



Cultural Property Advisory Committee

ESTABLISHED 1983

Report on Closed Meetings of the Cultural Property Advisory Committee

FY 2021: October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021

The Cultural Property Advisory Committee (“the Committee”) advises Department of State (“the Department”)¹ on appropriate U.S. actions to take in response to requests for U.S. import restrictions on categories of cultural property made under Article 9 of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (“the Convention”), as implemented by the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. §§ 2601-2613, “the Act”).

The Committee ensures that the Department receives advice from diverse public interests in cultural property. Committee members include representatives of museums; experts in archaeology, anthropology, ethnology, or related areas; experts in the international sale of cultural property; and representatives of the general public.

The Committee reviews and investigates requests of States Parties to the Convention to advise whether the requirements of the Act are met for entering into bilateral or multilateral agreements or unilaterally applying import restrictions on an emergency basis. The Committee also makes recommendations concerning extensions and suspensions of agreements and emergency restrictions. If the Committee recommends a new agreement, emergency action, or agreement extension, the Committee provides advice regarding the types of archaeological and/or ethnological material that should be included and the terms and conditions necessary to carry out the intent of the Convention. Further, the Committee carries out continuing review of the effectiveness of agreements and emergency actions in force.

Summary of closed meetings

In FY 2021, the Committee met twice at the call of the Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs. On October 27-29, 2020, the Committee undertook an investigation and review of a new request from the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The Committee also reviewed proposed extensions of the cultural property agreements with the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the Government of the Hellenic Republic. On March 17 and 19, 2021, the Committee undertook an investigation and review of the request from the Government of the Republic of Albania and reviewed the proposed

¹ Through delegations of authority, the Secretary of State, the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, and the Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs may exercise authority under the Act.

extension of the agreement with the Arab Republic of Egypt. In addition, the Committee carried out continuing review of all import restrictions in force.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee met virtually. Portions of the meeting were closed due to discussions of matters the inappropriate disclosure of which would compromise the U.S. government's negotiating objectives or bargaining positions on the negotiations of agreements. Each meeting included an open session to receive public comment. In addition, public comments were collected via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). Confidential comments were collected via email.

The minutes from the open and closed portions of each meeting are attached.

Membership

In FY 2021, the President appointed three new members to the Committee.

Rachel Fulton Brown was appointed on January 11, 2021, as an expert in archaeology, anthropology, ethnology, or related areas. Mark C. Hendricks was appointed on December 3, 2020, as an expert in the international sale of cultural property. David Tamasi was appointed December 9, 2020, as an expert in the international sale of cultural property. There is one vacancy on the Committee for a representative of the interests of museums.

Stefan Passantino, Chair

Represents/Expertise: General Public
Partner, Michael Best & Friedrich, LLP
Acworth, GA

Steven Bledsoe

Represents/Expertise: General Public
Partner Larson LLP
California

Rachel Fulton Brown

Represents/Expertise: Archaeology,
Anthropology, Ethnology, or related fields
Associate Professor of History
The University of Chicago
Chicago, IL

Joan Breton Connelly

Represents/Expertise: Archaeology,
Anthropology, Ethnology, or related fields
Professor of Classics, New York University
New York, NY

J. D. Deming

Represents/Expertise: General Public
Vice President - Wealth Management
UBS Financial Services Inc.
Nevada

Mark C. Hendricks

Represents/Expertise: International Sale of
Cultural Property
Principal, Taradin Services Limited
Midway, UT

Ricardo A. St. Hilaire

Represents/Expertise: Archaeology,
Anthropology, Ethnology, or related fields
Attorney (Cultural Heritage Law
Practitioner)
Deputy General Counsel, Knights of
Columbus
Executive Director, Red Arch Cultural
Heritage Law & Policy Research
Lebanon, NH

David Tamasi


Represents/Expertise: International Sale of
Cultural Property
Managing Director, Chartwell Strategy
Group
Far Hills, NJ

Karol Wight

Represents/Expertise: Museums
President and Executive Director of the
Corning Museum of Glass
Corning, NY

Anthony Wisniewski

Represents/Expertise: International Sale of
Cultural Property
Chairman of Livanta LLC
Annapolis Junction, MD



Stefan Passantino

Chair, Cultural Property Advisory Committee

Tabs:

Tab 1 – Minutes of the meeting on October 27-29, 2020

Tab 2 – Minutes of the meeting on March 17 and 19, 2021

CULTURAL PROPERTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF MEETING

October 27-29, 2020

The Cultural Property Advisory Committee (“the Committee”) met October 27-29, 2020, from 10 a.m. to approximately 5 p.m. EST via videoconference. The meeting was open to the public via videoconference from 2 p.m. to 3:28 p.m. EDT on October 27, 2020. The rest of the meeting was closed to the public pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B) and 19 U.S.C. 2605(h).

The Committee was established by the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act (CPIA). It provides recommendations to the Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs regarding foreign government requests for assistance pursuant to Article 9 of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (“the Convention”).

Committee members present

- Stefan C. Passantino, Chair (Acworth, Georgia)
- Steven Bledsoe (San Clemente, California)
- Joan Breton Connelly (New York, New York)
- J. D. Deming (Reno, Nevada)
- Ricardo A. St. Hilaire (Lebanon, New Hampshire)
- Karol Wight (Corning, New York)
- Anthony C. Wisniewski (Annapolis Junction, Maryland)

Staff present for all or part of the meeting

- Allison Davis, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and Executive Director of the Committee, Cultural Heritage Center (CHC), Department of State (DOS)
- Brian Keane, Alternate DFO and Deputy Director, CHC, DOS
- Alexei Kral, Director, CHC, DOS
- Chelsea Freeland, Senior Analyst Cultural Property (Tatitlek Technologies), CHC, DOS
- Anne Compton, Foreign Affairs Research Analyst, CHC, DOS
- Catherine Foster, Foreign Affairs Research Analyst, CHC, DOS
- Nurit Einik, Outreach Officer, CHC, DOS
- Paul Fischer, Senior Program Officer (Tatitlek Technologies), CHC, DOS
- Sarah Potter, Intern, CHC, DOS
- James Gresser, Attorney-Advisor, Office of the Legal Advisor, DOS
- Madison Conoley, Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Abuja
- Bella Ndubuisi, Cultural Affairs Specialist, U.S. Embassy Abuja
- Ibrahim Aliyu, Cultural Affairs Assistant, US Consulate Lagos
- Kathryn Holmgaard, Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy La Paz
- Fabiola Ibarnegaray, Cultural Affairs Specialist, U.S. Embassy La Paz

- Eleni Alexaki, Cultural Affairs Specialist, U.S. Embassy Athens
- Olivia Sierra, Program Manager, International Technical Assistance Program, Department of the Interior (DOI)
- David Christensen, Archaeologist, DOI
- Hilary Zarin, Anthropologist, DOI

Members of the public present during the open session

- Tess Davis, Antiquities Coalition
- Brian Daniels, Archaeological Institute of America
- Scott MacEachern, Society for American Archaeology
- Kathleen Bickford Berzock, Northwestern University
- Leslye Obiora, University of Arizona
- Kate Fitz Gibbon, Committee for Cultural Policy
- Donna Yates, Maastricht University
- Maria Bruno, Society for American Archaeology and Dickinson College
- Kris Lane, Tulane University
- Daniel Sedwick, International Association of Professional Numismatists
- Peter Tompa, Global Heritage Alliance
- Christos Tsirogiannis, University of Aarhus (Denmark)
- Kim Shelton, University of California, Berkeley
- Nathan Elkins, Baylor University
- Ute Wartenberg Kagan, Columbia University and American Numismatic Society
- Morag Kersel, DePaul University
- Dimitri Nakassis, University of Colorado, Boulder
- Rocco Debitetto, Association of Art Museum Directors and Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP
- Douglas Mudd, American Numismatic Association
- Randolph J. Myers, Ancient Coin Collectors Guild

Representatives of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria present for part of the meeting

- Professor Abba Isa Tijani, Director General, National Commission for Monuments and Museums (NCMM)
- Abdul Gimba, Director Museum, NCMM
- Jafaru Dauda, Director Research and Publication, NCMM
- Babatunde Adebisi, Legal Adviser, NCMM
- Emmanuel Dandaura, Professor, University of Jos

Representatives of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia present for part of the meeting

- Daniela García, Director of Cultural Heritage, Viceministry of Cultures
- Lupe Meneses, Head of Cataloging and Illicit Trafficking, Viceministry of Cultures

Representatives of the Government of the Hellenic Republic present for part of the meeting

- Georgios Didaskalou, Secretary General of Culture

- Polyxeni Adam-Veleni, General Director of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage
- Vassiliki Papageorgiou, Director, Directorate of Documentation and Protection of Cultural Goods
- Elena Kountouri, Director, Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities
- Constantina Benissi, Head of Supervision of Greek & Foreign Scientific Institutions, Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities
- Julia Papageorgiou, Director, Directorate of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities
- Anastasia Lazaridou, Director, Directorate of Archaeological Museums, Exhibitions and Educational Programs
- Eugenia Gerousi, Director, Directorate of Management of the National Archive of Monuments
- Maria Mertzani, Director, Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments
- Aikaterini Dellaporta, Director of Byzantine and Christian Museum at Athens
- Nikolaos Stampolidis, Professor of Classical Archaeology in the University of Crete, Director of the Museum of Cycladic Art at Athens, Member of the Central Archaeological Council
- Sophia Kremydi-Sisilianou, Numismatist in National Hellenic Research Foundation, Member of the Central Archaeological Council
- Elena Vlachogianni, Head of the Department of Documentation and Protection of Cultural Goods
- Elena Korka, Emeritus General Director of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, Chairwoman of the Advisory Board of the Paul and Alexandra Canellopoulos Museum
- Konstantina Kyriakou, Legal Advisor in the Ministry of Culture and Sports
- Connie Mourtopalas, Cultural Attaché, Embassy of Greece, Washington, D.C.

Others present for part of the meeting

- Irene Bruno, Diplomatic Interpreter (Spanish)
- Ashley Nunez-Sheriff, Diplomatic Interpreter (Spanish)
- Constantine Gikas, Diplomatic Interpreter (Greek)
- Maria Spanos, Diplomatic Interpreter (Greek)

Public Comments (open session)

The public provided comments to the Committee on the request of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for import restrictions on archaeological and ethnological material from Nigeria and the proposed extensions of the *Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Archaeological Material from the Pre-Columbian Cultures and Certain Ethnological Material from the Colonial and Republican Periods of Bolivia* (“the Bolivia MOU”) and the *Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Hellenic Republic Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Categories of Archaeological and Byzantine Ecclesiastical Ethnological Material through the 15th Century A.D. of the Hellenic Republic* (“the Greece MOU”).

Nigeria Request (closed session)

The Committee undertook investigation and review of the request from the Federal Republic of Nigeria pursuant to the CPIA. Deliberations included a question and answer session with experts from Nigeria. The Committee decided on a recommendation regarding the request from the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Bolivia Extension (closed session)

The Committee undertook investigation and review of the proposal to extend the Bolivia MOU pursuant to the CPIA. Deliberation included a question and answer session with experts from the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The Committee decided on a recommendation regarding the proposed extension of the Bolivia MOU.

Greece Extension (closed session)

The Committee undertook investigation and review of the proposal to extend the Greece MOU pursuant to the CPIA. Deliberation included a question and answer session with experts from Greece. The Committee decided on a recommendation regarding the proposed extension of the Greece MOU.

Continuing Review (closed session)

Although continuing review was included in the agenda, the discussion did not take place due to insufficient time.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. on October 29, 2020.

Certification

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.



Stefan Passantino
Chair
Cultural Property Advisory Committee

2/8/21

Date

CULTURAL PROPERTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF MEETING

March 17 & 19, 2021

The Cultural Property Advisory Committee (“the Committee”) met March 17 and 19, from 10 a.m. to approximately 5 p.m. EST via videoconference. The meeting was open to the public via videoconference from 2 p.m. to 3:14 p.m. EDT on March 17, 2021. The rest of the meeting was closed to the public pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B) and 19 U.S.C. 2605(h).

The Committee was established by the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act (CPIA). It provides recommendations to the Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs regarding foreign government requests for assistance pursuant to Article 9 of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (“the Convention”).

Committee members present

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- Karol Wight (Corning, New York)
- Anthony C. Wisniewski (Annapolis Junction, Maryland)

Staff present for all or part of the meeting

- Andrew Cohen, Acting Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and Executive Director of the Committee, Cultural Heritage Center (CHC), Department of State (DOS)
- Chelsea Freeland, Foreign Affairs Research Analyst, CHC, DOS
- Anne Compton, Foreign Affairs Research Analyst, CHC, DOS
- Catherine Foster, Foreign Affairs Research Analyst, CHC, DOS
- Michelle Prior, Program Officer (The Maasai Group), CHC, DOS
- Hannah Johnson, Intern, CHC, DOS
- James Gresser, Attorney-Advisor, Office of the Legal Advisor, DOS
- Olivia Sierra, Program Manager, International Technical Assistance Program, Department of the Interior (DOI)
- David Christensen, Archaeologist, DOI
- Rachel Leslie, Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Cairo
- Jennifer Rasamimanana, Minister Counselor for Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy Cairo
- Dina Abdelhafez, Cultural Affairs Assistant, U.S. Embassy Cairo

- Lucija Straley, Assistant Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Tirana
- Mirela Cupi, Educational and Cultural Assistant, U.S. Embassy Tirana

Members of the public present during the open session

- John K. Papadopoulos, University of California, Los Angeles
- Michael L. Galaty, University of Michigan
- Susan Allen, University of Cincinnati
- James Goold, RPM Nautical Foundation
- Randolph Myers, Ancient Coin Collectors Guild
- Peter Tompa, International Association of Professional Numismatists and Professional Numismatists Guild
- Steve Benner, Ancient Numismatic Society of Washington, D.C. (ANSWDC)
- Kate Fitz Gibbon, Committee for Cultural Policy, Inc.
- Brian Daniels, Archaeological Institute of America
- Mireille Lee, Archaeological Institute of America
- Marcel Marée, British Museum
- Zsuzsanna Végh, British Museum
- Rocco I. Debitetto, Association of Art Museum Directors
- Katie Paul, ATHAR Project

Representatives of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt present for part of the meeting

- Abd El Mohsen Shafey, Head of International and Public Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Shaaban Abdel-Gawad, Head of Repatriation Department, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities
- Ahmed Maher, Head of the Court of Appeals, Legal Advisor to the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities
- Gehad El Rawy, Director of the International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

Representatives of the Government of the Republic of Albania present for part of the meeting

- Elva Margariti, Minister of Culture
- Floreta Faber, Albanian Ambassador to the United States of America
- Armand Shandro, Counselor, Embassy of the Republic of Albania
- Ergis Sefa, Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of Culture
- Anila Muka, Director of EU Integration, Ministry of Culture
- Arta Dollani, Director General, National Institute of Cultural Monuments
- Silva Breshani, Director General, National Institute for Cultural Heritage Inventory
- Rudina Zoto, Director of Archaeology Services, National Institute of Cultural Monuments
- Aurora Kamberi, Specialist, Ministry of Culture
- Artur Beu, Chief Commissioner, Department of Border and Migration, Ministry of Interior

- Lindita Nushi, Specialist, Department of Illegal Trafficking, State Police
- Ilir Melo, Director of Americas, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs
- Helidon Bele, Director of Anti Trafficking Department, General Customs Directorate

Others present for part of the meeting

- Reem Nuseibeh, Diplomatic Interpreter (Arabic)
- Ihab Ali, Diplomatic Interpreter (Arabic)

Public Comments (open session)

The public provided comments to the Committee on the request of the Government of the Republic of Albania for import restrictions on archaeological and ethnological material from Albania and the proposed extension of the *Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Categories of Archaeological Material of the Arab Republic of Egypt* (“the Egypt MOU”).

Albania Request (closed session)

The Committee undertook investigation and review of the request from the Government of the Republic of Albania pursuant to the CPIA. Deliberations included a question-and-answer session with experts from Albania. The Committee decided on a recommendation regarding the request from the Government of the Republic of Albania.

Egypt Extension (closed session)

The Committee undertook investigation and review of the proposal to extend the Egypt MOU pursuant to the CPIA. Deliberation included a question-and-answer session with experts from the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The Committee decided on a recommendation regarding the proposed extension of the Egypt MOU.

Continuing Review (closed session)

The Committee undertook continuing review of the effectiveness of cultural property agreements and emergency actions currently in force.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. on March 19, 2021.

Certification

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.



Stefan Passantino

Chair

Cultural Property Advisory Committee

1/22/22

Date