

Welcome by the State Curator of Monuments in Saxony

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the first time in 2016, the Free State of Saxony initiated an event on the topic of World Heritage education as part of the professional program of the "denkmal" trade fair in order to promote the communication of cultural heritage, especially to future generations.

Following on from this and the online conference in April 2021 on the topic of "World Heritage - Shaping the Future!", we now want to continue the dialog with the younger generation with a focus on the topic of climate change. Climate change is one of the key challenges we will have to face in the coming decades, increasingly threatening our cultural and World Heritage Sites through floods, heat waves, storms and invasive plant species, but also through our way of life, land use and settlement patterns.

To meet this global challenge for the future, or better yet, for the present of our heritage and World Heritage Sites, approaches are needed that involve young people as shapers of the future from the beginning in an interdisciplinary and solution-oriented way.

World Heritage cannot stop climate change. However, the global network of World Heritage helps raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on human society, biodiversity, and the world's natural and cultural heritage.

World Heritage offers the young generation a platform to formulate their expectations and wishes for their own future and to implement global commitment through local action.

I very cordially invite you together with all partners to the 'denkmal 2022' in Leipzig on 24 November 2022, to uncover the synergies between climate protection goals and World Heritage sites. At the conference 'World.Heritage.Climate - World Heritage Sites and their contribution to climate-conscious sustainable development', we will think World Heritage further together with the young generation.

I am looking forward to stimulating discussions and I wish all participants a successful conference.

Alf Furkert
State Curator of Monuments in Saxony