



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Request:

- We urge Congress to restore funding of \$25 million for Save America's Treasures and \$4.6 million for Preserve America.
- We urge Congress to provide a meaningful increase in funding for State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs and THPOs).

Introduction:

Established by Executive Order in 1998, **Save America's Treasures** is a public-private partnership that includes the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, and the federal cultural agencies. Since its creation, Save America's Treasures has designated and restored over 1,100 projects, created an estimated 16,000 jobs, and awarded about \$300 million in public and private grants to preservation efforts across the country. The projects range from such iconic objects as the Star-Spangled Banner to historically and architecturally significant structures like the Acoma Pueblo and the Conservatory of Flowers.

Preserve America was launched in 2003 as a White House initiative to promote and support community preservation efforts. There are several components of the Preserve America initiative, including grants to over 250 projects since 2006. These grants range from \$20,000 to \$250,000, and are designed to complement the Save America's Treasures grant program. To date, more than \$20 million has been awarded for interpretation and education, promotion, planning, research and documentation, and training.

State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs and THPOs): SHPOs carry out the work of the federal government in the States: finding America's historic places, making nominations to the National Register, reviewing impacts of federal projects, providing assistance to developers seeking a rehabilitation tax credit, creating alliances with local government preservation commissions, and conducting preservation education and planning. This Federal-State-Local foundation of America's historic preservation program was established by the National Historic Preservation Act. In FY10, the Historic Preservation Fund provided \$46.5 million to SHPOs and \$8 million to THPOs.

Talking Points:

- The 2005 Heritage Health Index of archives, libraries, historical societies, and museums concluded that immediate action is needed to prevent the loss of 190 million artifacts that are in need of conservation treatment.
 - 59% have collections damaged by light.
 - 56% have insufficient security to protect their collections.
 - 80% do not have an emergency plan that includes collections.
 - 71% need additional training and expertise for staff caring for collections.
 - Only 13% have access to endowment funds for preservation.
- Historic preservation programs matter now more than ever – not only because they protect our national heritage, but because they serve as economic development engines and job creators in the thousands of communities they serve. For example, Save America's Treasures alone has been responsible for more than 16,000 jobs since it was created just ten years ago.
- A 2009 report to Congress by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation found that Preserve America is addressing many state, local, and regional heritage tourism needs with a relatively small federal investment.
- A February 2010 Government Accountability Office report highlighted that SHPO staff shortages have delayed various projects funded by the Economic Stimulus bill passed in 2009.

Status:

These historic preservation programs are funded annually through the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. In early February, President Obama released his FY 2011 budget request, which would eliminate funding for Save America's Treasures and Preserve America.