



Sustainability in Conservation Policy Plan and Activity Report 2019

Sustainability in Conservation
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1. Introduction

Sustainability in Conservation, founded in 2016, promotes environmental responsibility in the conservation of cultural heritage. Conservation as a recognized profession is a relatively new occupation and advances in technology and science has sped up the advancement of the field, making it a highly academic and scientific discipline. It combines cutting edge technologies and innovative materials with traditional techniques and material knowledge.

The aim of the discipline is to preserve the past for the future – however, ironically, the field is quite unsustainable. Conservators use toxic materials, produce waste and demand climate conditions for museums which are often unrealistic and require massive energy consumption. While conservation in the past utilized natural materials, advances in science and polymer technology has transitioned the sector to using petroleum-based products and toxic chemicals. Current knowledge dictates the requirements for objects, which generally results in the use of inert synthetic materials and restricts opportunities for re-use.

Conservation training to date does not include discussions about sustainability, therefore professionals are often at a loss of where to begin with making more environmentally friendly choices. SiC makes it easy for practitioners to start making changes and promotes the concept that every small difference makes a significant impact. SiC provides a resource

center with relevant information about case studies, best practices, alternative materials and current research. Additionally, SiC develops research projects with international partners, provides original programs to facilitate sustainable practices and unifies the sector by providing a hub for information and an international network. Additionally, SiC acts as the resource for conservation organizations, including the International Institute of Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC) and the Institute of Conservation (Icon).

SiC has a small staff and relies primarily on dedicated volunteers for daily operations. Support is provided by Ki Culture and individual project-based grants.

In 2020, SiC will be focusing on the continued development of the Student Ambassador Program as well as creating an original SiC peer reviewed journal, the Digital Resource Center and the Recycling Program. To address specific issues in relevant countries, SiC oversees SiC Portugal and SiC Italia. In addition to these programs, SiC will continue its monthly newsletter, social media platform operations, the website, blogs and forum as well as the Tips and Tricks project.

2. Contact Information

SiC is a branch of ANBI Stichting Ki Culture. Contact information for Ki Culture and SiC is provided below:

Stichting Ki Culture was incorporated through Notaris Scot-van Loon on the 13th of November, 2019 as a geode doel stichting. Below please find the relevant information about the incorporation and legal status of the stichting. For further information or inquiries, please contact info@kiculture.com.

Legal Name:	Stichting Ki Culture
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3. Overview and Aims

SiC promotes and supports sustainable practices and environmental awareness in the conservation of cultural heritage and related fields. By providing programs, forums for discussion and accessible information, we seek to stimulate the exchange of knowledge and ideas between organizations, individuals and universities.

SiC aims to support environmental responsibility in the field of conservation of cultural heritage, highlighting the duality of conserving the planet along with the art and heritage it contains. SiC facilitates a united effort to encourage sustainable conduct in conservation by building awareness and providing reliable resources and programs as well as a forum to stimulate the exchange of ideas and knowledge. SiC projects and resources empower everyone in the field, from large organizations to individuals to demonstrate that even small changes in daily working practice can make a large difference.

Principles:

- Building awareness of environmental impact and mitigation strategies
- Facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas between all levels of the field
- Making sustainability accessible and practical
- Providing and effectively disseminating reliable, current information

4. Background

SiC began after a gap was identified in the conservation field.¹ There was no resource center or information platform for sustainable ideas or alternatives for practitioners. Simple solutions, inspired by other sectors, could easily be applied to conservation, but the information silos and knowledge gaps proved a bottleneck in implementing sustainability into everyday conservation practice. SiC was created to fill that gap.

In 2019, SiC underwent a reorganization to align with its umbrella company, Ki Culture. Ki Culture and SiC are jointly administered, however SiC is organizationally separate. SiC operates independently from Ki Culture and constitutes its own staff, brand and projects. SiC is a branch of Ki Culture and is legally and fiscally subject to the policies of Ki Culture. Legally, SiC and its branches are recognized a “part of” Ki Culture.

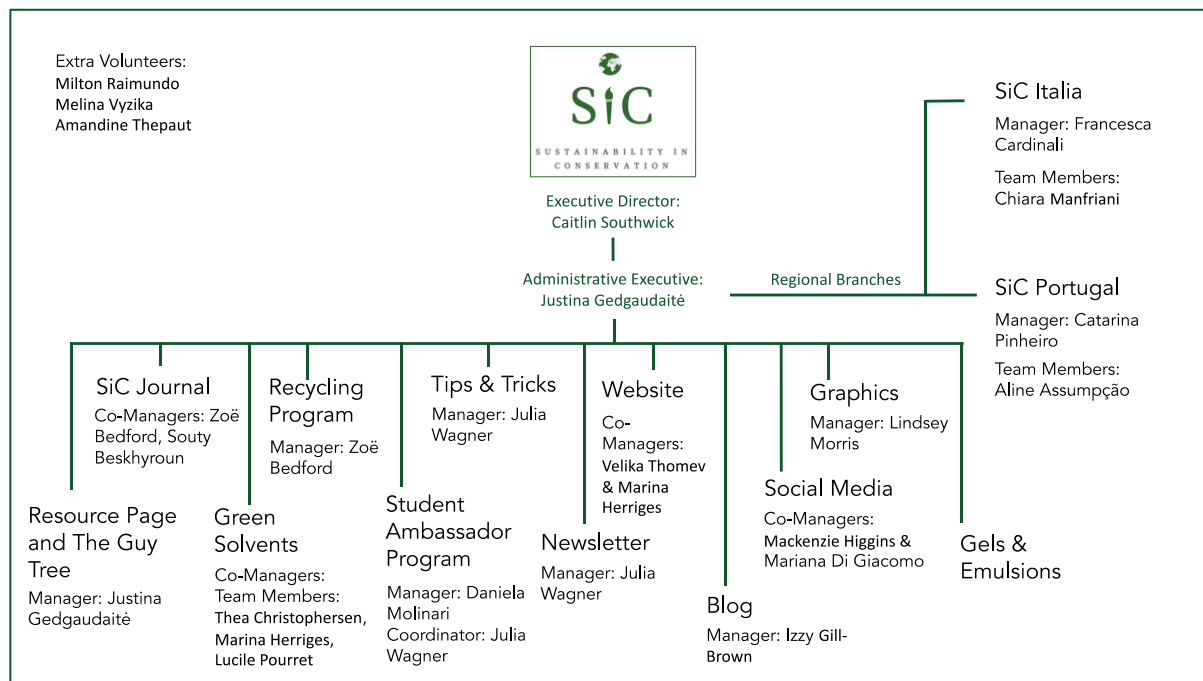
5. Target Group

SiC is dedicated to providing solutions for researchers, practitioners, students and professionals in the conservation of cultural heritage field. SiC targets the environmental lens of sustainability and focuses on individuals who work in conservation and related fields.

6. The Board and Staff

SiC is subject to the Raad van Toezicht and Bestuur of Ki Culture, but has its own Advisory Committee and Honorary Council. SiC is primarily comprised of volunteers with no current paid positions. The Executive Director is the same as Ki Culture, but other positions are filled with volunteers dedicated specifically to SiC tasks. In addition to the Executive Director, SiC has its own Administrative Executive and the rest of the staff are divided into Managers, Team Members and a Volunteer Pool. Positions are described below and outlined in the following infographic:

¹ Publication: *Sustainability in Conservation: Saving Our Heritage and Our Planet*. News in Conservation, International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, Volume 72. Available Online: https://www.iiconconservation.org/system/files/publications/journal/2019/b2019_3.pdf. June 2019.



For full information about the Supervisory and Operational Boards and their functions please see the [Ki Culture Policy Plan](#).

6.1. Executive Director

Caitlin Southwick, MSc, PD Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage

The Executive Director is the daily manager of SiC and its programs. The main purpose of the ED is to ensure the fulfillment of the organizations mission. The ED is in charge of creating the programming, expanding the network and finding the right partners and strategies for implementing the programs. The ED is the face of the organization and attends conferences, symposia and workshops to promote SiC and build the brand. The ED is also the creative director for the programs and in the first two years oversees and manages daily operations.

Caitlin Southwick holds a Professional Doctorate in Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage from the University of Amsterdam and a Graduate Degree in Conservation Practice from Cardiff University. She has over eight years of training and experience in conservation field and has worked at some of the most high-profile institutions and sites around the world, including The Vatican Museums, The Uffizi Gallery, The Getty Conservation Institute and Easter Island. Her interest in sustainability derived from her personal passion for the environment and she believes strongly in the duality of conserving cultural heritage and the planet. In 2019, she founded the non-profit organization Ki Culture, the leading international organization dedicated to environmentally conscious practices in cultural heritage. She was invited to be a professional member of the American Institute for Conservation's Sustainability Committee, the Coordinator of the Sustainability Working Group for the International Council of Museums and the head of the Sustainability Platform for the International Institute of Conservation.

6.2. Administrative Executive

Justina Gedgaudaitė, MA Conservation of Easel Paintings

The Administrative Executive is responsible for the day-to-day running of the organization, which includes maintaining communications with other organizations and responding to enquiries, as well as running the various online work spaces that team members use. She is also the volunteer coordinator, distributing tasks and ensuring all team members receive assistance with their projects. She keeps up to date with all of SiC's activities and facilitates research and collecting information. She is the first point of contact for SiC.

Justina has a background in art history, having received an undergraduate degree in the subject from the University of St Andrews, Scotland. She then went on to study art conservation, specializing in easel paintings at Northumbria University, Newcastle. She has undertaken work placements and internships at the conservation studios of the Bowes Museum and the Laing Art Gallery, as well as the archives of the National M. K. Čiurlionis Museum in her native city of Kaunas, Lithuania. She believes that the sustainability movement is crucial in today's society and that introducing and maintaining sustainable practices within the field of conservation is a fundamental step to ensure that the preservation of cultural heritage reflects the need to preserve our planet. She is currently based in Edinburgh.

6.3. Managers

The Managers are in charge of specific tasks or projects for SiC. They report directly to the Executive Director and Administrative Executive. Manager positions include: Graphic Design, Website, Social Media, Student Ambassador Program, Newsletter, Tips and Tricks, Blog, Editor, Recycling Program, SiC Journal, SiC Portugal and SiC Italy.

6.4. Team Members

Team Members are involved with specific projects or responsibilities within SiC and report directly to the project manager.

6.5. Volunteer Pool

SiC has a pool of volunteers who are available to do short-term, specific projects and rolling tasks. The Volunteer Pool is managed by the Administrative Executive and are able to pick out tasks from lists or can be assigned specific objectives.

6.6. Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is comprised of established professionals in the field who offer guidance and advice on various programs and projects. In addition to their expertise, the committee offers network connections and facilitate contact between SiC and relevant people.

Advisory Committee members are asked to attend one SiC meeting per year (either regional SiC groups or SiC of their choice) and one Advisory Committee meeting per year, to keep up with what is going on and to ensure that SiC is heading in the right direction. The Advisory Committee is also encouraged to attend conferences and other events put on by SiC. The Advisory Committee will have access to all meeting notes and documents, and will be asked from time to time to give input and edit.

- ❖ Jane Henderson, Reader in Conservation, Cardiff University; Secretary General, IIC
- ❖ Joel Taylor, Senior Project Specialist, Getty Conservation Institute
- ❖ Guy Devreux, Head of Marble and Casts Conservation Laboratory, The Vatican Museums

6.7. Honorary Council

In 2020, SiC will assemble and Honorary Council. The Council is comprised of established professionals in the field who lend their name, credibility and network to SiC. Honorary Council members hold no official duties or responsibilities but are asked to support the programs and provide publicity and introductions when requested.

7. Key Activities and Results 2019

2019 saw the continuation of the Student Ambassador Program. SiC continues to expand its digital platform with the website and monthly e-newsletter and social media presence. SiC Portugal continued to develop original programming and hosted the Sustainability Day at Benfica in Lisbon. SiC Italia was established, adding renowned researchers and professionals to the SiC team.

The SiC team was well represented at conferences in 2019, reaching outlets across Europe and in the US. Founder Caitlin Southwick hosted a workshop at the American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting addressing what sustainability is and how it applies to cultural heritage.

SiC continued to develop its partnerships and has emerged as the reference point and hub for international organizations wishing to engage with sustainability. SiC works with leading organizations including the International Council of Museums Conservation Committee (ICOM-CC), the International Institute of Conservation for Historic and Artistic Works (IIC), The Institute of Conservation (Icon), The American Institute of Conservation (AIC), The Australian Institute for Conservation of Cultural Materials (AICCM) and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICRROM).

8. Objectives and Activities 2020

2020 will see the continuation of existing SiC programs along with the development of new initiatives.

8.1. Student Ambassador Program

The SiC Student Ambassador Program began its second official year in 2019 with the introduction of the second themed handbook on Waste and Materials. Ambassadors and teams from 16 institutions around the world participate in this dynamic program to engage and empower students to become more sustainable. For more information see:

<https://www.sustainabilityinconservation.com/student-ambassador-program>.

8.2. Resource Page and The Guy Tree

In order to make informed treatment decisions, conservators need to know all available options. SiC is dedicating a section of the website to house all information, resources, case studies and materials into one place so that the conservator can make the most suitable, and most environmentally conscientious choice for their object or collection. Resources will include a bibliography, media/links, case studies and the Guy Tree - a decision making model which guides conservators on making more sustainable choices for treatments and collection care.

8.3. Green Solvents Project

The Green Solvents project is a two-part program aimed at introducing and incorporating Green Chemistry into conservation. The first phase is the creation of a Green Solvents handbook which describes Green Chemistry, introduces the concept to conservation and outlines the applications for conservation practice.

The second phase of the program is to develop and facilitate an international cooperative research project to develop and test applications and use of Green Chemistry in conservation.

8.1. Gels and Emulsions

The Gels and Emulsions project is a two-part program aimed at gaining an understanding of sustainability in cleaning treatments involving gels and emulsions. The first phase is the creation of a Gels and Emulsions handbook which describes how sustainability applies to gels and emulsions – what is sustainable and what is not and why. The book then lists case studies of how sustainable gels and emulsion applications have been used in conservation. The second phase of the program is to develop and facilitate an international cooperative research project to develop and test applications and use of gels and emulsions sustainably in conservation.

8.2. Recycling Program

The Recycling Program is a comprehensive interactive resource for conservators to find out recycling information for their materials in their areas. Conservators can find recycling centers, schemes and availability in their areas and see what types of recycling are available around the world. The Recycling Program also answers questions about what can be recycled and how.

8.3. SiC Journal

The SiC Journal will be a peer-reviewed academic publication dedicated to sustainable research and treatments. The journal will be open-source and published online.

8.4. Regional Branches

The issues of conservation vary from country to country, and often research is limited by language barriers. In order to address more specifically regional issues and to promote better international communication, SiC has developed Regional Branches, which are country specific and address specific research, needs and issues within the country. Additionally, these branches serve as communicators between the rest of the world and the research conducted in the country, or in countries with the same language. The Regional Branches also facilitate the implementation of the Student Ambassador Program in their countries.

8.4.1. SiC Portugal

SiC Portugal partners with local institutions and organizations across Portugal to create various programs and incorporate SiC programs. In 2019, SiC Portugal organized a Sustainability Day in collaboration with Benfica, where representatives from SiC came to present SiC's work and the Student Ambassador Program

From Lab to Life

There is an evident gap between research centers and conservation practice. Many materials or techniques developed or researched at a university level have sustainability as a key concern and may effectively replace some of the current products used in conservation and

restoration. However, for lack of time, funding or both, they don't make it to the professionals who could benefit from their use. The "From Lab to Life" platform intends to address this gap and establish a base to perform large scale trials and determine whether a new formulation or procedure may safely and effectively be used by the professional sphere.

Loan and Reuse

Museums, Archives and Libraries, among other cultural heritage caretakers, acquire materials, equipment and furniture that serve their immediate needs in terms of storage or exhibition but that can, later on, be of lesser use and be kept in a storage area for long periods of time. The platform "Loan and Reuse" intends to create the basis for advanced communication between these institutions and promote the reutilization of these items amongst them.

Student Ambassador Program (Portugal)

The original SiC program is applied to Universities and training facilities in Portugal. The first students were enrolled in 2019 and are following the Waste and Materials Handbook provided by SiC. Given the complexity of the topic and its importance when it comes to sustainability, a lecture on "Residues: what happens after disposal" is being developed. This lecture will be recorded and translated into English for full access for all SiC members.

Biodegradable Gloves

SiC Portugal has been evaluating the feasibility of using biodegradable gloves (SHOWA, EBT Technology). Discussions include ease of acquisition, benefits and potential setbacks. Research is being conducted in partnership with the Nova University (Conservation and Restoration Department and Environmental Engineering Department).

Funding is being sought through Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian.

Partnerships include the ADCR (Associação para o Desenvolvimento da Conservação e Restauro) and Portuguese ONG.

8.4.2. SiC Italia

SiC Italia aims to incorporate the Student Ambassador Program into Italian training programs and develop innovative research projects and collaborations, focusing on the use of marine plants as conservation materials and essential oils as biocides.

Activities for SiC Italia in 2020 include:

- Research and evaluation of current status of sustainability in the field of conservation in Italy
 - Evaluate the current situation and how Italy wants to approach sustainability
- Creation of the SiC Italia network
- Introduce SiC Student Ambassador Program to Italian Universities
- Collection of resources and translations
- Original research programs
- Building partnerships and collaborations

8.5. Webinars

SiC will be designing webinars to help educate conservators. The webinars will cover a wide range of topics, including an introduction to sustainability for conservators (what are the UN SDGs and how can we apply them to conservation), a discussion of Funori as a conservation

material, how to use social media as a conservator in a professional capacity and preventive conservation and sustainability.

8.6. Tips and Tricks

The Tips and Tricks platform offers conservators easy to implement ideas that any conservator can use. Ideas include re-use of gloves, ways to recycle foam and how to reform wax strips for re-use.

8.7. Digital Platform

The SiC website is the heart of the organization and houses the digital Resource Center as well as all other relevant information about the organization. The website also hosts the Members Only Forum, a space for conservators to engage in conversations, ask questions and see what topics are of interest in the field. In addition to the website, a large component of SiC's work includes dissemination of information. SiC shares news, research and ideas through a monthly e-newsletter, a bi-monthly blog and social media platforms.

9. Publications and Conferences

SiC is active in publications and conferences. Below is a list of various conferences where SiC has been represented and publications about SiC.

Braun, S. and C. Southwick. *Creating Ownership, Value, and Understanding through Interactive Sustainable Tourism*. World Heritage Management, Urban Planning and Sustainable Tourism. Edt. Dr. Kurt Luger. UNESCO

Southwick, C. *Sustainability in Conservation: A Sustainable Future for Conservation* Norske Konserver 2019-2. Available online.

Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals International LDE-Heritage Conference *Roundtable on Heritage and Environment*. 26 – 28 November 2019. Delft, The Netherlands.

4th International Student Conference of Conservation and Restoration of Works of Art *Sustainability in Conservation: Student Ambassador Program*. 6 – 8 November, 2019. Cracow, Poland.

Benfica Sustainability Day. *Sustainability in Conservation*. 14 October 2019. Lisbon, Portugal.

YoCoCu Green Conservation of Cultural Heritage. *SiC and SiC_Portugal: when global meets local*. 10 – 12 October 2019. Porto, Portugal.

APOYOnline 30th Anniversary Conference and Workshop on Heritage Preservation “30 Years Building Bridges & Pathways for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage in the Americas.” *Sustainability in Conservation for South America: Turning to Green Conservation for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage*. 23 – 27 September 2019. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

ICOM-CC Metals Conference. *Pilot Study Examining Tarnishing Caused by Nitrile Glove-Solvent Interaction on Metal*. 2 – 6 September 2019. Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

The Vatican Museums. *Ki Culture and Sustainability in Conservation*. 17 June 2019. The Vatican City State.

ICON: New Perspectives: Contemporary Conservation Thinking and Practice. *Sustainability in Conservation: Material Use and Sustainability*. 12 – 14 June 2019. Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Southwick, C. *Sustainability in Conservation: Saving Our Heritage and Our Planet*. News in Conservation, International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, Volume 72. Available Online. June 2019.

Plastics Heritage Congress 2019. *Use of Plastic in Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage*:

Wagner, J., F. Cardinali, E. De Bruyn, M. Escamilla, B. Gonçalves, A. McSweeney, L. Pourret and C. Southwick. Conference Proceedings. 29 – 31 May 2019. Lisbon, Portugal.

Second Annual West Dean Student and Emerging Professionals Conference. *Sustainable Alternatives to Environmentally Harmful Materials Such as Isinglass*. 10 May 2019. West Dean, England.

SHAKE Conservation Talks: Big Research in Tiny Speeches. *Sustainability in Conservation*. 11 December 2018. Liège, Belgium.

Southwick, C. and E. De Bruyn. *Sustainability in Conservation: Student Ambassador Program*. News in Conservation, International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, Volume 69. Available Online. December 2018.

4th International Conference on Science and Engineering in Arts, Heritage and Archaeology (SEAHA). *Energy Saving Challenge Survey*. 4 – 6 June 2018. London, England.

Going Green The C Word: The Conservators Podcast S04E01. Available Online. 19 September 2018.

ENCoRE General Assembly. The Sustainability Trend in Higher Education: Introducing Sustainability to the Curriculum of the Conservation-Restoration Education. 23-25 May 2018. Turin, Italy.
Escamilla, M. and C. Southwick. Conference Proceedings. May 2020.

ICON Care of Collections Group: Sustainability in Collections Care Conference. *Sustainability in Conservation: Networking, Dissemination of Information and the Current Research Initiative*. 16 May 2018. London, England.

YoCoCu Green Conservation of Cultural Heritage. *Sustainability in Conservation: The Student Ambassador Program Energy Challenge*. 16 – 18 November 2017. Palermo, Italy.

ICOM-CC Triennial Conference. *Education and Training Working Group: Sustainability in Conservation Student Ambassador Program*. 4 – 8 September 2017. Copenhagen, Denmark.

AIC General Meeting. *Students for Sustainability in Conservation*. 28 May – 2 June 2017. Chicago, USA.

ICOM-CC Glass and Ceramics Working Group Interim Meeting. *Students for Sustainability in Conservation*. 25 – 29 May 2016. Wroclaw, Poland.

Southwick, C. *Student Forum Review*, ICOM-CC Newsletter Spring 2017.

Southwick, C. *Students for Sustainability in Conservation*. kore Newsletter. Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin. Available online. August 2016.

10. Finances

Sustainability in Conservation is funded by Ki Culture. SiC is eligible to apply for grants and funds using the ANBI status of Ki Culture. SiC budgets are reviewed by and subject to approval by the Raad van Toezicht for Ki Culture.