



foundation
for advancement
in conservation

**Protecting Cultural
Heritage**

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1, 2019

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Preservation of Cultural Treasures is Focus of Forum for Cultural Heritage and Emergency Management Communities

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK— First responders, emergency managers, and members of the cultural heritage community gathered at the Oklahoma History Center last week to help save priceless art, historic artifacts, records, and monuments from damage or loss during future emergencies.

Friday's forum, dubbed "Oklahoma Alliance for Response", was organized by partners from the Oklahoma Museum Association, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Oklahoma Archivists Association, Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board, and the Oklahoma History Center. The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation coordinates the national Alliance for Response program with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Over thirty similar forums have been held in cities and regions throughout the United States since the program began in 2003.

The forum featured a keynote address from Oklahoma State Climatologist Gary McManus as well as a panel discussion from emergency professionals, presentations about response resources, and a tour of collections storage facilities.

"Building bridges between those who work in cultural heritage preservation and those responsible for emergency management is essential if we want to protect our shared heritage for future generations" said Eryl Wentworth, Executive Director of the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation.

The forum concluded with a call to create a cooperative disaster network that will support the protection of cultural heritage across Oklahoma. Additional support for the event was provided by the Union Pacific Railroad Foundation, the Chisholm Trail Museum, the Oklahoma Historical Society and the University of Central Oklahoma Chambers Library, Archives and Special Collections.

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The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation's (FAIC) mission is to save cultural heritage for future generations, protecting it from decay and destruction. We advance research and education, lead treatment and collection care initiatives, and deploy conservation expertise to where it is most urgently needed. Our work empowers conservation professionals, strengthens cultural institutions, and engages stakeholders, including public audiences, as we work together to protect cultural heritage for humanity.