



The Association for Preservation Technology International
Association internationale pour la préservation et ses techniques

APT PETC Committee Report to Board **October 15, 2021**

Committee: Preservation Engineering Technical Committee

Co-Chairs: Sarah Gray, Rachel Will, Amy Woods

Issues/Concerns

- **Budget and Coordination Issues:** PETC has been frustrated by unclear and inconsistent communication regarding our submitted and approved operating and conference budget. We thank Lurita McIntosh Blank for taking the time recently to clarify and smooth out issues with our conference activity budget. The 2021-2022 Budget process has been provided and appears to be clearer for the next fiscal year. PETC Co-Chairs request an ad-hoc meeting with the new APT Board Executive to discuss our concerns and to confirm processes moving forward.

Recent Accomplishments

- **Disaster Response Initiative:** Adam Rush, PETC member and DRI task lead, conducted a trip in September to the Whitney Plantation in Louisiana following Hurricane Ida; see further discussion below.
- **PETC Mentorship Program:** Tom Morrison and Rachel Will have initiated PETC's Mentorship Program. They are hosting a *Mentoring Roundtable Discussion* on November 17, 2021 at 4:30pm Central Time. The discussion will include senior practitioners and some APT Fellows, who will share their preservation journeys with the program's emerging professionals.
- **Communications:** PETC has issued several social media posts to promote the Fischetti Award, Student Competition conference sessions, mentorship program, and cross-promotion of events by allied organizations such as International Scientific Committee on the Analysis and Restoration of Structures of Architectural Heritage (ISCARSAH) and Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP).

Disaster Response Initiative

Task Leads: Rachel Palisin, Adam Rush, Will Teron, Brad Cross, Trish Smith

- DRI has been growing their membership and completing a successful leadership transition. John Dumsick plans to step off DRI leadership in a few weeks. We sincerely thank John for his hard work and dedication in getting DRI off the ground and doing great work!
- Whitney Plantation: Through DRI's partnership with the Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF), we learned of significant damage to the Whitney Plantation from Hurricane Ida on August 29, 2021. We responded by sending Adam Rush to the site on September 20-21 to observe the damage and prepare a Scope of Work document



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intended for the Whitney Plantation to seek professional services, contractor services, and funding to plan and implement the needed temporary repairs as a first step. DRI submitted a draft report on October 9, 2021 for Whitney Plantation's review.

- DRI is collaborating with the Disaster Response Alliance (DRA) to create a central database to use when DRI is called upon by SHPOs, municipal authorities, or private entities to provide preservation professionals. DRA is a collaboration between International Code Council (ICC) and National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA). DRI/PETC expects to join the other organizations as an equal partner in the DRA, providing us access to a proven database for post-disaster response and expanding DRI's ability to respond to events by calling upon other professionals as needed.
- Ongoing tasks include outreach to SHPOs, including the US Virgin Islands which is interested in DRI support in the near future.

PETC Annual Meeting

- PETC will host our annual meeting via Zoom on October 19, 2021 at 2:00pm Eastern Time. Discussion will include upcoming APT Conference Activities, PETC's Mentorship Program, and how PETC plans to support APT's strategic plan. Adam Rush will present DRI's recent work at the Whitney Plantation.
- PETC welcomes all APT members to attend the annual meeting.

2021 APT Washington DC Virtual Conference Activities

Student Design-Build Competition – Masonry Arch

- Earlier this summer, PETC received four student team submissions to this year's competition. Due to a fall semester conflict, University of Virginia could not move on to the finals. Therefore, the three student teams competing in the finals of this year's competition are **University of Calgary, City College of New York, and Columbia University**.
- The Student Competition has two sessions at this year's APT Conference. Session 1 will be on Monday October 25, 9:00-10:30am Eastern, to present each team's selected arch and its history, and their on-campus masonry arch construction and loading. Session 2 will be on Tuesday October 26, 9:00-10:30am Eastern, to present each team's dry-stack masonry arch. The students will also present their solutions to the Preservation Problems during Session 2.
- PETC welcomes all conference attendees to join the sessions and cheer on our student teams!

David Fischetti Award

- PETC received seven entries for this year's David Fishchetti Award to recognize an outstanding peer-reviewed article that advances the field of conservation engineering. PETC thanks all authors that submitted their work.
- The 2021 winner will be announced at the APT Awards on Wednesday October 27, 7:30pm Eastern.
- PETC thanks members Rachel Will, Tim Crowe, and Amy Woods for organizing this year's paper reviews.



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- We thank the following judges that volunteered their time to review the entries: Joan Berkowitz, Don Friedman, Stephen Kelley, John Matteo, Rick Ortega, Carolyn Searls, and Patrick Sparks.

PETC Workshop and Symposium

- Amy Woods coordinated **Conference Workshop 1 - URM Construction, Restoration, and Maintenance** which will focus on understanding the rationale and methodology for condition assessment, seismic assessment, and the repair, restoration, maintenance, and seismic upgrade of historic URM buildings. The workshop will include six hands-on demonstrations (pre-recorded videos) including composite mortar repair, stone dutchman repair, lintel flashing and brick replacement, horizontal surface joint protection, mortar analysis, and lime mortar preparation and pointing. The Workshop is being held virtually on October 28 and 29, from 10:30am-5:30pm Eastern.
- John Dumsick coordinated the Symposium **Protecting the Irreplaceable: Sensitive Measures to Cultural Heritage**. This symposium was developed in response to the growing need for physical security improvements to culturally significant properties and collections against man-made threats. The Symposium is being held virtually on October 28 and 29, from 10:30am-5:30pm Eastern.

2022 APT Detroit Conference Planning

- PETC will host the Student Design-Build Competition once again at the Detroit Conference. The theme will be the Timber Bridge. PETC is considering a hands-on student workshop or field trip related to historic timber construction.
- PETC will support the Guastavino Vault workshop that is being planned for the conference.

Ongoing Efforts

- PETC continues to annually organize and lead efforts for the Fischetti Award, Student Design-Build Competition, Conference Workshop, Mentorship Program, and DRI efforts.
- We will continue to update our PETC website with information as well as send out e-news a couple times a year to the PETC members, add news to the Communique, and organize social media blasts.

Future Planned Activities

- PETC plans to host a 6-month interim general meeting for our members to share knowledge, plan for 2022 conference activities, etc. We will target meeting in March/April 2022 via Zoom.