

IAASF - International Arts and Antiquities Security Forum 2021 - “Protecting Cultural Heritage in a Global Pandemic”

14-15 April 2021, Mercure Darlington Kings’ Hotel, Darlington (UK)

Press Release

The International Arts and Antiquities Security Forum (IAASF) announces the launch of its 2021 Conference, “Protecting Cultural Heritage in a Global Pandemic”.

The conference will take place over the 14-15th April 2021 and is being hosted by one of the primary Conference sponsors, the Mercure Darlington King’s Hotel. Located in the heart of Darlington (UK), the hotel is one of the town’s most iconic buildings dating back to Victorian times.

The loss of visitors, operational disruption, and financial losses caused by COVID19 across the global cultural and heritage sectors, have potentially increased the risk of collections, venues, and sites being targeted by criminals and other adversarial threats. For this reason, the conference will seek to share information about current and emerging security and safety threats that exist, examine operational best practises within the sectors, and look at the latest innovative approaches to proactively managing and reducing the risk levels that are faced.

The conference provides delegates, who have responsibilities for the protection, custody and management of arts and antiques, with a professional learning experience assured by the presence and involvement of renowned professionals from across the sectors.

Andy Davis, Chair of the IAASF commented, “These are indeed challenging times. Culture and Heritage plays an important part in people’s life and well-being so it is our responsibility to protect it as much as we can. With this conference we want to provide a space where those involved within the cultural and heritage sectors can network, exchange experiences and ideas, and learn about best practices on how to better protect cultural heritage for future generations.”

Due to the continued crisis caused by COVID and the devastating impact upon the sectors those staff directly engaged within the arts, antiquities and cultural heritage sectors will have **FREE** access to the conference (others will be asked to contribute).

Some of the confirmed speakers at the conference include notable professionals involved in cultural heritage protection: **Dr Emma Cunliffe**, Secretariat of Blue Shield International, **William Brown**, National Security Adviser- Arts Council England, **Stewart Kidd**, Managing Director at Loss Prevention Consultancy Ltd.

Delegates attending the conference will also benefit from discounted rates at the beautiful Mercure Darlington King’s Hotel.

Gordon Stewart, General Manager at the Mercure Hotel, commented, “We are delighted and proud to be the chosen venue and to host this event in support of the cultural and heritage sectors.”

To secure a place at this event, visit our booking page:

For more information, contact: Valentina Sabucco, IAASF – Coordinator at iaasf@tridentmanor.com



