

# HDI



## HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

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A training initiative of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas

### Pittsburgh HDI a Resounding Success

On November 1, the Alliance of National Heritage Areas hosted the fourth annual Heritage Development Institute workshop at the National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Building upon the success of previous National Trust conference workshops, this year's HDI heralded participants from regions across the country. Attendees also came from as far as Guam to learn how to implement and run a successful national heritage area.



The workshop kicked off with an introduction to the program from John Cosgrove, Executive Director of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas. John set the stage for the workshop's focus the role of unified stories that bring communities together and foster heritage development projects through a commitment to shared heritage.



Augie Carlino, President and CEO of the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area headquartered in Homestead, PA, opened the workshop with an in-depth discussion of the benefits and burdens of national heritage areas. Carlino celebrated the similarities as well as the marked differences that characterize each existing heritage area, concluding with an honest discussion of the planning challenges that heritage areas face and solutions to help mitigate them.

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Marilyn Black, Executive Director of the Oil Region Alliance, next led a spirited discussion about the importance of telling authentic, relevant stories within national heritage areas. Participants were encouraged to share both positive and negative experiences in a variety of interpretive venues as a means to help clarify the need to tell the stories that reach heritage area audiences and stakeholders.

Dan Rice, President and CEO of the Ohio and Erie CanalWay, discussed the importance of forming strong and mutually beneficial partnerships with a variety of individuals and organizations. Rice's examples of partnerships formed across numerous disciplinary fields, including developers, chambers of commerce, historical organizations, and individuals with pertinent skills, provided usable examples for attendees looking to establish heritage development partners.

John Cosgrove wrapped up the morning session with an overview of the federal and National Park Service's role in evaluating, establishing, and managing potential and existing national heritage areas. Cosgrove discussed the current process for

implementing national heritage areas as well as information on future legislation designed to help formalize the existing evaluation process.

A working lunch provided an opportunity for participants to speak individually with HDI faculty and ask questions about specific regions and heritage development issues. Dr. Van West, Executive Director of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, concluded the afternoon session with an in-depth discussion of resource conservation through partnerships. West reinforced the importance of understanding and sharing the collective stories and traditions that link heritage areas, emphasizing the additional necessity of resource conservation to maintain authentic and distinctive landscapes and regions. West also stressed the need to form strong local partnerships that empower communities to take ownership of their projects as a key to ensuring long-term sustainability across heritage areas.

The ANHA plans to offer another Heritage Education workshop at next year's National Trust conference in St. Paul. Additional details will be available soon.

## Spotlight on NHAs: Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area

In November, Rivers of Steel partnered with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to help host the Trust's annual conference in Pittsburgh. Encompassing seven counties in southwestern Pennsylvania, Rivers of Steel preserves and celebrates the profound and enduring influence of the steel industry across the United States over the course of more than two centuries. Focusing on preservation and heritage tourism as tools to assist a diversifying economy, as well as promoting innovative hands-on educational programs, Rivers of Steel strives to conserve and promote this region once hailed as the Steel Making Capital of the World.



*Photo courtesy of Rivers of Steel*

*Retired steel workers lead tours through the  
Carrie Furnace cast house.*

For more information on this heritage area, visit  
[www.riversofsteel.com](http://www.riversofsteel.com)

### Upcoming Events of Interest

Colorado Preservation Conference  
"Saving Places 2007: Planning, Growth, and Preservation"  
February 7-9, 2007  
[www.coloradopreservation.org](http://www.coloradopreservation.org)

**Mark Your Calendars!**  
2007 International Heritage Development Conference  
"Your Passport to Crossing Boundaries in Heritage Development"  
Sponsored by the Alliance of National Heritage Areas  
June 18-21, 2007  
Detroit, MI  
[http://www.nationalheritageareas.com/2007\\_conference.htm](http://www.nationalheritageareas.com/2007_conference.htm)

# Additions to Your Heritage Development Reading List

*Preservation Sourcebook* (available in Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Southeast, and Midwest and West editions). Washington, DC: Resource Media, 2006.

Sarah Nichols, "Heeding the Call for Heritage Tourism: More Visitors Want an "Experience" in Their Vacations." *Parks and Recreation Magazine*, Vol. 39, Issue 9.

*For a comprehensive list of sources related to heritage development, visit [www.heritagedevelopmentinstitute.org/research](http://www.heritagedevelopmentinstitute.org/research).*

## IHDC 2007

The 2007 International Heritage Development Conference, "*Your Passport to Crossing Boundaries in Heritage Development*," will be held in Detroit, MI from June 18-21, 2007.

For more information, go to:

[http://www.nationalheritageareas.com/2007\\_conference.htm](http://www.nationalheritageareas.com/2007_conference.htm)

*Mark your calendars for the upcoming Heritage Development Institute as part of the annual National Trust for Historic Preservation conference in St. Paul in 2007! Additional information will be available soon.*

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publication in our next  
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The Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA) established the Heritage Development Institute (HDI) as a way of providing leadership to the heritage development field as well as creating training and analysis of the best practices in our heritage areas across the country. The HDI Newsletter is sponsored by the ANHA, Middle Tennessee State University's Center for Historic Preservation, and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. To submit information and update e-mail addresses, please e-mail us at [hdi@mtsu.edu](mailto:hdi@mtsu.edu).