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43. Mission Statement on Heritage Interpretation

According to the International Committee for Interpretation and Presentation of Heritage Sites, the aim is to define the basic objectives and principles of site interpretation and presentation in relation to techniques and application of technologies, authenticity, intellectual integrity, social responsibility, and respect for cultural significance and context. The Committee recognizes that the interpretation of cultural heritage sites can be contentious and should acknowledge conflicting perspectives, but can enrich contemporary reflections about the significance of heritage. The Committee's mission is to pursue the following objectives in its professional, academic and public activities; to facilitate understanding and appreciation of cultural heritage sites and foster public awareness of the need for their conservation; to communicate the meaning of cultural heritage sites through careful, documented recognition of their significance, including their tangible and intangible values, natural and cultural setting, social context, and physical fabric; to encourage respect of the authenticity of cultural heritage sites, by protecting their natural and cultural values and significant fabric from the adverse impact of physical alterations or intrusive interpretive infrastructure; to ensure inclusiveness in the interpretation of cultural heritage sites, by fostering the productive involvement of all stakeholders and associated communities in the development and implementation of interpretive programs; and to develop technical and professional standards for heritage interpretation, including technologies, research, and training.