

***Held in Trust* Fact Sheet**

[*Held in Trust*](#) is a three-year cooperative agreement between the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC).

Mission:

The mission of *Held in Trust* is to evaluate the state of preservation and conservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage in the United States.

Goals:

1. Consider the current state, future directions, challenges, opportunities, and resource needs for the conservation and preservation of cultural heritage in the U.S., including moveable objects (art, artifacts, decorative objects), archival materials, images, architecture, cultural sites, and intangible cultural heritage.
2. Examine the intersection of cultural heritage conservation and preservation with issues of urgent importance in the world today.
3. Identify future directions and resource priorities to ensure that our nation's cultural heritage will be available for future education and enrichment.

Nine critical topic areas of study:

- Field Sustainability (including: financial, collecting practices, conservation practice)
- Climate Change and Environmental Impact (including: conservation practice, building operations, cultural heritage resources)
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
- Collection Care and Management (including: preventive conservation)
- Philosophy and Ethics in Conservation (including: conservation theory and practice)
- Education, Professional Development, and Leadership
- Engagement, Communication, and Storytelling
- Science and Materials
- Digital Technology: Research and Practice

Participants:

1. The Held in Trust [**Steering Committee \(SC\)**](#) comprises 17 individuals co-chairing Working Groups focused on 9 critical topic areas outlined above.
2. **Working Groups (WG)** comprise subject experts in a wide variety of fields pertaining to subtopics targeted for focused study.
3. The Held in Trust [**Advisory Council \(AC\)**](#) comprises individuals representing approximately 25 organizations working in cultural heritage and allied fields. Additional partners are invited to join as further input becomes needed. AC members offer guidance and expertise, and provide a conduit for dissemination of project outputs. They may also serve on Working Groups.

These groups are led by *Held in Trust* Project Coordinator [Pamela Hatchfield](#), assisted by FAIC Outreach Coordinator [Katelin Lee](#)

Held in Trust KEY TOPICS and Steering Committee Chairs		
Field Sustainability, including financial, collecting practice, conservation practice	Climate Change and Environmental Impact	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility
Alison Gilchrest, Debbie Hess Norris	Héctor Berdecia-Hernández, Sarah Sutton	Isra El-beshir, Sarah Scaturro
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •New philanthropic trends, opportunities and partnerships •Strengthening the private sector's visibility, influence, and sustainability •Sustainability of collecting practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Policy •Education for action •Awareness of impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Representation •Caretaking and interpretation
Collection Care and Management, including preventive conservation	Philosophy and Ethics in Conservation	Education, Professional Development, Leadership
Mariana Di Giacomo, Laura Hartz Stanton	Landis Smith, Glenn Wharton	Valinda Carroll, Ellen Pearlstein
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Training for resilience •Advocacy •Preventive Conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Conservation philosophy •Conservation ethics •Collaborative Conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Education •Professional development •Leadership
Engagement, Communication, Storytelling	Science and Materials	Digital Technology: Research and Practice
Lauren Dugas Glover, Michelle Ramos, Laura Hartz Stanton	Francesca Casadio, Sarah Scaturro	Paul Messier, Linda Tadic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Engagement •Artifacts •Storytelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Innovation •Sustainability •Science for the humanities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Preservation of technology-based cultural heritage •Technologies, tools, and methodologies •Non-institutional archives

Key dates:

Held in Trust Session at AIC 50th Annual Meeting, Los Angeles: May 14th, 2022
National Convening: Late fall, early winter 2022-2023
Final report dissemination – Spring 2023

Key web resources:

Web page: www.culturalheritage.org/hit

Online community public discussion forum: <https://bit.ly/HITDiscussionForum> (open to all)

Project email: hit@culturalheritage.org

Fact Sheet: <https://www.culturalheritage.org/about-us/foundation/programs/held-in-trust>

2021 AIC Annual Meeting keynote presentation:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwkTpytgM_4