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BEST PRACTICES  
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PRESERVATION



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## SUPPORTING HERITAGE PRESERVATION THROUGH SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT IN JORDAN

### THE TEMPLE OF THE WINGED LIONS CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE IN PETRA

#### BACKGROUND:

Since 2009, the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman, Jordan, has managed an innovative and award-winning cultural heritage, landscape rejuvenation, and community engagement project at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Petra, the 2,000-year-old capital city and trade emporium of the ancient Nabataeans located in southern Jordan.

The project, known as the Temple of the Winged Lions Cultural Resource Management (TWLCRM) Initiative, aims to stabilize, conserve, and restore the architecture and surrounding landscape of one of Petra's most prominent but threatened monuments. Earlier excavations started nearly 40 years ago and the fragile sandstone walls and columns of the Temple of the Winged Lions have suffered severe deterioration from both natural and human elements.

The TWLCRM Initiative has assembled a team of world-class scholars and professionals to document, conserve, and ultimately bring new life to this remarkable monument. At the same time, the project has developed an innovative social engagement strategy that directly involves members of Petra's local communities through year-round employment, training, and educational opportunities in cultural resource management. Since 2012, the project has been supported by the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation and USAID.

#### OUTCOMES:

In addition to conserving the temple's exposed and weathered remains, the TWLCRM Initiative aims to make the site more accessible and informative for visitors, with new interpretive signage, attractive landscaped paths, and elevated viewing platforms. Furthermore, the TWLCRM Initiative is re-documenting each wall and feature within the temple, as well as all recovered objects, through proper survey, measurement, photography, and drawing.

Equally important has been the project's implementation of an intensive landscape rehabilitation program. This includes removing the many soil and rubble dumps scattered across the site, consolidating the various expanses used to store architectural fragments, as well as the backfilling of excavation trenches.

The long-term preservation of the site is not just a matter of conserving stones and clearing away rubble. It is also about ensuring that host communities are empowered to participate directly in the site's preservation. The TWLCRM Initiative is providing Petra's host communities with employment, training, and educational opportunities in site preservation and management. The nearly 800 employment opportunities generated through the project up to 2016 have encouraged local communities to become important stakeholders in the site's preservation.



## NEEDS:

In the coming years, the TWLCRM Initiative will conclude key elements of the temple's conservation and restoration and also expand its path-breaking community employment, training, and education program. Your generous financial support will ensure that major project objectives are met, including:

- Conservation of the exposed and weathered walls of the temple's sanctuary
- Landscape rehabilitation of the areas surrounding the temple
- Presentation of the temple in a manner that is safe and accessible for visitors
- Interpreting the site for visitors with new signage and landscaped paths
- Continued generation of local employment and training opportunities
- Creation of skilled local teams trained in Petra's conservation and preservation
- Hosting community and visitor education programs about cultural heritage

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- Host a day-long community event to educate local children about Petra's archaeology by donating \$500/JD 350
- Give \$1,000/JD 700 and sponsor the training of a team of local conservation technicians for a month
- Support the rehabilitation of the temple's landscape for one month by giving \$2,500/JD 1,750
- Make the Temple of the Winged Lions more accessible to visitors by donating \$5,000/JD 3,500 to support interpretive signage, landscaped paths, and viewing platforms
- Help complete the conservation, restoration, and documentation of the temple by giving \$10,000/JD 7,000 to support the work of the project's professional scientific team
- Contribute \$25,000/JD 17,500 and provide 50 people from Petra's local community with long-term employment and training opportunities through the TWLCRM Initiative

## BENEFITS TO DONORS:

- Knowledge of having made a significant and lasting contribution to both the people and cultural heritage of Petra
- Donor's name included in signage honoring the Temple of the Winged Lions site in Petra
- Opportunity to communicate with local team members helped through donations
- Recognition in ACOR's newsletter, on ACOR's website and blog, and in social media
- Acknowledgment at public lectures, professional conferences, and in the final publication of the TWLCRM Initiative

***"This project is important to Petra, especially to restore the building. We can keep it in good condition, maybe for years and years."***

Eman Abdessalam, TWLCRM Documentation Specialist

***"I know how much there is under the earth, how old it is. There are beautiful things that belong in a museum. Now I want to work in excavations in the future."***

Mhelah Samahin, TWLCRM team member



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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