



# FACT SHEET: Locating in Historic Buildings in Central Cities – EXECUTIVE ORDER 13006

**WHAT:** EO 13006 is an important directive that requires all federal agencies (not just GSA) that have space needs in urban areas to give first consideration to locating in historic buildings and districts. This EO, along with EO 12072 which requires agencies to give first consideration to locating in central business areas (CBAs), supports downtowns and historic buildings and districts and affects how GSA goes about satisfying its customers’ space requests.

The EO prioritizes historic properties this way:

1. In the city or town’s CBA, federal agencies must first look to locate in historic buildings within historic districts;
2. Then consider other properties within historic districts;
3. Then consider historic properties outside of historic districts; and
4. Finally, if there is no available and acceptable property meeting any of the categories above, federal agencies should look at other properties elsewhere in the CBA.

**WHY:** Being the keepers of some of the finest historic buildings in America is a tremendous honor and a huge responsibility. Their viability is critical to GSA, our tenants, and the communities we live and work in. GSA Public Buildings Service Commissioner Bob Peck talks of how “we want to continue to be welcome members of and active participants in local communities, helping to preserve historic assets and central business areas and keep them vital.” Commissioner Peck and the Administration are committed to preserving and enhancing historic properties as anchors in our CBAs and integral pieces of our nation's history. GSA wants to do this in ways that satisfy our customers, meet our business bottom line, keep downtown areas and the nation's historic treasures alive and well, and are in tune with communities’ needs. It's the right thing to do!...and it's the law (EO 13006 is now law, as part of the 2000 amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act). For the Administration’s and GSA’s commitments to be effective, all federal agencies need to be on board with these requirements.

**OUTREACH EFFORTS:** GSA employees and our customer agencies have help in deciphering the laws and orders and making locating in historic buildings and urban areas work. GSA is currently partnering with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to conduct interactive training workshops in each GSA region for an internal audience on the importance of preservation, reuse, and locating in urban areas. We are also working with the Trust and GSA’s National Accounts Program to reach out to other federal agencies to raise awareness of EO 13006’s requirements and GSA’s commitment to historic properties, through tools like an informational video and additional training workshops.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** We’re here to help! GSA can help on adaptive reuse and locational issues. For more information, contact the groups or web sites listed below.

Adaptive reuse issues	Historic Buildings and the Arts Center of Expertise	Caroline Alderson (202) 501-9156 web <a href="http://www.gsa.gov/pbs/centers/arts/">www.gsa.gov/pbs/centers/arts/</a>
Locational policies	Center for Urban Development	Edward Giefer (202) 501-1881 web <a href="http://goodneighbor.gsa.gov">goodneighbor.gsa.gov</a>
More on EO 13006	“Urban Policy Update” (Issue 1, May 2000)	web <a href="http://goodneighbor.gsa.gov">goodneighbor.gsa.gov</a>