



Organisation des villes du patrimoine mondial  
Organization of World Heritage Cities  
Organización de las Ciudades del Patrimonio Mundial  
Organização das Cidades do Património Mundial  
منظمة مدن التراث العالمي



## ORGANIZATION OF WORLD HERITAGE CITIES

## IMPRINT

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World Heritage Management  
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# **OWHC AND THE REGION NORTH-WEST EUROPE**

Discover the Organization of World Heritage Cities

## HEADQUARTERS OF THE OWHC



### **Organization of World Heritage Cities**

15, rue Saint-Nicolas · Québec · Canada G1K 1M8  
Phone: (418) 692 0000 · Fax: (418) 692 5558  
secretariat@ovpm.org

### **Learn more:**

[www.ovpm.org](http://www.ovpm.org)



### **OWHC Regional Secretariat North West Europe**

City of Regensburg · Mattias Ripp (OWHC Regional Coordinator)  
Planning and Building Division · World Heritage Management  
D.-Martin-Luther-Straße 1 · 93047 Regensburg  
Phone (+49) 941 507 4618 · Fax (+49) 941 507 4619  
owhc@regensburg.de

### **Learn more:**

[www.welterbe-regensburg.de](http://www.welterbe-regensburg.de)

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## WELCOME ADDRESS



Dear visitors and guests,  
Dear member cities of OWHC

I wish to congratulate the City of Regensburg on its selection as the seat of the Northwest European Regional Secretariat of the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC). We greatly appreciate Regensburg's generosity in devoting the time and resources required to assume this responsibility.

The Northwest Europe Region has always been one of the most active of our seven Secretariats throughout the world for which I wish to express the OWHC's heartfelt thanks to the City of Bergen,

the seat of the Secretariat from its founding. I am confident that, with the coordination of Regensburg, the Region will continue to offer the opportunities and means for exchange that are so essential to our members.

Since its founding, our Organization has grown, evolved and matured. The OWHC is a dynamic and flexible institution and is what its members want it to be. The OWHC's openness to new ideas has resulted in a constant refining of its role in order to achieve greater relevance and to establish the conditions that will enable it to face the new challenges posed by a combination of external factors and to set up suitable internal conditions to deal with these new realities.

Yours sincerely

Denis Ricard  
*Secretary General of the OWHC*

## WELCOME ADDRESS

Dear visitors and guests,  
Dear member cities of OWHC

On the 21st of November the OWHC´s Board of Directors decided to entrust the City of Regensburg with the management of the Regional Secretariat of Northwest Europe. We applied because we are convinced that our ideas create chances and opportunities in the working fields of the OWHC regional network.

Our main objectives are to communicate the importance of being a member of the OWHC and to strengthen its regional role. We are convinced that being a member of OWHC is a “conditio sine qua non” for a World Heritage city, not only because the network operates globally, but also due to the immense pool of expertise that such an organization can provide. That is our reason for focusing on the communication of the benefits of a OWHC membership. For these reasons we focus on communicating OWHC membership benefits.

We want our region to flourish, therefore we have set up an ambitious working program. The exhibition “OWHC and the Northwest European Region”



and this publication are just the first steps. We hope that all member cities use these communicative tools and promote dissemination. Regensburg will always follow an integrated approach in all OWHC networking activities to incorporate as many stakeholders as possible.

We also want to thank all member cities for their supportiveness and help. The region is only as strong as its member´s solidarity.

Yours sincerely

Hans Schaidinger  
*Mayor of Regensburg*

## THE ORGANISATION OF WORLD HERITAGE CITIES (OWHC)

The Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) was founded on September 8, 1993 in Fez, Morocco. OWHC is composed of 238 cities with sites included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. These 238 World Heritage Cities have a combined population of over 130 million. Within the OWHC, these cities are represented by their mayors with the active participation of their heritage management specialists.

The OWHC's headquarters are located in Québec City, which hosted the First International Symposium of World Heritage Cities in July 1991. The primary objectives of the OWHC are to endorse the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, to encourage cooperation and exchange of information and expertise on matters of conservation and management, as well as to develop a sense of solidarity among its member cities.

To this end, the OWHC organizes World Congresses, conferences, seminars and workshops dealing with the challenges put forth in the realm of management and with strategies pertaining to the preservation and development of historic cities.



*Die OWHC wurde 1993 in Fez, Marokko, gegründet. 238 Städte, auf deren Gebiet sich eine Welterbestätte befindet, sind Mitglied. Die Städte werden durch ihr politisches Oberhaupt vertreten. Kooperation, Wissenstransfer und die Umsetzung der Welterbekonvention sind die Ziele der OWHC.*



## THE OWHC'S MISSION

The Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) was created to assist member cities in adapting to the specific requirements for sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List and improving on their management methods thereof.

→ OWHC contributes to the implementation of the Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the International Charter for the protection of Historic Cities.

→ OWHC encourages, both regionally and internationally, cooperation and the exchange of information and expertise among historic cities throughout the world. This occurs in close collaboration with other organizations pursuing similar goals, while promoting action which supports the efforts of cities located in developing countries.

→ OWHC ensures better links between specialist or expert research and the needs of local management.

→ the OWHC sensitizes the Inhabitants to heritage values and preservation.

Die OWHC unterstützt Welterbestädte darin, geeignete Methoden zum Management der historischen Städte zu entwickeln und zu optimieren.

## BAMBERG [CRITERIA OF INSCRIPTION II, IV]



Andreas Starke,  
Mayor of Bamberg

The city of Bamberg is composed of three centers (11th and 12th century): the hills of Bergstadt are dominated by the cathedral; the island of Inselstadt is the market place; and the south bank of the river, known as Theuerstadt, includes the market garden. A church marks each extremity of the cruciform plan which was laid out soon after the city's founding. Bamberg is a remarkable and representative example of an early mediaeval city in Central Europe due to both its plan and the large number of religious and secular buildings. The monuments are of great artistic importance.

„We, as representatives of the World Heritage Site Bamberg, look forward to strong teamwork with the OWHC Regional Secretariat for a common future for World Heritage sites in Northwest Europe, and all over the world.“

### BAMBERG IN A NUTSHELL

- Location: Bavaria, Germany
- World Heritage since 1993
- Inhabitants: 70 000

- Core zone of Heritage Area [135 ha] + Buffer zone [109 ha] = 444 ha
- [www.welterbe.bamberg.de](http://www.welterbe.bamberg.de)



## BATH [CRITERIA OF INSCRIPTION I, II, IV]



Mayor of Bath,  
Councillor Andrew Furse

Bath demonstrates multiple layers of cultural genius. The Romans had the foresight and technology to harness the hot springs. They developed an impressive bath and temple complex within a walled city, attracting visitors from across the Roman Empire. Much of the baths' archaeology remains and can be seen today. In the eighteenth century, within the same outstanding landscape setting, the Georgians remodelled the entire town, purposefully creating a beautiful city. This attracted society's elite from across Europe, and influenced the architectural and social traditions of the nation.

„The entire City of Bath is a World Heritage Site. There are no other urban World Heritage sites in the UK on this scale. The OWHC gives us the opportunity to share experience with other cities who face the same challenges as we do, and we greatly value sharing ideas and best practice.“

### BATH IN A NUTSHELL

- Location: Somerset, 150 km west of London
- World Heritage since 1987

- Inhabitants: 86.000
- [www.bathnes.gov.uk/worldheritage](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/worldheritage)



## BEEMSTER [CRITERIA OF INSCRIPTION I, II, IV]



H.N.G. Brinkman  
Mayor of Beemster

The Droogmakerij De Beemster (Beemster Polder), dating from the early 17th century, was one of the largest reclaimed land areas\* in the Netherlands. It was dried during the period 1607 through 1612. It has preserved intact its well-ordered landscape of fields, roads, canals, dykes and settlements, laid out in accordance with the principles of classical and Renaissance planning. It is a manmade agricultural landscape with a mathematical land division structure that was unique at that time. The main reasons for draining Lake Beemster in 1612 were capital land investments, and the need for agricultural land and country residences.

*„Beemster, as a small city, has committed itself to work with others to share experiences for the benefit of all members.“*

### BEEMSTER IN A NUTSHELL

→ Location: North Holland province  
→ World Heritage since 1999

→ Inhabitants: 8 605  
→ [www.beemsterinfo.nl](http://www.beemsterinfo.nl)



## BERGEN [CRITERIA OF INSCRIPTION III]



*Trude Drevland  
Mayor of Bergen*



Bryggen, the old wharf of Bergen, is a reminder of the town's importance as part of the Hanseatic League's trading empire from the 14th to the mid-16th century. It is perhaps one of the most familiar images in all of Norway. The Bryggen quarter today consists of 62 buildings, the majority of which are wooden knotted timber structures covered with panelling, external staircases and galleries opening out onto the passages. The present quarter stands on an „urban history book“ of archaeological deposits more than 8m thick and containing information on more than 600 years of harbour activity.

„As a founding member of the OWHC, Bergen played a crucial role in shaping the OWHC in its first steps. We are confident in OWHC membership benefits.“

### BERGEN IN A NUTSHELL

- Location: Norwegian West Coast
- Inhabitants: 265 700
- World Heritage since 1979
- [www.bergen.kommune.no/english](http://www.bergen.kommune.no/english)



## BERLIN

[INSCRIPTION CRITERIA: BERLIN MODERNISM HOUSING ESTATES II, IV - MUSEUMSINSEL II, IV - PRUSSIAN CASTLES AND GARDENS OF POTSDAM AND BERLIN I,II, IV]



Klaus Wowereit  
Mayor of Berlin

The City of Berlin actually features three World Heritage Sites: First, the Prussian Castles and Gardens of Potsdam and Berlin, which are embedded in a inimitably created park landscape. Second, the Museumsinsel, a unique ensemble of museum buildings illustrating the evolution of modern museum design for over more than a century. The five museums on the Museumsinsel in Berlin were built between 1824 and 1930. As the third site, the Berlin Modernism Housing Estates are inscribed. This property is an outstanding example of the building reform movement from the 1910 to 1933 that contributed to improving housing and living conditions for people with low incomes.

*„After the inscription as a World Heritage Site the Museumsinsel enjoyed a glorious comeback.”*

### BERLIN IN A NUTSHELL

- Capital of Federal Republic of Germany
- World Heritage since 2008
- Berlin Modernism Housing Estates
- Prussian Castles and Gardens of Potsdam and Berlin since 1990

- World Heritage since 1999
- Museumsinsel
- Inhabitants: 3 499 879
- [www.berlin.de/international/index.en.php](http://www.berlin.de/international/index.en.php)



## BERN [CRITERIA OF INSCRIPTION III]



Alexander Tschäppät  
Mayor of Bern

Bern was founded in the 12th century on a hill surrounded by the Aare river. The buildings in the Old City, date from a variety of periods, include 15th-century arcades and 16th-century fountains. Steeples and bell towers, fountains with blossoms, houses with corner towers, tile roofs and public gardens make up a harmonious architectural landscape which, for the most part, dates from the 17th and 18th centuries. Most of the medieval town was restored in the 18th century but has retained its original character.

„Since 1983 we consider the UNESCO World Heritage Award as an opportunity as well as an obligation. Our goal is not only conservation, but also careful development of a place, where people enjoy living and working.“

### BERN IN A NUTSHELL

- Location: between Geneva and Zurich, across from the Alps
- World Heritage since 1983
- Inhabitants: 133 920
- Core zone of Heritage Area: 84 684 ha
- [www.bern.ch](http://www.bern.ch)



## BRUGGE [CRITERIA OF INSCRIPTION II, IV, VI]



Patrick Moenaert  
Mayor of Bruges

The historic town of Bruges is testimony, over a long period, to a considerable exchange of influences on architectural development, particularly on brick Gothic, as well as favoring innovative artistic influences. It is an outstanding example of an architectural ensemble, illustrating significant stages in commercial and cultural medieval Europe, of which the public, social and religious institutions are a living testimony. The town of Bruges is the birthplace of the Flemish Primitives and a center of patronage and development of mediaeval visual arts.

*„The UNESCO classification is a prestigious title. Yet it is not the objective to preserve the city like a picture postcard within which nothing can be altered. Bruges is not a shrine, but a city which lives and must continue to live in the 21st century. Our main objective is to reconcile contemporary changes with the authenticity and integrity of World Heritage Site.”*

BRUGGE

WORLD HERITAGE SITE  
VILLE DE BRUGES MIDDLE  
WELFARE HERITAGE SITE  
WORLD HERITAGE CITY  
CITÉ DE BRUGES DE LA MARIAGE

### BRUGGE IN A NUTSHELL

- Location: Flemish region, Belgium
- World Heritage since 2000
- Inhabitants: 117 073
- Core zone of Heritage Area: 410 ha
- Buffer zone: 168 ha
- [www.brugge.be](http://www.brugge.be)





## LUXEMBOURG [CRITERIA OF INSCRIPTION IV]



*Xavier Bettel  
Mayor of Luxembourg*

Because of its strategic position, Luxembourg was, from the 16th century until 1867, when its walls were dismantled, one of Europe's greatest fortified sites. It was repeatedly reinforced as it passed from one great European power to another: the Holy Roman Emperors, House of Burgundy, Habsburgs, French and Spanish kings, and finally the Prussians. The fortress city of Luxembourg preserves major remains of its impressive fortifications and of its old quarters in an exceptional natural setting.

„OWHC is an institution regrouping cities of all continents, thus bringing together all the existing cultures and histories, which allows for an enriching and fruitful exchange“

### LUXEMBOURG IN A NUTSHELL

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| → Location: Central,<br>Southern Luxembourg | → Core zone of Heritage<br>Area: 30 ha       |
| → World Heritage since 1994                 | → Buffer zone: 109 ha                        |
| → Inhabitants: 92 234                       | → <a href="http://www.vdl.lu">www.vdl.lu</a> |



## QUEDLINBURG [CRITERIA OF INSCRIPTION IV]



Dr. Eberhard Brecht  
Mayor of Quedlinburg

The Heritage Site of Quedlinburg is a monument of urban architecture extending from the early 14th century to the period of Art Nouveau, with an area of about 85 ha. Monuments of Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles are sprinkled throughout the architectural landscape. Quedlinburg is an outstanding example of a European city with medieval foundations which has preserved a high proportion of timber-framed buildings of exceptional quality.

*„We consider OWHC to be a very important and successful network. By promoting the exchange of expertise it plays an important role in safeguarding World Heritage.“*

### QUEDLINBURG IN A NUTSHELL

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| → Location: Saxony-Anhalt,<br>Central Germany | → Core zone of Heritage<br>Area: 85 h                              |
| → World Heritage since 1994                   | → <a href="http://www.quedlinburg.de/en">www.quedlinburg.de/en</a> |
| → Inhabitants: 28 424                         |  |



## RAUMA [CRITERIA OF INSCRIPTION IV, V]



*Tomi Suvanto  
Deputy Mayor of Rauma*



Situated on the Gulf of Botnia, Rauma is one of the oldest harbors in Finland. Built around a Franciscan monastery, where the mid-15th-century Holy Cross Church still stands, it is an outstanding example of an old Nordic city constructed in wood. Although ravaged by fire in the late 17th century, it has preserved its ancient vernacular architectural heritage. Old Rauma is the largest unified historical wooden town in Scandinavia. It covers an area of 28 ha and contains 600 buildings, most of which are privately owned. The log buildings of medieval Old Rauma are still standing for more than three centuries after the last town fire.

„It is very important for the city of Rauma to ensure that the historic wooden town of Old Rauma is transferred to future generations as a well maintained and authentic site. Keeping this in mind, Rauma is a member of the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) in order to communicate with other historic cities and to receive recent international information on cultural heritage management.“

### RAUMA IN A NUTSHELL

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| → Location: Satakunta, Finland | → Core zone of Heritage Area: 29 ha                              |
| → World heritage since: 1991   | → Buffer zone: 142 ha  |
| → Inhabitants: 39 814          | → <a href="http://www.rauma.fi/english">www.rauma.fi/english</a> |



## REGENSBURG [CRITERIA OF INSCRIPTION:II, III, IV]



Hans Schaidinger  
Mayor of Regensburg

Regensburg architecture represents the city's role as a medieval trading center and its influence on the region north of the Alps. Regensburg was an important transition point on continental trade routes to Italy, Bohemia, Russia and Byzantium. In May 2011, the World Heritage Visitor Center was opened, providing information, education and interactive experiences for guests, tourists, visitors and families.

*„Regensburg's constant efforts to become head of the DWHC Regional Secretariat of Northwest Europe are the result of the strong conviction, that there are more chances and opportunities in the working fields of the regional network than those taken so far.“*

### REGENSBURG IN A NUTSHELL

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| → Location: Bavaria, Germany | → Core zone of Heritage Area: 182,8 ha                                       |
| → World Heritage since 2006  | → Buffer zone: 775,6 ha  |
| → Inhabitants: 149 762       | → <a href="http://www.welterbe-regensburg.de">www.welterbe-regensburg.de</a> |



## STRALSUND [CRITERIA OF INSCRIPTION II, IV]



Dr. Alexander Badrow  
Mayor of Stralsund

Stralsund is situated in the northeast of Germany, directly on the Baltic Sea. The Hanseatic City is the gateway to Rügen Island which is separated from the mainland by the Strela Sound estuary. Founded in the 13th century, the medieval town of Stralsund represents differing, but complementary trading structures, being one of the leading centers for the Wends of the Hanseatic League from the 13th to 15th centuries. The island location of the historic centre has remained unchanged since the 13th century. To this day, Stralsund's silhouette is unmistakably characterized by the outstanding buildings of brick Gothic architecture.

*„Stralsund is a proud member of the OWHC. The worldwide network of historic cities offers a rich exchange of ideas and experience, encouraging international cooperation and increasing understanding for the challenges faced by World Heritage cities all over the globe. Resulting from the fact that our historic center is part of the global network's most notable cultural sites, we have developed many contacts all over the world.“*

### STRALSUND IN A NUTSHELL

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| → Location: Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Northeast Germany, on the Baltic Sea | → Inhabitants: 58 070  |
| → World Heritage since 2002   | → Core zone of Heritage Area: 80 ha  |
|   | → Buffer zone: 340 ha  |
|   | → <a href="http://www.wismar-stralsund.de/en">www.wismar-stralsund.de/en</a> |



## VISBY [CRITERIA OF INSCRIPTION IV, V]



Åke Svensson  
Mayor of Visby

Visby is located on the northwest coast of Gotland, the largest island in the Baltic Sea. About 100km from the coast of Sweden, the site is terraced and its port, today silted up, is ice-free. As a former Viking site on the island of Gotland, Visby was the main Baltic center of the Hanseatic League from the 12th to the 14th century. It was the only town on the island that possessed the right to trade with German towns. Its 13th-century ramparts and more than 200 ware-houses and wealthy merchants' homes from the same period make it the best-preserved fortified commercial city in northern Europe.

„Joining the OWHC was very important for us. So we became a member in good standing from the very beginning. We want contact with our World Heritage friends all over the world. We all need to learn from each other and we like to share good work with cities who want our experiences. This is a peace work for all of us.“

### VISBY IN A NUTSHELL

→ Location: Northwest coast of Gotland  
→ Inhabitants: 22 593

→ Heritage since 1995  
→ [www.gotland.se](http://www.gotland.se)





## VIENNA [CRITERIA OF INSCRIPTION II, IV, VI]



Dr. Michael Häupl  
Mayor of Vienna

Vienna developed from early Celtic and Roman settlements into a medieval and Baroque city, the capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It played an essential role as a leading European music center, throughout the great age of Viennese Classicism up to the early 20th Century. The historic center of Vienna is rich in architectural ensembles, including Baroque castles and gardens, as well as the late 19th-century Ringstrasse lined with grand buildings, monuments and parks.

*„The City of Vienna is well aware of the responsibility connected with World Heritage status. At the same time, we must bear in mind that [...] must also strive to remain a prosperous, competitive city at the heart of Europe.“*

### VIENNA IN A NUTSHELL

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| → Capital of Austria  | → Inhabitants: 1 731 236  |
| → World Heritage since 2001<br>Historic City                    | → Core zone of Heritage<br>Area: 371 ha   |
| → World Heritage since 1996<br>Schönbrunn Castle and<br>Gardens | → Buffer zone: 462 ha<br>→ <a href="http://www.wien.gov.at">www.wien.gov.at</a> |



## WISMAR [CRITERIA OF INSCRIPTION II, IV]



Thomas Beyer  
Mayor of Wismar

The mediaeval towns of Wismar and Stralsund, on the Baltic Sea coast of Northern Germany, were major Hanseatic League trading centers during the 14th and 15th centuries. In the 17th and 18th centuries, they became Swedish administrative and defensive centers for the German territories.

They contributed to the development of Brick Gothic technique and style, characteristic of the Baltic region, as exemplified in several important brick cathedrals and the series of houses for residential, commercial and crafts use, representing its evolution over several centuries.

„OWHC is an important partner for World Heritage Cities because it improves communication and contact between mayors and Heritage managers of World Heritage Cities, which also is an important aspect of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.“

### WISMAR IN A NUTSHELL

- Location: Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Northeast Germany, on the Baltic Sea,
- Heritage Site since 2002
- Inhabitants: 44 397
- Core zone of Heritage Area: 88 ha
- Buffer zone: 108 ha
- [www.wismar-stralsund.de/en](http://www.wismar-stralsund.de/en)





## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011 – 2013 OF THE OWHC

Mr. Harry Brinkman  
**Mayor of Beemster (Netherlands)**  
and President of the OWHC

Mr. Jorge Castro Munoz  
**Mayor of Valparaíso (Chile)**  
Vice-President of the OWHC and Treasurer

Mr. Alain Juppé  
**Mayor of Bordeaux (France)**  
Vice-President of the OWHC

Mr. José Antonio Nieto Ballesteros  
**Mayor of Cordoba (Spain)**  
Vice-President of the OWHC

Mr. Eduardo Rivera  
**Mayor of Puebla (Mexico)**  
Vice-President of the OWHC

Mr. Augusto Barerra  
**Mayor of Quito (Ecuador)**  
Vice-President of the OWHC

M. Fernando Roboredo Seara  
**Mayor of Sintra (Portugal)**  
Vice-President of the OWHC

M. Michael Häupl  
**Mayor of Vienna (Austria)**  
Vice-President of the OWHC

In accordance with the general by-laws, the Secretary General, Mr. Denis Ricard, attends meetings of the Board of Directors without being entitled to vote.

## OTHER CITIES FROM OUR SECRETARIAT

Cities having sites included on the UNESCO World Heritage List are invited to join OHWC. It is up to every member city of the OHWC to choose their preferred region. The member cities can decide which regional secretariat represents their individual objectives and needs best. The regional secretariat appreciates the lively exchange with the following cities of the region: **Bremen, Goslar, Lübeck, Potsdam, Weimar, Karlskrona, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Telford, Warsaw, Cesky Krumlov.**



*In comparison to the rest of the World, many World Heritage Cities are located in Northwestern Europe.*

## OTHER REGIONS OF THE OWHC

### BENEFITS FOR MEMBER CITIES

- International media presence
- Strong position with respect to higher administrative levels
- Intensification of international networking efforts and lobbying
- Better access to international institutions
- Strong position facilitates access to funding
- Exchange of expertise

### VORTEILE EINER OWHC MITGLIEDSCHAFT

- *internationale Medienaufmerksamkeit*
- *gestärkte Position gegenüber höheren Verwaltungsebenen*
- *Erleichterung der internationale Netzwerk- und Lobbyarbeit*
- *verbesserter Zugang zu internationalen Organisationen und zu potentiellen Fördermitteln*
- *Wissenstransfer u. Expertenaustausch*

## THE REGIONS AND THEIR SECRETARIATS

There are seven regions within the OWHC. Each region has a regional secretariat, which coordinates the region's activities:



*In der OWHC gibt es sieben Regionen, von denen jede ihr eigenes Sekretariat hat, das die Aktivitäten in der Region koordiniert.*

## THE REGIONS AND REGIONAL SECRETARIATS OF THE OWHC

The primary mission of the regional secretariats is to serve as a link between the member cities of their particular region and the General Secretariat. Their main goals are:

- grouping together cities that share cultural, linguistic or geographic affinities;
- assisting the General Secretariat in producing documents intended for members, data collection and the organization of relevant events;
- representing, when necessary, the General Secretariat at events in which the latter is invited to participate;
- organizing in their regions activities intended to promote OWHC's values and objectives.

## THE OWHC REGIONAL SECRETARIAT NORTH WEST EUROPE

In 2011 Regensburg applied for the management of the Regional Secretariat of Northwest Europe during a preliminary meeting on September the 30th 2011. The application was approved by the Board of Directors in November.

Regensburg follows an integrated approach in all its networking activities, incorporating as many stakeholders as possible. Motivated by positive experiences during the preparation process of the World Heritage Management Plan, including intensive civic participation, Regensburg set up an ambitious working program. On the agenda were the improvement of the website, the optimization of internal processes and structures as well as the preparation of the OWHC exhibition and publication.



*Das Arbeitsprogramm des Sekretariats ist ehrgeizig: So soll eine eigene Kommunikationsplattform erstellt werden und die internen Abläufe optimiert und neustrukturiert werden. Bereits umgesetzt wurden erste Verbesserungen an der Website, ein Newsletter, eine Ausstellung und die Publikation über die OWHC.*

## THE SECRETARIAT'S WORKING PROGRAM

**In March 2012 the member cities agreed on the following working program:**

### **[A] Communication initiative**

The secretariat proposes to create a multifunctional website, to serve as a communication platform for the Northwestern region. The main foci include the exchange of expertise, dissemination and permanent contact between member cities. The use of modern technical facilities to ensure fast and easy communication and cooperation is recommended.

### **[B] Strategic initiative**

To identify a long-term strategy, compiling a strategy paper in collaboration with the member cities is needed. An integrated approach will be followed, so every member city will be asked to contribute.

### **[C] Solidarity and Expertise initiative**

To strengthen the region's importance within the OWHC network, the region should be making every effort to ...

- ... emphasize the relevance of common subjects.
- ... identify common challenges.
- ... share expertise.
- ... encourage lively city-to-city visits by experts.

## STRUCTURE OF OWHC



Mayors of World Heritage cities who have paid their annual membership fees make up the OWHC General Assembly, OWHC's paramount authority. The General Assembly meets every two years. Article C of the OWHC stipulates the composition and powers of the General Assembly.

The Board of Directors is made up of up to eight mayors. It is elected by the General Assembly and meets at least once a year. The general by-laws of the OWHC stipulate the composition and powers of the Board of Directors.

The General Secretariat is directed by the Secretary General, appointed by the General Assembly, who oversees the execution of mandates adopted by the members, the day-to-day administration of OWHC, personnel management and hiring.





## GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE OWHC

The general by-laws of the OWHC determine the functions of the General Secretariat of OWHC. At the General Assembly held in Fez, Morocco, on September 8, 1993, it was decided that the headquarters of the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) would be established in Québec City, Canada, a World Heritage City and the capital of Québec. In accordance with the general by-laws of the OWHC, the General Secretariat is directed by the Secretary General, appointed by the General Assembly of the members of OWHC. Secretary General of the OWHC is Mr. Denis Ricard.

## SELECTION CRITERIA FOR WORLD HERITAGE CITIES

- [I] to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- [II] to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- [III] to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- [IV] to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
- [V] to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- [VI] to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.  
(The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);

## WELTERBEKRIERIEN FÜR WELTERBESTÄDTE

- [I] ein Meisterwerk der menschlichen Schöpferkraft darstellen;*
- [II] für einen Zeitraum oder in einem Kulturgebiet der Erde einen bedeuten den Schnittpunkt menschlicher Werte in Bezug auf Entwicklung der Architektur oder Technik, der Großplastik, des Städtebaus oder der Landschaftsgestaltung aufzeigen;*
- [III] ein einzigartiges oder zumindest außergewöhnliches Zeugnis von einer kulturellen Tradition oder einer bestehenden oder untergegangenen Kultur darstellen;*
- [IV] ein hervorragendes Beispiel eines Typus von Gebäuden, architektonischen oder technologischen Ensembles oder Landschaften darstellen, die einen oder mehrere bedeutsame Abschnitte der Menschheitsgeschichte versinnbildlichen;*
- [V] ein hervorragendes Beispiel einer überlieferten menschlichen Siedlungsform, Boden- oder Meeresnutzung darstellen, die für eine oder mehrere bestimmte Kulturen typisch ist, oder der Wechselwirkung zwischen Mensch und Umwelt, insbesondere, wenn diese unter dem Druck unaufhaltsamen Wandels vom Untergang bedroht wird;*
- [VI] in unmittelbarer oder erkennbarer Weise mit Ereignissen oder überlieferten Lebensformen, mit Ideen oder Glaubensbekenntnissen oder mit künstlerischen oder literarischen Werken von außergewöhnlicher universeller Bedeutung verknüpft sein.*

