



**International
alliance for
the protection
of heritage**

PRESS RELEASE

Lumière Summit: New international program launched to support the protection of film and audiovisual heritage at risk

On September 7, at the Lumière Summit, ALIPH, in cooperation with the Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée (CNC), launched a program to safeguard film and audiovisual heritage at risk. This initiative will restore collections, improve storage conditions, strengthen professional expertise, and facilitate access to this heritage. ALIPH will allocate an initial USD 500,000 this year to fund emergency projects within this scope.

Saint-Paul-de-Vence, France, September 7, 2026 — Time is running out to protect vast film collections around the world that are increasingly being threatened by conflicts and the consequences of climate change. As older film stocks continue to deteriorate, transferring them onto a more stable and secure medium has become increasingly urgent. Yet, in an ever more digital world, both the specialized equipment and the expertise required to handle and preserve film are becoming increasingly scarce. In addition to the intrinsic value of the works themselves, this heritage is a repository documenting societies, languages, histories, and collective imaginations.

At the Lumière Summit, a panel brought together stakeholders committed to protecting this heritage. During the event, ALIPH announced the launch of a new program dedicated to protecting endangered film and audiovisual heritage. To kickstart this program, ALIPH has committed an initial USD 500,000. The goal is to raise USD 15 million for this initiative during the 2027-2032 period. At the Summit, France announced that it would contribute USD 1 million per year over 5 years to this program. Other partners have already expressed their interest in supporting this initiative, led by former ALIPH Chairman Dr. Thomas S. Kaplan.

This response builds on nearly a decade of experience acquired by ALIPH in preserving heritage in the face of war and climate-related threats. Over the years, several projects have helped stabilize endangered archives, document and digitize vulnerable collections, equip institutions, train professionals, and make works accessible to the public. In particular, ALIPH has supported the Institut national de l'Audiovisuel (INA) in safeguarding an Afghan audiovisual collection, UNESCO in safeguarding the archives of Télé Liban, and Memoria Abierta in preserving the testimonies of the Madres de Plaza de Mayo in Argentina.

Protecting Collections, Giving Professionals the Means to Act, and Enabling Public Access to These Memories

The program will fund assessments and the safeguarding of collections, interventions on fragile media, digitization when formats become obsolete, upgrades to technical equipment, staff training, and initiatives to enhance access to works. One objective, for example in Ukraine and Syria, is to support the efforts of relevant institutions to preserve their collections. The Foundation will also take into account intellectual property issues and the impact of artificial intelligence on this mission. As its tenth anniversary approaches, to be celebrated in early 2027, ALIPH is expanding its action in a field that is essential to keeping the world's shared memory alive.

About ALIPH

The International alliance for the protection of heritage (ALIPH) is the world's leading fund dedicated to protecting heritage impacted by conflicts, crises, or climate change. ALIPH supports those on the ground who take concrete action to protect or restore museums, sites, monuments, or intangible heritage in the most challenging contexts. Very rapidly, sometimes within hours, ALIPH works alongside them, at the heart of conflicts or crises, to prevent the permanent loss of this heritage. Since its creation in Geneva in 2017, ALIPH has supported more than 640

projects in 65 countries. The Foundation carries out its mission thanks to the support of its ten Member States (France, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, China, Morocco, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Uzbekistan, and Armenia), its two private donors (Thomas S. Kaplan and the Getty Trust), as well as around fifteen other donors. ALIPH is fully committed to working alongside professionals and communities to protect their heritage and contribute to sustainable development and peacebuilding.

About the CNC

Created in 1946, the Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée (CNC) is a public institution under the authority of the minister responsible for Culture. It develops and implements French government policy in the fields of cinema and moving images. Its responsibilities include supporting the sector, regulation, the promotion of works, and the preservation and promotion of film heritage.

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