

American Author Steve Berry said, “a concerted effort to preserve our heritage is a vital link to our cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, and economic legacies - all of the things that quite literally make us who we are.” Indeed, our built heritage is a living extension of who we are as a culture and as a people. The Royal Opera House, Mumbai exemplifies this philosophy and is an important paradigm of bringing built heritage back to life! As key cultural stakeholders who have witnessed this revival we invite you for an interactive evening of conversation that probes the value and legacy of our historic edifices.

The US Consulate General in Mumbai, The Royal Opera House, Mumbai and Avid Learning present ***Why Old Places Matter***, an exclusive ***Roundtable Session*** and ***High Tea*** with *Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Mr. Tom Mayes*. A lifelong preservationist, Mr. Mayes has written and spoken extensively on preservation as well as why old places should matter. His detailed bio is given below.

At Avid Learning we believe that heritage forms an integral part of the cultural ecosystem and can be infinitely enriched with local dialogue and cross pollination from other cultural contexts. We regularly collaborate with local historians and intellectuals and visiting international scholars and institutions to actively engage with and champion the culture and heritage of India and beyond.

The session will be an informal, interactive discussion with conservationists, museum representatives, architects and other cultural stakeholders in attendance. This will be followed by a special ***Walkthrough*** of the venue.

We look forward to having you join the conversation on **Wednesday, 7th August 2019** from **3:00 PM – 5:00 PM** at **The Royal Opera House, Mumbai**.

About the Visiting Expert

Tom Mayes has written and spoken widely on why old places matter to people, as well as preservation easements, shipwreck protection, historic house museums, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and preservation public policy. A lifelong preservationist, Tom has extensive knowledge of the preservation policy landscape in the United States, and also offers expertise on the topic of urban heritage. For many years, he taught historic preservation law at the University of Maryland Graduate Program in Historic Preservation. In 2013, Tom received the National Endowment for the Arts Rome Prize in Historic Preservation and wrote a series of essays titled *Why Old Places Matter*.