



AMERICAN
INSTITUTE FOR
CONSERVATION
OF HISTORIC AND
ARTISTIC WORKS

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Fire at the National Museum of Brazil

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) extends sympathy and support to their conservation colleagues in Rio de Janeiro following the devastating fire at the National Museum of Brazil.

The fire began late on the evening of Sunday, September 2, 2018 and tore through the 200-year-old museum, causing extensive damage to the collections held within. The museum held an estimated 20 million artifacts representing 11,000 years of history.

“We mourn for the catastrophic damage suffered by our collective cultural heritage” said AIC President Margaret Holben Ellis. “The collection held at the National Museum of Brazil was of enormous significance and we empathize with the Museum’s dedicated stewards who must feel an overwhelming loss. AIC stands ready to offer support for the community affected by this disaster.”

AIC staff will monitor damage assessments and provide updated information to the membership about opportunities to offer assistance in ongoing recovery efforts.

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About AIC

The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works is a national membership organization supporting the professionals who preserve our cultural heritage. AIC plays a crucial role in establishing and upholding professional standards, promoting research and publications, providing educational opportunities, and fostering the exchange of knowledge among conservators, allied professionals, and the public. Learn more about AIC at www.conservation-us.org.