



HERITAGE EMERGENCY AND RESPONSE TRAINING (HEART) • 2019 PROGRAM CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Dates: August 27-29, 2019

Place: Augusta, ME

Application deadline: July 15, 2019

Organized by:

Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCRI) *and* FEMA's Office of Environmental Planning & Historic Preservation (OEHP), *co-sponsors of the* Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF) Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Maine Cultural Emergency Resource Coalition (CERC Maine)

With generous funding from:

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation



In 2015 the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCRI) became the co-sponsor, with FEMA's Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (OEHP), of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF), a public-private partnership created to protect our nation's cultural heritage. Both SCRI and OEHP are committed to expanding training for cultural stewards, first responders, and emergency managers to better prepare them to work together to address emergencies and disasters that affect cultural institutions and historic sites.

In 2017 SCRI hosted the inaugural Heritage Emergency and Response Training (HEART) for 25 participants selected from a range of museums, libraries, archives, and emergency management organizations representing 21 states and the Territory of Puerto Rico. In March and June of 2018, HENTF brought HEART to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, respectively. Previously, SCRI has also successfully supported and hosted this type of training for international participants as part of its six-year partnership with ICCROM and the Prince Claus Fund for the *First Aid for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis* (FAC) training program.

With funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, HENTF has created this training opportunity for U.S.-based professionals to gain skills and experience in disaster response for cultural heritage. HEART combines the important principles of the internationally recognized FAC training model with context-specific information for a U.S. audience. The goals are to improve U.S. disaster response at the institutional level, strengthen existing networks, and connect

participants to the wider international “First Aider” network of people trained to document and protect cultural heritage in times of crisis. Participants will learn to be proactive yet sensitive to human needs, respectful of local context, and, after completing their training, ready to support measures to protect cultural heritage in their own communities.

Through a partnership of key cultural organizations, conservators and emergency management personnel, CERC: Maine’s mission is to create awareness among Maine’s cultural institutions of the importance of disaster planning and to help connect those institutions with the resources and people they need to best respond to and recover from a disaster.

The Training Structure

The course consists of three parts. Accepted applicants will be required, before the start of the program, to complete FEMA’s online course “Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS 100),” as well as selected pre-course readings. Participants will travel to Augusta, ME, for three days of hands-on training at the Maine State Library from August 27-29, 2019. Sessions will provide realistic, hands-on training in damage assessment, rapid documentation, emergency evacuation and salvage, rehousing and storage, crisis communication, team building, and more. Later in the year, a five-part webinar series will build upon the in-person training, reinforcing concepts covered in the August training.

Expected Outcomes

At the end of the training, participants will be able to:

- Assess and manage risks to cultural heritage in emergency situations
- Explore the values associated with cultural heritage and the impact that disasters (natural and man-made) have on these values
- Improve existing disaster plans at their organization or agency, or on behalf of other organizations or agencies
- Take preventive actions to reduce disaster risk and improve response
- Secure, salvage, and stabilize a variety of cultural materials
- Train and manage a response team to implement effective actions during crises that affect cultural heritage
- Communicate successfully with the various actors, including the media, involved in an emergency response
- Identify relevant programs and services that can assist cultural heritage organizations in the event of a disaster
- Understand how first aid for cultural heritage supports recovery in affected communities and how it fits into the National Planning Frameworks

Travel, Accommodations, and Living Expenses

There is no fee for participating in this training. Maine Emergency Management Agency will reimburse lodging expenses for participants requiring overnight accommodations. Lunch will be provided during the in-person training; however, participants will be expected to cover the rest of their meal costs, all incidental expenses, and local travel. Please note that participants will also be expected to cover travel to and from Augusta.

Who should apply?

Selection of participants will be made on a competitive basis. The course team will select 25 participants from cultural heritage and first responder/emergency management organizations or agencies who work in Maine. Since the successful recovery of heritage collections is based on collaboration among many different types of professionals, the goal of HEART is to train a group with diverse backgrounds. Therefore **both** cultural heritage professionals and first responder/emergency management professionals are encouraged to apply for the training.

We seek heritage professionals who:

- Work at or for a cultural heritage institution that has a disaster plan for collections and that supports training in disaster planning/cultural heritage protection;
- Might have previously faced an emergency situation that called for an immediate response to safeguard cultural heritage, whether at their own institution or assisting another;
- Are emerging leaders with 3–5 years' experience in collections care/cultural heritage protection; and/or
- Are actively engaged in professional or heritage-related associations.

We seek first responders and emergency management professionals who:

- Might have responded to an emergency situation that called for an immediate response to safeguard cultural heritage;
- Are motivated to increase their knowledge of the concerns and priorities of cultural stewards;
- Are eager to share what they learn at this training with their colleagues; and/or
- Want to bolster their understanding of how cultural heritage can help communities recover and become more resilient following a disaster, and how their collaboration with cultural stewards contributes to this effort.

How to Apply

As part of the application process, all candidates are required to submit:

1. A letter of support from their current employer (or a recent client) that endorses their participation in HEART and commits to advancing institutional preparedness and response efforts (or, for first responders and emergency managers, commits to collaborative efforts with the cultural community) informed by the candidate's training
2. A list of past training or education involving emergency planning or response, not necessarily involving cultural heritage. (Please note: limited previous training or no training does not disqualify you from the application process. If an applicant has no previous training, please upload a document stating this).
3. A current résumé (two-page maximum)
4. Answers to the following series of questions:
 - a) Are you actively involved with other professional or heritage-related groups outside your organization/agency? If so, please describe your activities/contributions.
 - b) How will your participation in HEART benefit your institution or agency?
 - c) How do you intend to apply the knowledge gained from HEART to advance your career?

Please send any application material directly to CERC.Maine@gmail.com.

Once selected, cultural stewards will be required to submit a redacted copy of their institution's disaster plan (whether up-to-date or not). First responders/emergency managers will be required to submit a redacted copy of their agency's emergency operations plan.

Questions?

Contact CERC: Maine at CERC.Maine@gmail.com.