

California Alliance for Response 2006 Forum Schedule

September 19, 2006

Getty Center, Los Angeles

September 21, 2006

The Prado at Balboa Park, San Diego

September 25, 2006

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

September 27 2006

Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento

Heritage Emergency National Task Force Members

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
American Association of Museums
American Association for State and
Local History
American Institute for Conservation of
Historic and Artistic Works
American Institute of Architects
American Library Association
Association for Preservation Technology
Association of Art Museum Directors
Association of Regional Conservation
Centers
Council of State Archivists
Council on Library and Information
Resources
Department of the Army
Federal Emergency Management Agency
General Services Administration, Public
Buildings Service
Getty Conservation Institute
Heritage Preservation
Institute of Museum and Library Services
International Association of Emergency
Managers
Library of Congress
National Archives and Records Administration

National Association of Government Archives
and Records Administrators
National Commission on Libraries and
Information Science
National Conference of State Historic
Preservation Officers
National Emergency Management Association
National Endowment for the Arts
National Endowment for the Humanities
National Historical Publications and Records
Commission
National Park Service
National Science Foundation
National Trust for Historic Preservation
OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc.
Regional Alliance for Preservation
Smithsonian Institution
Society of American Archivists
Society of Architectural Historians
Society for Historical Archaeology
Society for the Preservation of Natural
History Collections
U.S. Small Business Administration
U.S. Committee, International Council on
Monuments and Sites
World Monuments Fund

**For more information,
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California Alliance for Response

**A Series of Forums on
Cultural Heritage and
Disaster Management**

Cultural Heritage at Risk

The art, artifacts, historic records, and monuments that tell California's story reside in communities across our state. Museums, historic homes, and state parks welcome thousands of visitors every year. Public libraries and local archives hold in trust the histories of towns and families and serve as centers of information and culture.

The events of September 11, 2001, and Hurricane Katrina, remind us that cultural icons are vulnerable to damage from terrorism and natural disasters. However, we also learned that some basic measures can protect artistic and historic treasures against even the most devastating events. To that end, effective preparedness and training are reinforced by good working relationships between institutions, emergency managers, and first responders.

The Challenge

The need for dialogue is clear. Bringing emergency managers together with the cultural heritage community has been a long-term goal of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force. On the one hand, preservation professionals can offer a great deal of expertise on protecting and salvaging collections, but they may not understand local emergency protocols. At the same time, art and historic artifacts can be damaged by the actions of emergency personnel not trained to handle these materials.

Since 2003, Alliance for Response forums have been bringing cultural heritage leaders and emergency management professionals together, to help forge working relationships before disaster strikes.

Building Strong Partnerships

To be effective, strategic alliances and public-private partnerships must be in place in the communities they will benefit, as the first response will be local, regardless of the cause and scope of the emergency.

The focus of the California forums is:

- providing education on local disaster management issues and protocols;
- raising awareness of the need to protect cultural and historic resources;
- encouraging disaster planning and mitigation; and
- developing strong networks to facilitate effective local response.

Participants include leaders of museums, libraries, archives, and historic preservation organizations, as well as state and local emergency management officials and first responders. The content of the forums has been developed by distinguished local committees in each host city.

About the Supporting Organizations

These forums are made possible with funding provided by the **Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES)** (www.oes.ca.gov) as part of their commitment to disaster preparedness, response and mitigation. With the assistance of private and public organizations, OES intends to make these forums yearly events.

The **California Preservation Program** (www.calpreservation.org) is an initiative of the California State Library with funding from the Institute for Museum of Library Services and has as its primary mandate the preservation of California's documentary heritage. Through its educational programs in disaster preparedness/response and emergency assistance to cultural institutions, the California Preservation Program is keenly aware of the importance of a strong partnership between institutions and first responders.

The **Heritage Emergency National Task Force** (www.heritagepreservation.org) has worked to help libraries, archives, museums, and historic sites safeguard their collections since 1995. Sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Heritage Preservation, Inc., the Task Force is a partnership of 40 national organizations and federal agencies, providing a nationwide network of expertise and experience in building partnerships.

The **Cultural Property Protection Group** (www.cppgrp.com) is active in promoting emergency planning and preparedness in the cultural community.

In addition, these forums have been made possible by the following hosting institutions:

- Crocker Art Museum
- Getty Conservation Institute
- San Diego Balboa Park Museums
- San Francisco Museum of Modern Art