

# CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDAT AU POSTE DE VICE PRÉSIDENT

## **Grellan rourke** Ireland - Irlande



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I am a qualified conservation architect with a post-graduate qualification in urban and building conservation from Belgium. I have also studied stone conservation in Venice. I have worked for the Heritage Service of Ireland for 39 years. I have spent many decades working in the voluntary sector at home and internationally for the preservation of cultural heritage. I do post-graduate lecturing in building and landscape conservation and World Heritage management. I am also involved in research projects relating to historic building materials.

### **PLATFORM / PLATE-FORME / PLATAFORMA**

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I would like to announce my candidature for election to the position of Vice President of ICOMOS. I have now had just six years' experience as a member of the Board, the last three as Vice-President with responsibility for Europe, governance and partnerships. These last six years I have been part of the process of reform within ICOMOS and watched the organisation change for the better.

ICOMOS is first and foremost a multi-disciplinary professional body, unique in its reach and worldwide infrastructure. It functions at different levels - global, regional, national and even local but it must communicate and engage more effectively with civil society and States Parties. This remarkable voluntary organisation is in a unique position to be an advocate for cultural heritage particularly at this time of serious global issues and it is the responsibility of the Board to nurture its potential.

There are many challenges facing ICOMOS - the need to attract young professions, the requirement to have fully functional National Committees, the need to create new ones, the need to develop a different financial model for the operation of the organisation, the need to have a full-time DG. I have set out below comment under relevant headings.

#### **Membership**

ICOMOS is a strong membership-based organisation. It should be endeavouring to increase that membership through its National Committees with a particular focus on those areas of the world, such as Africa, where there is a considerable deficit. Progress needs to be made here during the next Triennium.

#### **Young Professionals**

ICOMOS must attract a younger membership throughout the world to ensure the long-term viability of the organisation. There needs to be a standardised approach throughout the organisation; the current situation is not acceptable where young professionals are at times turned away. The next Board must give this issue priority and charge a Committee of Board members with responsibility for engaging YPs.

### **National Committees & Mentoring**

The National Committees must be strengthened to make sure they are effective in carrying out their mandate. There should be greater engagement with civil society in their respective countries. National Committees must adhere to the Dubrovnik-Valletta Principles to ensure good governance. There is a lot of work to be done here to ensure compliance. Many established and effective National Committees should devise a mentoring framework to help new Committees or those, which need support.

National Committees must develop good relationships within their own countries and offer leadership in creating awareness of the value of cultural heritage. It is essential that they engage with Government and be in a position to offer objective advice and expertise. This can be a very effective way to ensure change from within and increase the visibility and effectiveness of ICOMOS.

### **Regional Networks**

It is important for ICOMOS to develop effective regional networks to be able to speak with one voice on regional and sub-regional issues. Guiding the Europe Group has been my responsibility during this Triennium. The Europe Group is the most active within ICOMOS with two meetings a year and we currently want to develop a flagship initiative in the framework of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018. One major initiative, in partnership with the EU, will involve the development of quality standards for the next tranche of EU-funded ERDF projects that have a potential impact on cultural heritage. As Vice-President (Europe) I would be offering assistance in this important work.

### **Scientific Committees**

The work of the International Scientific Committees must be fostered and disseminated and the capacity must be enhanced by encouraging participation from the national base. National Committees must be encouraged to set up relevant National Scientific Committees (NSCs) to mirror what is happening internationally. ICOMOS Ireland has adopted this strategy to great effect and it has helped build the organisation and attract new members. While this can be a slow process it can only be achieved once a National Committee is functioning in a well-structured way.

### **Secretariat & Governance**

For ICOMOS to work effectively it needs a supporting Secretariat led by a visionary Director-General complementing the work of the Board. Much has been achieved during the last Triennium but the role of the DG needs to expand and become full-time. The current part-time DG has been very effective in motivating staff and in consolidating the Secretariat. It is now a much leaner organisation and we must build on this. The roles of the Board and DG are now clearly defined by an agreed governance document. I played a pivotal role on the Board in developing this document and during the last Triennium I had particular responsibility on the Board for governance. Good governance is reflected in an effective and transparent organisation.

The development of an Annual Report by the Secretariat has been a very worthwhile initiative and others will follow

### **Finance**

The next Board must, as a matter of priority, set up a Working Group to address the current serious financial situation and lay the foundation for a fundamentally new approach; a different model is needed. This was not really addressed by the current Board despite some discussion. This process will be challenging to address and to find consensus but if nothing is done the organisation will cease to be able to function in an effective way and its international standing may be undermined.

The procedures for financial planning and reporting and making provision for the future have been improved under the new DG who has brought expertise to the organisation in this area. This will develop further in the next Triennium. Consideration will have to be given to provide some funding assistance to attend Board/Bureau meetings. It is no longer acceptable that such positions are only available to those who can either afford it personally or attend with financial assistance from their respective NCs. This approach will have many benefits to the organisation and attract more involvement over a broader geographic spread.

### **Partnerships**

It is essential for ICOMOS to build relevant partnerships with other organisations to foster dialogue, cooperation and to enhance the effectiveness of preserving our cultural heritage. Much work has been done but it is important for this strategy to continue to expand and for mutually beneficial Memoranda of Understanding to be signed with effective annual Work Plans. I have had a joint responsibility for this while on the Bureau these last 3 years. I fully support the Connecting Practice initiative with IUCN and Our Common Dignity initiative.

### **UNESCO & World Heritage**

ICOMOS must ensure the continuity of the high standard of its work in relation to its role as an Advisory Body to UNESCO on World Heritage. During the current Triennium there has been root and branch reorganisation of the previous WH Unit, creating two divisions, and considerable advances have been made in the processes, making them more engaging and transparent. The working relationship with UNESCO and the WH Committee still needs work. ICOMOS must also develop training possibilities for those in the future who hope to undertake missions and encourage more members to work for World Heritage in the areas of evaluation and monitoring.

In addition to the above there is other work which must continue:

- rationalisation work on the charters, guidelines, etc.
- the continued development of Risk Preparedness Programmes to help respond to increasing environmental crises throughout the world.
- the involvement with the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- the continuation of the Heritage @ Risk initiative.
- the revitalisation of Blue Shield partnership.
- the ICOMOS Academy needs to be developed and given more visibility within the organisation; the membership has little knowledge of the role and work of the academy.

If elected this will be my third and last mandate on the Board. I think much has been achieved in the last Triennium and, while the Board needs new blood, it must have some members to provide continuity while being mindful of the need for continued change. I will work to ensure that the next Board is effective in representing the decisions of the membership as set out at the General Assembly.

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

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### **Relevant Education & Experience Background**

Bachelor of Architecture [1977]. University College Dublin.

Diploma in Conservation [1978]. Collège d'Europe, Brugge [now the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

Scholarship to Università di Venezia, Venice to study urban context of historic bridges [1980]. Subsequent exhibition of material at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Dublin.

UNESCO Course in the Preservation and Treatment of Stone, Venice [1981].

39 years experience working in the field of conservation, consolidation, preservation and restoration of historic buildings and structures for the State. Senior Conservation Architect.

### **Positions held in National & International Organisations**

Founder-Director, the Institute for the Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works in Ireland, now the Institute for Conservator-Restorers in Ireland [ICRI]. Hon. Treasurer [1991-2006], Chairman [2006-2015], Director/Company Secretary [2015-2017], Vice-Chair [2017]

ICOMOS Ireland. Member of Board [1993-to date], Hon. Treasurer [1993-2005], President [2005-2011], Director/Company Secretary [2011-2015, Director [2015-to date]

Founder-Director, The Building Limes Forum Ireland [BLFI]. Member of Board [2005-to date] & Company Secretary [2009-to date]

International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, Rome [ICCROM]. Member of Council [2005-2013], Vice-Chairman [2007-2009], Chairman [2009 -2013]

ICOMOS International. Ordinary Member of the Board with responsibility for governance [2011-2014], Director/Vice-President (Europe) [2014-to date]

ICOMOS World Heritage Panel – Assessment of World Heritage Nominations for UNESCO, Paris. Working member [2013-to date]

Jerome Connor Trust – Board member [2014 - to date]

### **Recent Publications**

Rourke, G.D., 'The Development of the Drystone Oratory' and 'The Conservation of Illaunloughan'. *Illlaunloughan Island: an early medieval monastery in Co. Kerry*, Marshall, J.W. and Walsh, C. Dublin: Wordwell, 2005: 103-124, 211-224.

Rourke, Grellan D., 'Listowel Castle, Listowel, County Kerry', *From Ringforts to Fortified House: studies on castles and other monuments in honour of David Sweetman*, edited by Con Manning. Dublin: Wordwell, 2007: 269-292.

Rourke, Grellan D., 'The Iveragh Peninsula – a cultural atlas of the Ring of Kerry', *Skellig Michael; monastic retreat in the Atlantic*, edited by J. Crowley & J. Sheehan. Cork: Cork University Press, 2009.

McAfee, Pat, *Lime Works*, edited by, M. Hanna, J. Howley, D. McPolin, G.D. Rourke & G. Shaffrey. Dublin: Associated Editions, 2009.

Rourke, Grellan D., A Study of Historic Lime Mortars at Ardfert Cathedral, *Building Limes in Conservation*, ed. Ian Brocklebank. Dorset: Donhead, 2012: 295-320.

Rourke, Grellan D., *Historic and Scientific Study of St. Michael's Church in the Monastery on Skellig Michael*. In progress for publication in 2018.

## Research

Ongoing research into the composition and re-creation of historic mortars.

Skellig Michael major publication of 38 years' work (in progress).

Historic brickwork at Hellfire Club, Askeaton Castle of the early 18<sup>th</sup>. Century.

## Recent Major Conservation/Restoration Work

Conservation and restoration at the medieval complex at Newcastle West, Co. Limerick. Completed 2009.

Conservation, consolidation and some restoration, medieval castle complex at Adare, Co. Limerick. Completed 2009.

The consolidation, conservation and preservation of the early medieval monastic settlement on Skellig Michael. A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996. Works begun in 1978 and ongoing.

Conservation and consolidation at the medieval complex at Askeaton Castle, Co. Limerick. Works begun 2009 and ongoing.

Conservation and structural work to the medieval abbey at Ballinskelligs, Co. Kerry. Works begun in 2008 and due for completion in 2018.

Conservation and structural work to the medieval Ballymalis Castle in Co. Kerry. Works begun in 2015 and ongoing. This is a major project.

## Teaching & Lecturing

Masters in Urban and Building Conservation (MUBC), School of Architecture, University College Dublin (UCD). Lecturer [mid 1990s-to date] and thesis tutor [2000-2007].

Diploma in Applied Building Repair and Conservation, Trinity College Dublin (TCD). Lecturer [2005-2015] Extern Examiner [2016-to date].

Masters in Landscape Conservation, Dept. of Agriculture, University College Dublin (UCD). Lecturer [2006-2009].

International World Heritage Post-Graduate Course, University College Dublin. Lecturer [2009-to date].

## Some Recent Lectures & Workshops

*Skellig Michael: Investigation, Discovery, Presentation*. Seminar; 5 presentations given - Accessing the monastery; Evolution of the monastery; The South Peak-changed perceptions; Conservation: principles and issues; The Lighthouse Period: research methodologies. Coach House, Dublin Castle, 19<sup>th</sup>. April 2011.

Presentation at Wuxi Forum on Chinese Cultural Heritage Conservation: sustainable development. Wuxi, China, 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. April 2012.

UNESCO Workshop on WH Periodic Reporting for the Western European Group hosted by the German Government with study tour to two WH Sites. Berlin, 23<sup>rd</sup>. – 25<sup>th</sup>. September 2012.

*Site Management & Tourism at Skellig Michael World Heritage Site.* International Conference on Exploring New Cultural Horizons for Tourism. Session II: Tourism and Cultural Heritage. Manama, Bahrain, 28<sup>th</sup>.-30<sup>th</sup>. April 2013.

*The work of ICOMOS in the Framework of the World Heritage Convention.* World Heritage Seminar hosted by the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht. Dublin Castle, 12<sup>th</sup>. September 2013.

*An Approach to Serial Heritage Management and Conservation.* Workshop on the Conservation & Management of World Cultural Heritage organised by ICOMOS China. Hangzhou, China, 19<sup>th</sup>.-22<sup>nd</sup>. November 2013.

*Health & Safety Issues and Carrying Capacity on Skellig Michael World Heritage Site.* Western Europe WH Focal Point meeting organised by Onroerend Erfgoed in Leuven, Belgium, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. January 2014.

*Historical background, discoveries and interpretation of the Priory of Ballinskelligs.* Local Historical Society, Dungegan & Ballinskelligs, Co. Kerry, 26<sup>th</sup>. September 2014.

*Main challenges of the preservation of the European cultural heritage: the importance of cooperation of all stakeholders.* ICOMOS Hungary Monuments Day Conference, Várkert Bazár, Budapest, on 20<sup>th</sup>. April 2015.

Member of Team, which organised a Training Workshop *Accreditation for Mentors and Assessors* for the Institute for Conservation (ICRI) at the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin. 13<sup>th</sup>. September 2016.

*The Conservation of the Medieval two-phase Church of St. Michael on Skellig Michael.* Lecture at ICRI Conference: Conservation Activities in Ireland V, National Library of Ireland, Dublin. 5<sup>th</sup>. October 2016.

I have lectured extensively to local communities and local historical and archaeological societies around the country. I have also lectured abroad at York University, in Hungary, India, the United States, Bahrain and China. I have been a specialist consultant for the conservation and restoration of a medieval drystone oratory at the Glattjoch in Styria, Austria.