

EUROPEAN HERITAGE HEADS FORUM / ZAGREB / 2026 /

CROATIAN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

GOOD PRACTICE AND CHALLENGES TO PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

ŠIBENIK:

FROM RESTORED

FORTRESSES TO A RESILIENT

CULTURAL CITY

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ŠIBENIK

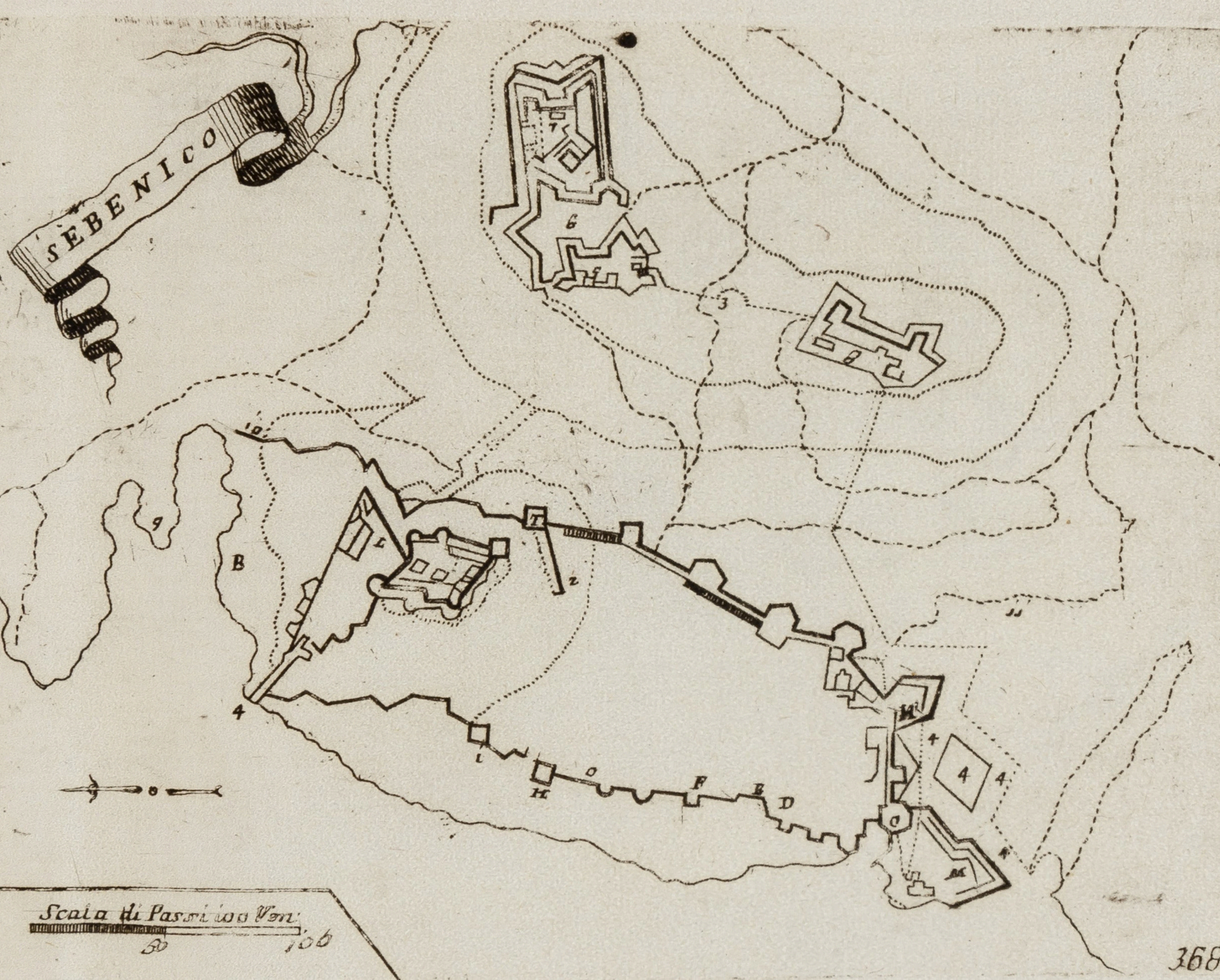
POPULATION 42,000

2 UNESCO WHS

4 HISTORIC FORTRESSES

AN ADRIATIC CITY WHERE
HERITAGE HAS BECOME A
PLATFORM FOR
CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT.





FORTIFICATIONS ARE PART OF ŠIBENIK'S URBAN DNA.

ST MICHAEL'S FORTRESS
BARONE FORTRESS
ST JOHN'S FORTRESS
ST NICHOLAS' FORTRESS

VINCENZO MARIA CORONELLI, THE
FORTIFICATION SYSTEM OF ŠIBENIK, PRINT,
AROUND 1688 (ŠIBENIK CITY MUSEUM)

THE CHALLENGE

STRONG HERITAGE.

LIMITED CONTEMPORARY USE.

UNDERUSED & NON-INTERPRETED
HERITAGE

LIMITED CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE
NO LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT MODEL

**WHAT HAPPENS AFTER
RESTORATION?**



THE TRANSFORMATION (2014-2023)

FROM MONUMENTS TO A
CULTURAL ECOSYSTEM

RESTORE → ACTIVATE → MANAGE → SUSTAIN

RESTORATION WAS THE MEANS -
NOT THE END.

FORTRESS OF CULTURE ŠIBENIK

PUBLIC CULTURAL INSTITUTION
5 CULTURAL SITES | 10 DEPARTMENTS | ~70 PEOPLE

ST MICHAEL'S FORTRESS (2014)

CITY'S HISTORY

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS



BARONE FORTRESS (2016)
DIGITAL INTERPRETATION
FILM & MUSIC



ST JOHN'S FORTRESS (2022)
EDUCATION & LIFE LONG LEARNING
HERITAGE (17TH C., WWII)

HOUSE OF ART ARSEN (2021)
MIXED ART VENUE (FILM, MUSIC,
THEATER), AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT



CROATIAN CORAL CENTRE ZLARIN (2023)

HERITAGE, COMMUNITY & EDUCATION



An aerial night photograph of a historic city, likely Dubrovnik, showing a large outdoor concert taking place within the stone walls of a fortress. The audience, seen from behind, fills the tiered stone seating area, illuminated by purple and blue stage lights. A band performs on a stage at the far end of the amphitheater. The city's old stone buildings and a large domed church are visible in the background under the dark night sky.

WHEN HERITAGE BECOMES CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

A PLACE TO VISIT.
A PLACE TO RETURN TO.



HERITAGE-LED DEVELOPMENT

RESTORING HERITAGE
HELPED RECONNECT THE
CITY WITH ITS CULTURAL
SPACES.



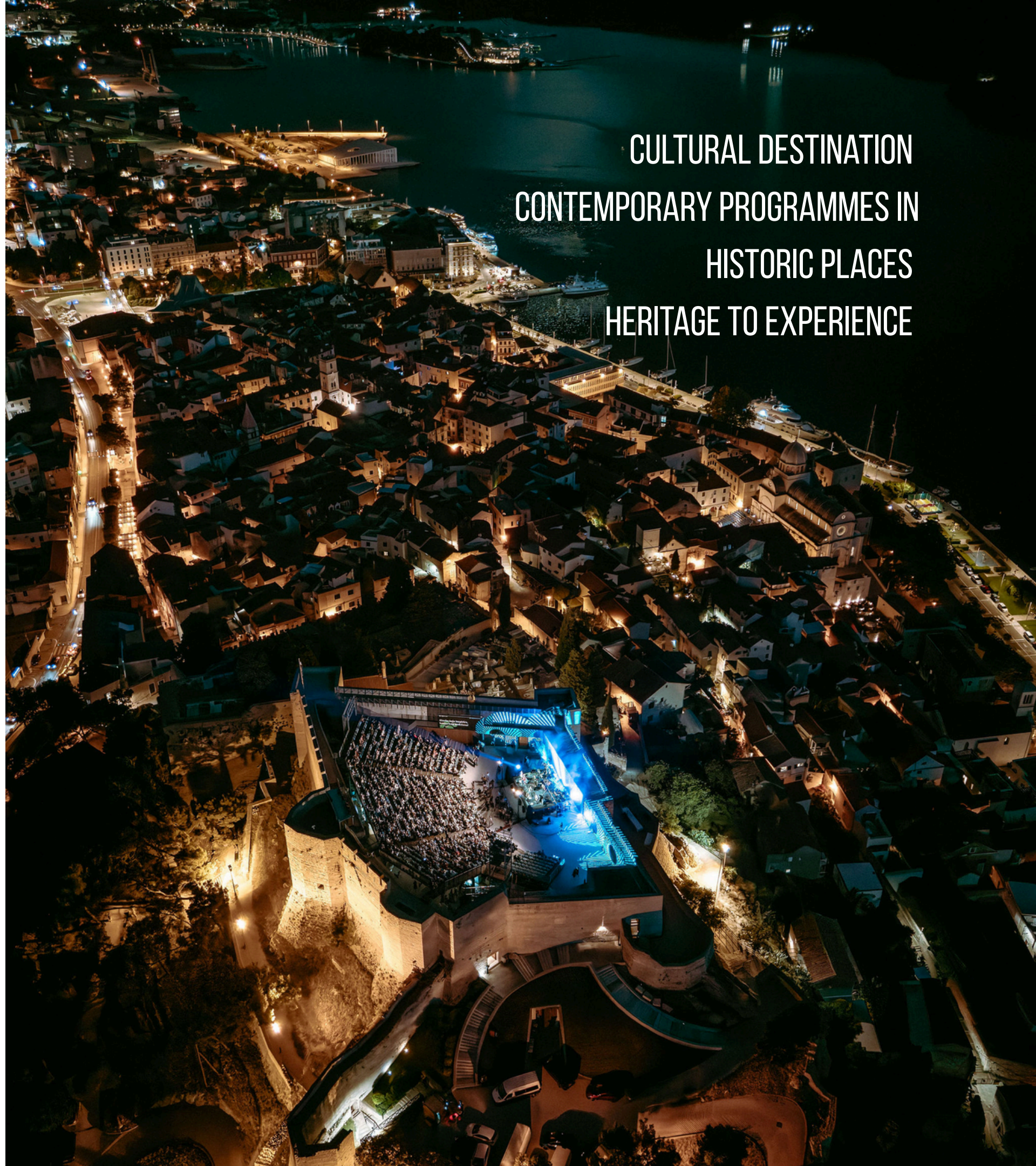
HERITAGE
ACCESS
PARTICIPATION
COMMUNITY
IDENTITY



HERITAGE REGENERATION BECAME CULTURAL REINVENTION.



CULTURAL DESTINATION
CONTEMPORARY PROGRAMMES IN
HISTORIC PLACES
HERITAGE TO EXPERIENCE





100K → 140K+ ANNUAL FORTRESS VISITS

384K → €4.6M € ANNUAL INSTITUTIONAL REVENUE

29 → 70 EMPLOYEES

36–48 % OWN-GENERATED REVENUE IN MOST YEARS

RESTORATION PRODUCING LONG-TERM VALUE.



WHAT MAKES RESTORED HERITAGE RESILIENT?

PHYSICAL

CONSERVATION & MAINTENANCE

INSTITUTIONAL

PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT & KNOWLEDGE

FINANCIAL

DIVERSIFIED RESOURCES

SOCIAL

USE, RELEVANCE & COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

RESTORATION → INSTITUTION → USE →
VALUE → REINVESTMENT → RESILIENCE

THANK YOU!

PUBLIC CULTURAL INSTITUTION
FORTRESS OF CULTURE
ŠIBENIK

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