

U.S. AMBASSADORS FUND FOR CULTURAL PRESERVATION



CONSERVATION OF THE 16TH CENTURY ST. FRANCIS RAMPART IN KOTOR

May 5th, 2023

# NEWSLETTER #1

## Conservation of the 16th Century St. Francis Rampart in Kotor



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**Introduction:**

The friendship between the United States of America and Montenegro extends beyond the national interests of the two countries, to our shared history, culture, and values.

Through projects supported through the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP), the United States Embassy in Montenegro has helped to preserve monuments that highlight the harmony, tolerance, and rich heritage of the diversity of Montenegro.

**About the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP):**

In 2001, the Department of State established the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, a competitive global fund, to support projects preserving a wide range of cultural heritage in less developed countries, including historic buildings, archaeological sites, ethnographic objects, paintings, manuscripts, and indigenous languages and other forms of traditional cultural expression. Through AFCP, the United States demonstrates American leadership in the preservation of cultural heritage around the world and shows our respect for other cultures.

**About the AFCP Supported Project in Kotor:**

In 2021, a project to conserve the 16th Century St. Francis Rampart in Kotor received \$375,000 through AFCP. This project aims to restore the UNESCO-protected city walls of Old Town Kotor, which date back to the 9th century, above the southern city gate and one of its artillery points named “St. Francis,” which was built in the 16th century.







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This highly impactful project involves removing vegetation, leveling the terrain, cleaning the walls, masonry, and other conservation work. Restoration of the collapsing part of the city walls is necessary to ensure the safety of visitors and to preserve a priceless piece of Venetian architecture.



**About the Kotor Fortress:**

The Kotor Fortress is situated on the banks of Kotor Bay, a natural harbor that served as an important artistic and commercial center in the Middle Ages. Many of the monuments in Kotor, including the fortress, were damaged by the 1979 earthquake, but have since been restored with help from the international community, including UNESCO and the U.S. Government. The entire historical fortification system of Kotor, including one of the wall's artillery points, St. Francis, was first inscribed in the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites on October 26, 1979. In February 2016, the ancient city walls of Old Town Kotor became part of the UNESCO World Heritage List as "The Venetian Works of Defense between the 15th and 17th Centuries."





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For updates about the progress of the “Conservation of the 16th Century St. Francis Rampart in Kotor” project, please follow our social media channels below.



StFrancis Kotor



St.Francis.Kotor



St. Francis Kotor



StFrancisKotor

The next edition of the Newsletter coming up in July, 2023.

Stay tuned!

Municipality of Kotor Project Team

