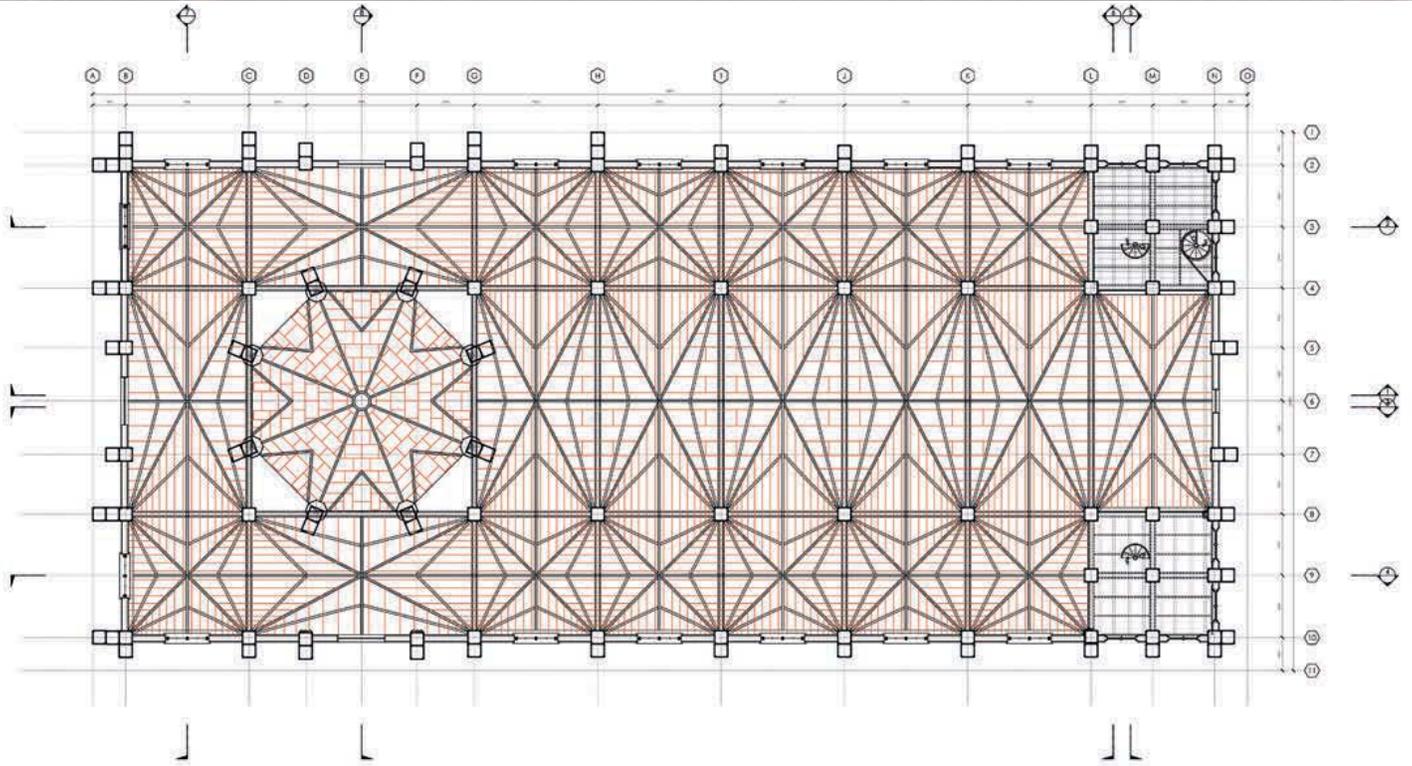


East Asia & the Pacific

Mongolia: Restoration of 24 paintings in the collection of the Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery. The paintings, which were damaged in a 2008 fire, include 19th- and 20th-century masterpieces of Mongolian art, from landscapes to Russian impressionist and socialist realist paintings. The project includes painting conservation workshops led by American specialists.



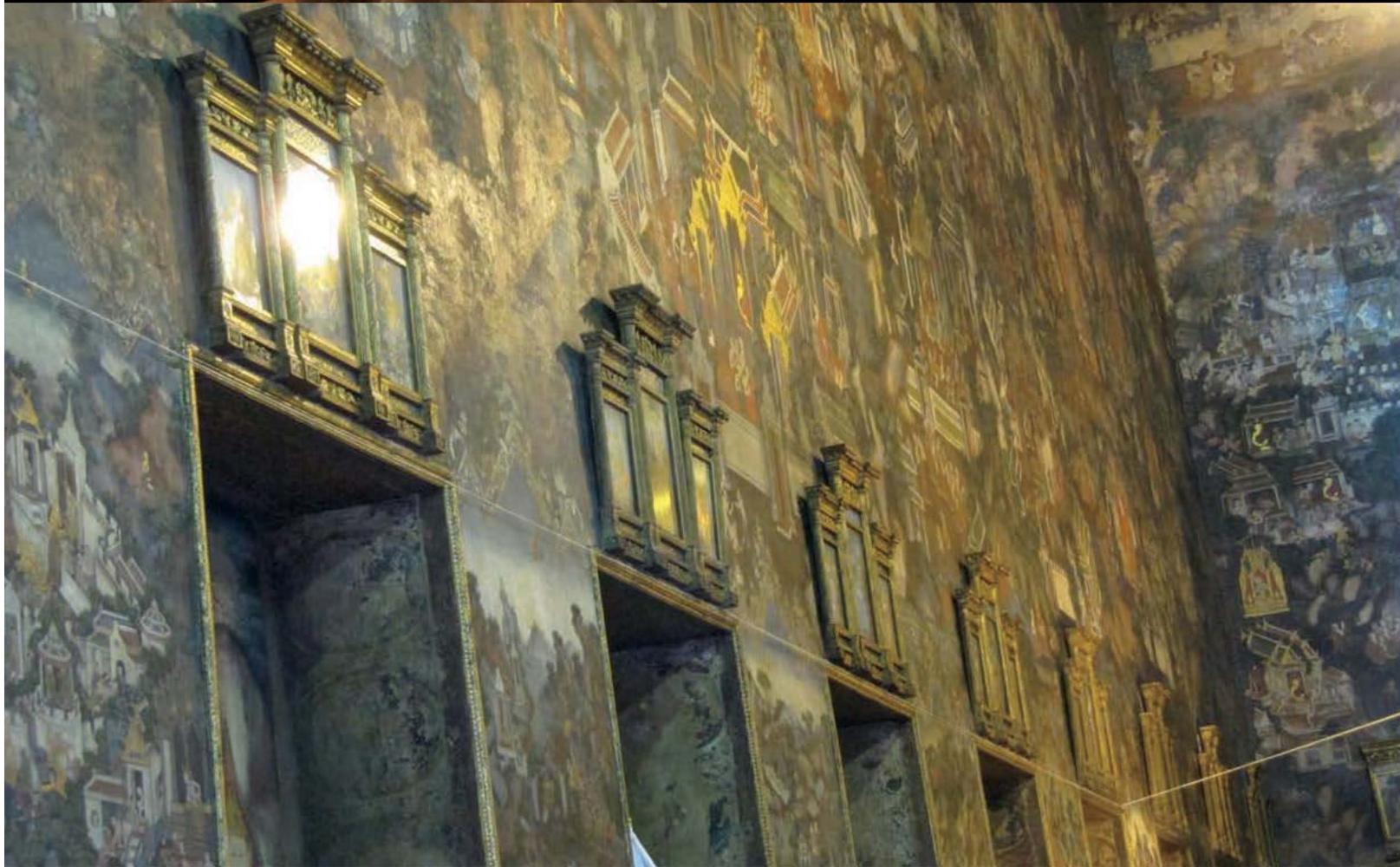
Conservation of San Sebastian Basilica in the Philippines. Ramon F. Velasquez and U.S. Embassy Manila



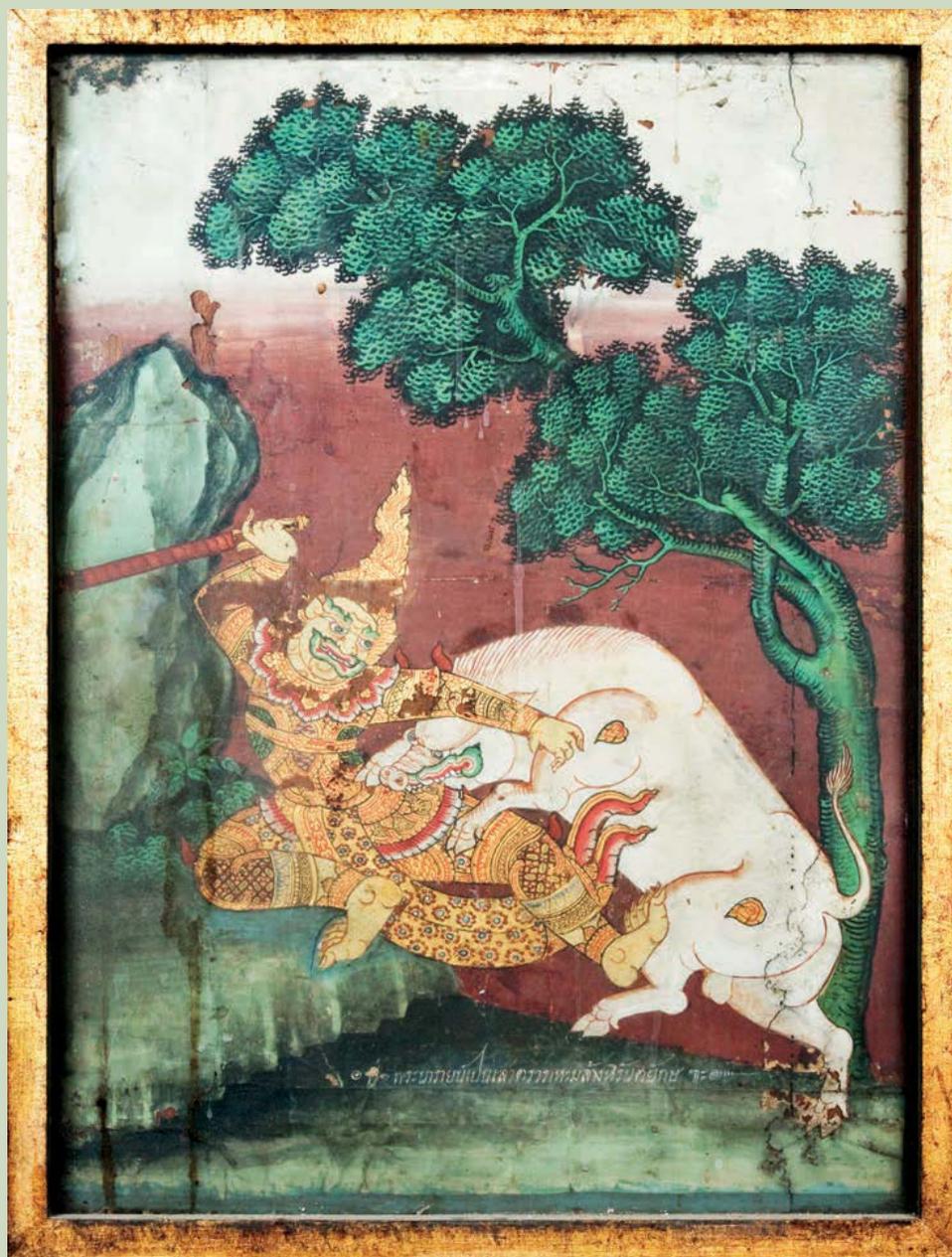
Mongolia: Conservation of rare and valuable wooden and metal objects and textiles in the collection of the National Museum of Mongolia, the nation's largest museum. The museum is responsible for the preservation and protection of more than 2,700 of Mongolia's most valuable cultural objects, which in their current storage environment are susceptible to degradation, breakage, theft, and loss. The project involves the creation of a secure, climate-controlled environment for the objects and an array of other conservation measures to improve storage conditions for objects deemed most at risk.



Documentation of Ramayana mural paintings at Wat Suthat in Thailand. Silpakorn University



Philippines: Conservation of the 19th-century San Sebastian Basilica in Manila, an engineering marvel and a National Historic Landmark of the Philippines. The only all-steel building in the Philippines, and one of a few all-steel churches in the world, San Sebastian is constructed of steel parts which were prefabricated in Belgium and then shipped to Manila, assembled, and painted to resemble traditional stone masonry. This project involves structural and building material assessments in preparation for the building's restoration.



Thailand: Documentation of 100-year-old Ramayana mural paintings in the ordination hall of Wat Suthat Thepwararam, an early 19th-century royal temple. The colored powder and gold leaf paintings are deteriorating due to high humidity levels within the temple and water and insect damage. The project involves the documentation of each painting and the creation of an image database in preparation for the eventual conservation of the paintings.



East Asia & the Pacific

Vietnam: Conservation of 29 red-lacquered and gold-trimmed wooden devotional objects in the Thai Binh Province Museum. The 500-year-old objects, which are priceless national treasures, require immediate treatment to reverse years of deterioration. This project includes the outfitting of a suitable storage environment for the conserved objects.



Conservation of red-lacquered objects in Thai Binh Province Museum in Vietnam. U.S. Embassy Hanoi





Preservation of an 11th-century masonry bridge in Armenia. U.S. Embassy Yerevan

“WE HOPE THESE PROJECTS ALL STAND AS A SYMBOL OF OUR
PROFOUND RESPECT FOR THE ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS
OF THE PAST, AS WELL AS OUR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO
PRESERVING THESE RICHES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.”

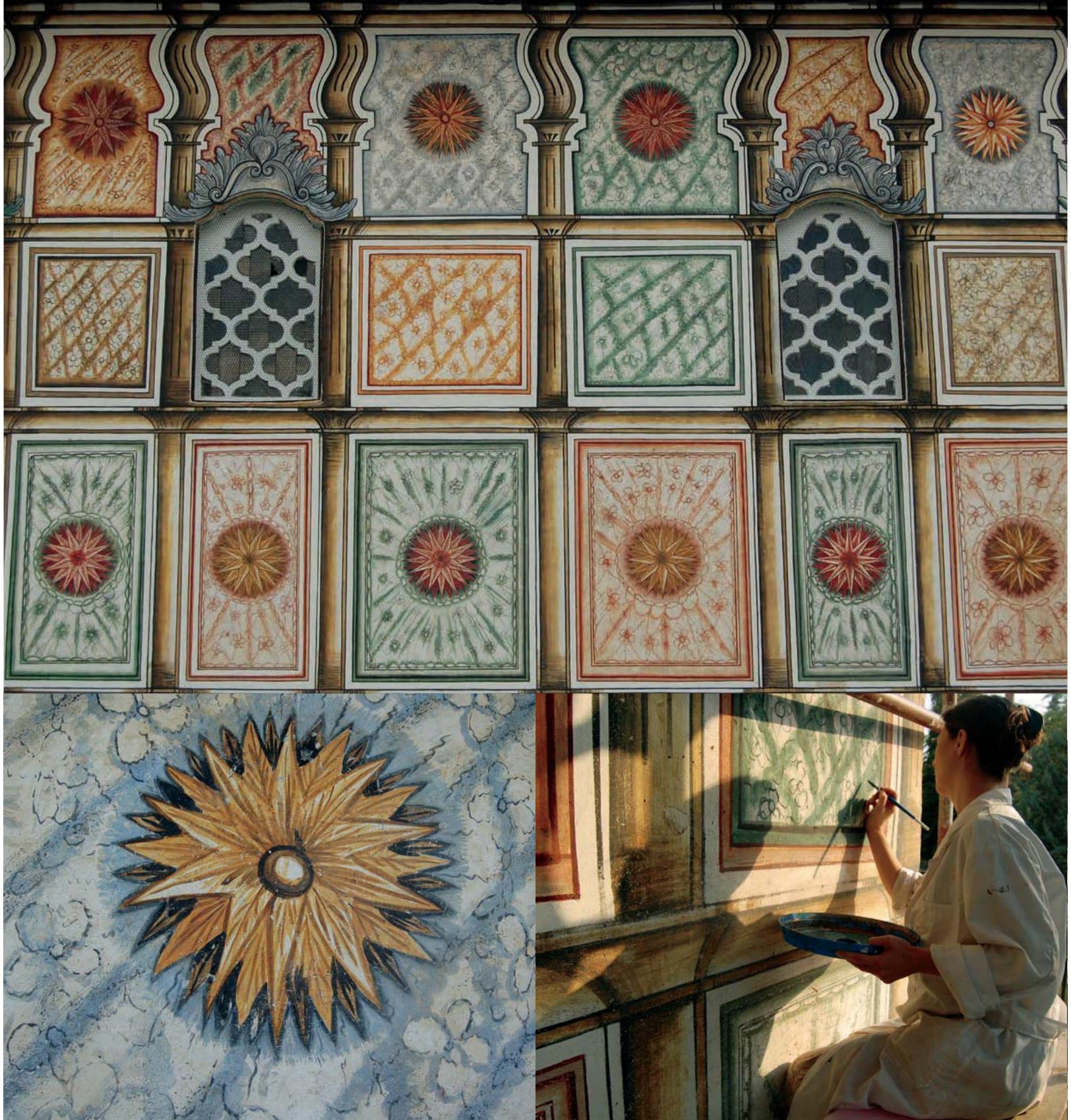
PAUL WOHLERS, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO MACEDONIA

Europe & Eurasia

Armenia: Preservation of an 11th-century masonry arch bridge over the River Azat in Garni Gorge, one of Armenia’s few surviving intact medieval bridges. The bridge’s semicircular arch, which spans a distance of 10 meters, abuts a large rock outcropping at one end but has been compromised by a severely deteriorated masonry abutment at the other. This project involves the restoration and reinforcement of the deteriorated abutment and other measures to ensure safe passage across the bridge.

Bosnia & Herzegovina: Preservation of the late 19th-century Serbian Orthodox church of St. Basil of Ostrog and the Catholic church of the Holy Trinity in Blagaj. Built during the Austro-Hungarian period (1878–1918), the two single-nave masonry churches are part of a unique urban and natural ensemble along the Buna River which goes back centuries. The project involves the stabilization of structural damage tied to the 1992–1995 war and the subsequent abandonment of the two sites.

Georgia: Conservation of the Khakhuli Triptych, one of Georgia’s renowned and most significant cultural objects. The triptych bears the imprint of generations of Georgian kings, who embellished it with gold, silver, precious gems, and more than 100 cloisonné enamels made between the 8th and 12th centuries in the workshops of Constantinople and Georgia. This project includes several preventive conservation measures to ensure the triptych’s long-term preservation and protection.



Macedonia: Conservation of medieval wall paintings and other architectural surfaces of the 15th-century Aladja Mosque in Tetovo. The Ottoman-period wall paintings, produced by local masters, show the influence of both Renaissance and Eastern Islamic artistic traditions. The project involves an array of conservation treatments to reverse decades of weather-related deterioration.





Europe & Eurasia

Russian Federation: Preservation of a traditional 19th-century log house in the outdoor collection of the Vologda State Historical and Architectural Museum. A common building type of the Vologda region, whose merchant class played a key role in the development of Russian Alaska and the first Russian settlement in California, the log house combines both the features and uses of houses and barns under a single gable roof. This project involves the restoration of the windows, doors, floors, and exterior walls.



Preservation of a traditional wooden house in the Russian North. U.S. Embassy Moscow



Serbia: Conservation of a Roman tumulus in the Magura Hill Imperial Palace at Felix Romuliana, a World Heritage site. Built in the early 4th century and devoted to Romula, the mother of the Roman emperor Galerius, the tumulus is in critical state of disrepair due to the collapse of the circular stone wall surrounding it. This project involves the restoration of the tumulus wall and other measures to prevent environmental damage to the structure.



Turkey: Emergency stabilization of the 16th-century Ets-Hayim Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in the city of İzmir. Built during the Byzantine period by the Romaniot Jewish community and in use until 1999, Ets-Hayim incorporates both medieval Byzantine and 17th- and 18th-century Italian design elements. The project involves the stabilization of the roof, walls, stairs, doors, windows, and floor to protect the structure from collapse.



Conservation of an ancient Roman tomb at Felix Romuliana in Serbia. U.S. Embassy Belgrade



Europe & Eurasia

Ukraine: Conservation of 12th-century mosaics from St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral in the collection of the National Preserve of St. Sophia in Kyiv. Removed from St. Michael's in advance of the Soviet-led demolition of the cathedral in the 1930s and reset in cement, the mosaics are cracking and disintegrating for lack of a suitable base. This project involves the separation of the mosaics from the cement and transfer to a suitable base material for preservation and eventual display.



Preservation of the ruins of House XVIII at Umm el-Jimal in Jordan. Bert de Vries and Cultural Heritage Center



“PETRA IS ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE AND MAGNIFICENT PLACES ON EARTH.

HIKING THROUGH THE ROSE-COLORED SIQ AND COMING UP ON THE ANCIENT ‘TREASURY’

FOR THE FIRST TIME IS A TRULY UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE. THE VAST PARK BEYOND

THE SIQ IS ALSO INSPIRING, AND ITS PRESERVATION IS A GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY.

IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR AND DELIGHT TO WORK WITH JORDANIAN OFFICIALS,

EXPERTS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY TO HELP PRESERVE THIS WORLD HERITAGE SITE.”

STUART JONES, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO JORDAN

Middle East & North Africa

Iraq: Expansion of work begun under a previous Ambassadors Fund grant to conserve the 2nd-millennium BC Ishtar Gate and several other structures at the ancient site of Babylon. This project involves the creation of university and Erbil Institute linkages and conservation and capacity building via a series of conservation seminars focusing on conservation activities and needs at Babylon.

Jordan: Preservation of the ancient ruins of House XVIII at Umm el-Jimal archaeological site. Continuously occupied from the 1st to the 9th century, Umm el-Jimal consists of an early Roman village and a Byzantine and early Islamic town and is well known for its wealth of inscriptions in Nabataean, Greek, Latin, and Arabic. This project involves the consolidation and restoration of the 6th-century House XVIII, the largest of the 150 Byzantine-period houses identified at the site.



Conservation of the Temple of the Winged Lions at Petra in Jordan. ACOR, TWL CRM Initiative, and Cultural Heritage Center



Jordan: Conservation of the 1st-century Temple of the Winged Lions, one of the most important structures at the World Heritage site of Petra. Prominently situated on a slope overlooking the capital of the ancient Nabataean Kingdom, and renowned for its large stone sphinxes which served as column capitals, the Temple of the Winged Lions is in a fragile state and poses serious dangers to tourists. This project involves major stabilization, consolidation, and site conservation activities to protect the ancient remains and render the area safe and secure for visitors.



Lebanon: Conservation of an ancient Roman bridge in the village of Jib Jennine in the Beqaa Valley. For centuries the main access route across the valley between Jib Jennine and Kafraiya to the west, the 13-arch masonry bridge fell into disrepair following the completion of a new road in the 20th century. This project includes the removal of debris from around the bridge, topographical survey and risk mapping, and masonry restoration.



Lebanon: Conservation of the main tower of the 12th-century citadel at the archaeological site of ancient Byblos, a World Heritage site. Considered by many to be the oldest continually inhabited city in the world, Byblos is renowned for its ancient Phoenician, Roman, and Crusader ruins. This project involves the consolidation of the exterior masonry and the restoration of the rooms, stairs, and terrace of the tower.



Middle East & North Africa

Yemen: Restoration of an 8th-century minaret in the southern port city of Aden. The only surviving remnant of a mosque which once stood on the site, the six-story polygonal minaret requires immediate treatment to correct structural failures near the base which have caused the tower to lean.



Conservation of murals at ancient Panjakent in Tajikistan, U.S. Embassy Dushanbe

“IN SOME WAYS, THE WORK THAT WE HAVE DONE TOGETHER THROUGH THE
AMBASSADORS FUND OVER THE PAST 11 YEARS ILLUSTRATES SUCH HOPE.
BY FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE AND WORKING TO PRESERVE THE TREASURES OF
OUR CIVILIZATIONS, WE OPPOSE THE WORK OF THOSE WHO SEEK TO
TEAR DOWN THE STRUCTURES OF MODERN CIVILIZATION.”

ROBERT PATTERSON, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO TURKMENISTAN

South & Central Asia

India: Conservation of the 16th-century Batashewala Mughal tomb complex in Delhi. Originally part of the royal Mughal necropolis which includes Humayun’s Tomb, the Batashewala complex and its monumental tombs rank among the great architectural achievements of the Mughal Empire under Akbar the Great. The project involves major masonry stabilization and conservation work to reverse decades of decay and restore the site’s historical and architectural integrity.

Maldives: Documentation of the traditional Buruni ballad of the Maldives. The Buruni Kamana Raivaru ballad has been an oral tradition of the Giraavaru people for more than a century but is fading into oblivion with the passage of time. The project involves the audio recording and transcription of the ballad in its entirety for preservation purposes.

Nepal: Restoration of the Malla-period (12th–18th century) Chaugara Sattal at Changu Narayan, one of the oldest Hindu temple complexes in the Kathmandu Valley. Part of a series of interconnected brick buildings surrounding the ancient courtyard and temple, the Chaugara Sattal once functioned simultaneously as a rest house for pilgrims and as a site for weddings and public events. This project involves the restoration of the one wing of the Chaugara Sattal for eventual reuse as a museum.



Sri Lanka: Documentation of the 17th-century Dutch Fort in Batticaloa, the administrative capital of the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan Civil War (1983–2009) impeded conservation efforts at the fort, which is threatened by sea erosion and encroaching development. The project includes the preparation of a master plan, measured architectural drawings of the major structures, and photographic survey of the site in preparation for its eventual restoration.



Conservation of the 16th-century Batashewala Mughal tomb complex in India. Aga Khan Foundation

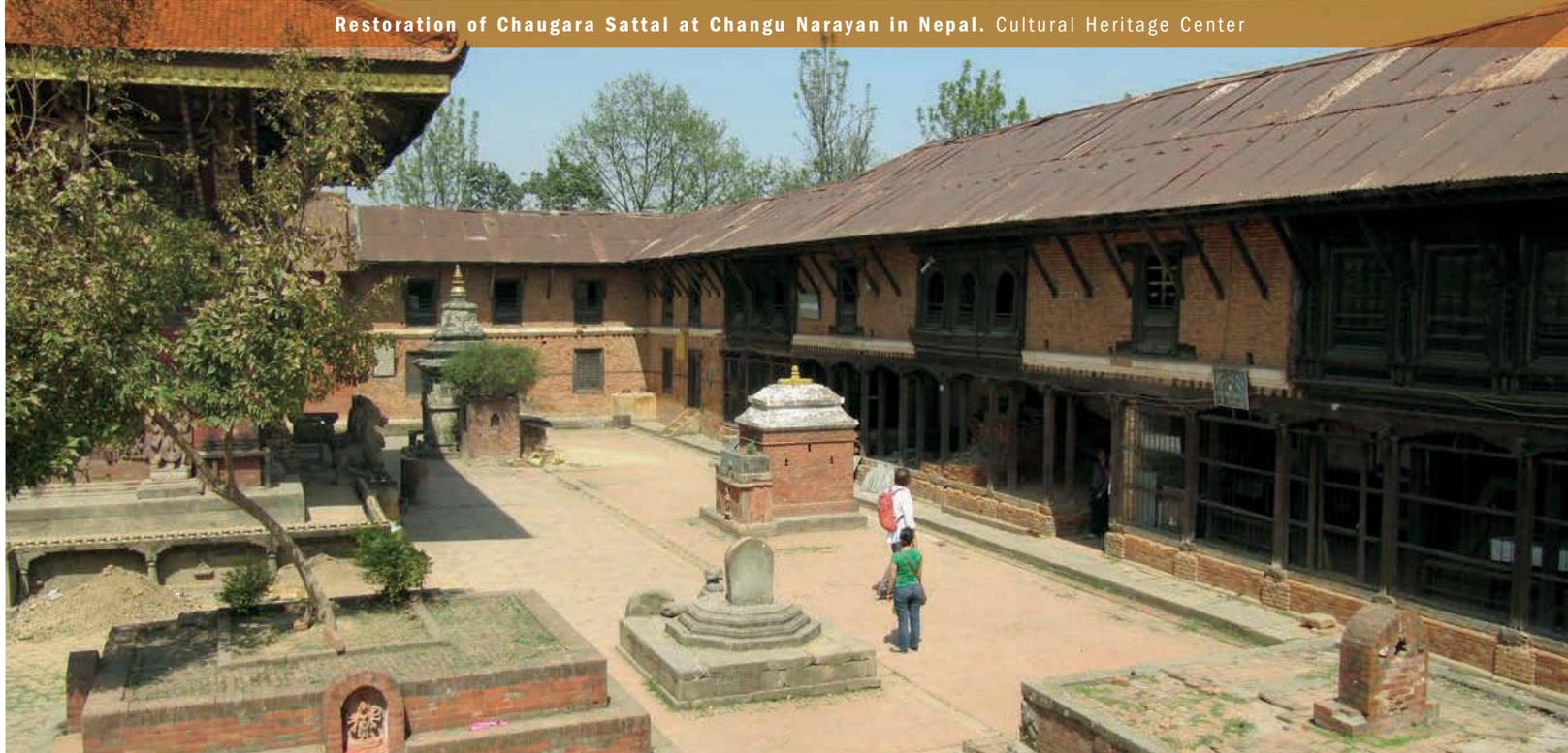


South & Central Asia

Sri Lanka: Documentation of historic structures within the 17th-century Galle Dutch Fort, a World Heritage site and South Asia's best-preserved fortified city. The old town and its 14 bastions are a unique combination of Western architectural form and Sri Lankan materials and building traditions. This project includes photographic and audiovisual documentation of the town's historic buildings, along with measured architectural drawings of some of the town's most important sites.



Restoration of Chaugara Sattal at Changu Narayan in Nepal. Cultural Heritage Center



Tajikistan: Conservation of murals with tulips and poppies from the 6th-century lower palace (Kainar) at ancient Panjakent. Uncovered in 1897 beneath the ancient citadel, the murals are susceptible to damage from water seepage from a heavily irrigated field in the vicinity. The project involves the consolidation and removal of the murals for conservation and display in the national museum.



South & Central Asia

Turkmenistan: Conservation of decorative panels from the 5th-century Zoroastrian Temple of Fire at Mele Heyran in southern Turkmenistan. Uncovered in 2001, the panels are among the earliest known artifacts of Zoroastrian cultural heritage in Central Asia. This project includes materials analysis, conservation, and the display of the panels at the Museum of Fine Arts in Ashgabat.



Documentation of earthen forts at ancient Merv in Turkmenistan. Cultural Heritage Center



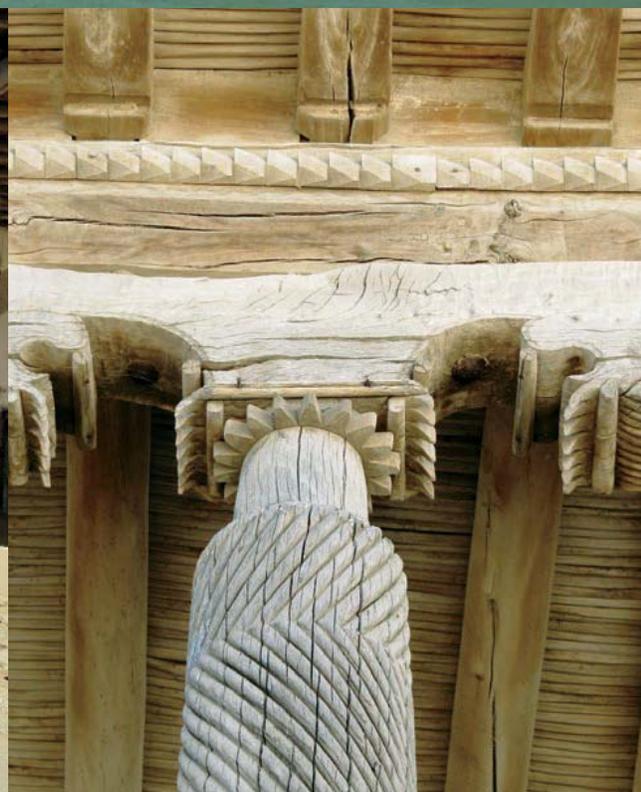
Turkmenistan: Documentation of the Greater and Lesser Kyz Kalas, two monumental mud-brick fortresses within the State Historical and Cultural Park of Ancient Merv, a World Heritage site. Renowned for its massive scale and tapering “corrugated” columnar walls rising from an earthen glacis, the former is the largest and best-preserved example of this unique building type to survive in the modern era. This project involves the completion of documentation of the two structures in preparation for their eventual conservation.



Turkmenistan: Restoration of a rare majolica tombstone in the 14th-century Mausoleum of Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra at Kunya-Urgench, a World Heritage site. The majolica tile work within the mausoleum is considered to be among the best of its kind in Central Asia. The project involves the restoration of the majolica-tile cenotaph and its adjacent commemorative pillar.



Preservation of the Ismamyt-Ata Monument in Turkmenistan. Cultural Heritage Center



Turkmenistan: Preservation of the Ismamyt-Ata Monument, the remnants of a medieval town and important sacred site for Turkmen, Uzbeks, and Kazakhs. This second phase of the project involves the conservation of the second domed corridor, the large kitchen, and two 15th- and 16th-century buildings at the site.



Uzbekistan: Preservation of 500 unique artifacts dating from the Stone Age to the late medieval period uncovered in the Bukharan oasis. The artifacts, some of the most important tools for archaeologists to date and interpret the historical technology, trade routes, and daily life of the area, are severely deteriorated due to rising groundwater and the salinization of the oasis. The project includes the conservation of ancient wall paintings and metal and ceramic artifacts.



Preservation of Serbian Orthodox and Catholic churches near Mostar in Bosnia & Herzegovina. U.S. Embassy Sarajevo



U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation
2011 Grant Recipients

Academy of Sciences, Tajikistan • Aga Khan Foundation, India • American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR), Jordan & USA • Association of Paraguayan U.S. University Graduates, Paraguay • Bukhara State Archaeological and History Museum, Uzbekistan • Calvin College, USA • Cambodian Living Arts, Cambodia & USA • Center for Cultural Heritage, Mongolia • Commission to Preserve National Monuments, Bosnia & Herzegovina • Conservation Foundation of Guatemala, Guatemala • Department of Antiquities, Malawi • Department of World Heritage Luang Prabang, Laos • Directorate General of Antiquities, Lebanon • Georgian National Museum, Georgia • Gregorio Aguilar Barea Archaeological Museum, Nicaragua • Hulhevi Media, Maldives • Institute for the Protection of National Heritage (ISPAN), Haiti • Institute of Anthropology and History, Colombia • Institute of Anthropology and History, Honduras • Institute of History, Turkmenistan • Institute of Town Planners, Sri Lanka • Instruments4Africa, USA • Izmir Sephardic Cultural Heritage Association, Turkey • Jiangxi Provincial Museum, China • Junior Chamber International, Comoros • Living Traditions Museum, Nepal • Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Djibouti • Municipal Government of Tiwanaku, Bolivia • Museum of Fine Arts, Turkmenistan • Museums of Malawi, Malawi • National Archaeology Museum, Angola • National Center for Cultural Preservation, Macedonia • National Commission for Museums and Monuments, Nigeria • National Council for Culture and the Arts (CONACULTA), Mexico • National Department for Protection, Research, and Restoration of Historical and Cultural Monuments, Turkmenistan • National Institute of Museums, Democratic Republic of the Congo • National Museum of Mongolia, Mongolia • National Museum of Niger, Niger • National Museum of Zaječar, Serbia • National Preserve of St. Sophia in Kyiv, Ukraine • New Image Museum Friends Foundation, Mexico • ProArte Association, El Salvador • San Sebastian Basilica Conservation and Development Foundation, Philippines • Service for the Protection of Historical Environment and Cultural Museum Reservations, Armenia • Silpakorn University, Thailand • Sipán Museum Friends Association, Peru • Society for History and Antiquities, Yemen • Thai Binh Province Museum, Vietnam • Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre (TAEC), Laos • University of Lomé, Togo • University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Sri Lanka • University of Witwatersrand, South Africa • Vologda State Historical and Architectural Museum, Russian Federation • World Monuments Fund, USA • Yap State Office of Archives and Records Management, Micronesia