

CIfA joins Climate Heritage Network

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) is pleased to have joined the Climate Heritage Network. The Network was launched in September 2019 and already over 70 organisations globally have signed up to its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Through engagement with the Network, it is intended that arts, culture and heritage actors will be able to mutually support each other to increase understanding of their role in climate adaptation and mitigation, as well as to inform climate policies.

The MoU commits signatories to strengthening their efforts to address climate change and support communities in achieving the decarbonization goals and other ambitions of the Paris Agreement, emphasising that

- i. arts, culture and heritage are both impacted by climate change and an asset for climate action; and
- ii. arts, culture and heritage (including sites and landscapes, institutions and collections as well as creativity, intangible heritage, traditional ways of knowing and practices) constitute an invaluable resource to help communities reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen adaptive capacity, even while the risks to those resources from climate impacts must also be addressed.

To help scope CIfA's commitment under the MoU, CIfA's Advisory Council has commissioned a working group to explore updating CIfA's environmental policy and provide good practice case studies from the profession to help encourage wider recognition of the need for change.

Peter Hinton, CIfA Chief Executive, said

'Our profession has a responsibility like any other to ensuring we are as sustainable as possible. We must, of course, examine the profession's carbon footprint and sharing good practice. But we can also use archaeological evidence to shine a unique spotlight on climate change by looking at how human populations have been impacted by climate change in the past. I look forward to learning from and sharing with colleagues across the globe through the Climate Heritage Network'.

Links

- MoU - <http://climateheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/Climate-Heritage-Network-MOU-Final.pdf>
- Climate Heritage Network press release - <http://climateheritage.org/15-new-members-announced-by-climate-heritage-network/>