



## HERITAGE EMERGENCY AND RESPONSE TRAINING (HEART) • 2024 PROGRAM CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

**Dates:** December 9–13, 2024

**Place:** Washington, DC

**Application deadline:** September 26, 2024

**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)

**With generous funding from:**

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  
The National Endowment for the Humanities *and*  
The Bank of America



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 U.S. 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, HENTF created this training opportunity for U.S.-based professionals to gain skills and experience in disaster response for cultural heritage. 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 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.

HEART combines the important principles of the internationally recognized FAC methodology with context-specific information for a U.S. audience. HEART goals are to improve U.S. disaster response at the institutional level, strengthen existing networks, and connect participants to the network of people trained to document and protect cultural heritage in times of crisis. Participants will learn to be proactive in determining risk for collections, respectful of local context, and, after completing their training, ready to support measures to protect cultural heritage at their

respective institutions and in their own communities. **Please note, the HEART program does not accept applications from international professionals, Smithsonian Institution staff, and staff of FEMA.**

### **COVID Considerations**

The Smithsonian no longer requires visitors to wear masks or respirators to visit its museums and the National Zoo. HEART participants may choose to wear a mask during their visit.

### **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 pre-course readings. Participants will travel to Washington, DC, for a week of hands-on training at the Smithsonian Institution from December 9–13, 2024, with travel days on December 8 and 14. HEART 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. After the training, graduates will join the larger HEART alumni network and can participate in future online educational sessions that reinforce concepts covered during the in-person 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 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
- 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 to participate in this training, and lodging in Washington, DC, for all selected participants will be provided for the duration of the program. 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. SCRI has limited travel funds available to provide roundtrip travel to/from Washington DC. Participants will be able to request assistance once selected for the program.

### **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 the United States, U.S. territories, or Indian Country**. 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 supports training in disaster planning/cultural heritage protection and intends to create or update their disaster plan;
- 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.

### Who is ineligible to apply?

As much as the course organizers would like to welcome applications from as many interested professionals as possible, a few factors disqualify you from consideration. Unfortunately, HEART will not accept applications from:

**1. Professionals based at international locations.**

This course is focused on supporting those who work to protect cultural heritage and communities within the United States, U.S. territories, or Indian Country.

**2. Staff of the Smithsonian Institution.**

Interested Smithsonian staff who wish to improve their understanding of emergency preparedness for collections should reach out to the Institution's own [Preparedness and Response in Collections Emergencies \(PRICE\)](#) team.

**3. Staff of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).**

HEART's main focus is building relationships between cultural stewards and emergency managers at the local level. For more information about HENTF, see [Heritage Emergency National Task Force \(HENTF\) | FEMA.gov](#).

### How to Apply

All instructions on how to apply are found on the [HEART 2024 announcement webpage](#). **Please do not send any application material directly to SCRI or HENTF.** As part of the online 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 a series of questions about their experience with disaster planning in their current or past institutions, their reasons for applying to HEART, and why they believe this training will positively impact their

current role in their organization's or agency's emergency preparedness efforts. (These questions appear in the online portal.)

For additional information about the HEART program, please see: <https://culturalrescue.si.edu/what-we-do/resilience/heritage-emergency-and-response-training-heart>

### Questions?

Contact the Heritage Emergency National Task Force at [hentf@si.edu](mailto:hentf@si.edu) or [fema-hentf@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-hentf@fema.dhs.gov).

For questions about other Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative programs, please contact [culturalrescue@si.edu](mailto:culturalrescue@si.edu).

**The deadline to submit your application is Thursday, September 26, 11:59pm EDT.**