

The *Association for Preservation Technology International* (APTI) and the *Preservation Trades Network* (PTN), meeting at their joint conference in the historic city of Charleston, South Carolina from 31st September to 4th October 2012, do:

RECOGNIZE the vital importance of traditional building trade skills and craftsmanship to the processes of historic preservation and preservation treatments (i.e., the repair, restoration, rehabilitation and maintenance) of historic buildings, monuments, structures, landscapes and sites;

UNDERSTAND that shortages of well-educated, trained, skilled and experienced craftspeople jeopardize the long-term sustainable welfare of the historic built environment;

ACKNOWLEDGE that inappropriate preservation treatments deployed by well-meaning though inexperienced and unqualified contractors lower standards of practice and contribute to the loss of the essential values and significance of fragile historic resources;

DO HEREBY DECLARE AND CONFIRM our grave concern and determined strategic aim to work together and form alliances to improve craft skills to safeguard built heritage by (among other actions):

1. Determining specific skill shortages and the means to address them.
2. Establishing agreed standards of competency and practice in the field.
3. Developing trade skills and experience,

And by

4. Helping to recruit interested parties and the means to facilitate these improvements

FURTHERMORE, and to these ends, representatives of APTI and PTN will reconvene with other interested parties in Washington DC., in the spring of 2013 with a view to:

- (a) RECEIVING a final draft of a joint APTI and PTN *Charter of Preservation Trades Skills Development* with the intention of submitting a final version to the memberships of the organizations for adoption or ratification in New York no later than 15 October 2013;
- (b) FORMULATING a Business Plan with others to take forward a concerted program of collaborative activity, subject to resources;
- (c) ANNOUNCING our intentions and outcomes to industry, government and the public to alert them to the urgent need for collective support and action.

Affirmed by the undersigned hands, this Second Day of October 2012, in the historic city of Charleston, SC:

Joan C. Berkowitz
President
Association for Preservation Technology International

Rob Cagnetta,
President,
Preservation Trades Network