

THE PRESERVE AMERICA PROGRAM

KETCHIKAN, AK (ALASKA STOCK LLC / ALAMY)

THE PRESERVE AMERICA PROGRAM

Preserve America is a federal program that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy our priceless cultural and natural heritage. Goals of the program include a greater shared knowledge about the nation's past, strengthened regional identities and local pride, increased local participation in preserving our heritage assets, and support for the economic vitality of our communities. Since the program's inception in 2003, the First Lady of the United States has been involved in supporting and promoting Preserve America. Permanent authorizing legislation for the program was passed by Congress and signed by President Obama in March 2009. The program includes community and volunteer recognition, grants, and awards, as well as policy direction to federal agencies.

PRESERVE AMERICA COMMUNITIES

This program recognizes and designates communities, including municipalities, counties, neighborhoods in large cities, and tribal communities, which protect and celebrate their heritage. These communities use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs.

More than 760 communities, including Indian tribes and urban neighborhoods, have been designated in 50 states and one U.S. territory. Along with promotional benefits and technical assistance, communities are eligible to apply for Preserve America matching grants. Preserve America Communities are featured in National Register Travel Itineraries and in "Teaching with Historic Places" curricular material created by the National Park Service. They are also given priority attention for some other related federal assistance programs and inter-governmental partnerships.

PRESERVE AMERICA GRANTS

More than \$17 million in matching grants has been awarded to more than 225 projects in 47 states since 2006 to support community efforts to demonstrate sustainable uses of historic and cultural sites. These grants focus on economic and educational opportunities related to heritage tourism. Grant amounts range from \$20,000 to \$250,000, and must be matched 1:1. A 2009 report to Congress assessed the effectiveness of the grants program in meeting national heritage tourism needs.

The Preserve America Grants program complements other federal funding, such as Save America's Treasures, by helping local communities develop resource management strategies

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"The Preserve America initiative is an inspiring and proactive approach to preserving our nation's history. It would be a privilege for any city in this nation to achieve the title "Preserve America Community."

—Santa Monica, California

BUFFALO SOLDIERS, WICHITA, KS



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
PRESERVING AMERICA'S HERITAGE



“Preserve America funding was incredibly helpful for moving forward heritage tourism projects. The scope of the funding allows small communities to think big—big partnerships, big leverage, big (complex) projects. There was no other funding available to our community aimed at this type of development for the wonderful sustainable industry of heritage tourism.”

—Natchitoches, Louisiana

and sound business practices for the continued preservation and use of heritage assets. Funding is available in five activity categories: research and documentation; planning; interpretation and education; promotion; and training. In addition to designated Preserve America Communities, eligible grant applicants include State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and Certified Local Governments that have applied for Preserve America Community designation.

CHIMNEY ROCK INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION, CO



PRESERVE AMERICA PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

Awards have been given annually to organizations, businesses, and government entities for exemplary accomplishments in the preservation of cultural or natural heritage assets; demonstrated commitment to the protection and interpretation of America’s heritage assets; and integration of these assets into contemporary community life, combining innovative, creative, and responsible approaches to showcasing historic local resources. Awards have gone to two national initiatives as well as regional, statewide, and local programs in 19 states.

PRESERVE AMERICA STEWARDS

The Preserve America Stewards honor exemplary volunteer efforts at historic resources around the country. Honorees are recognized for stewardship programs that have demonstrated successful use of volunteer time and commitment in order to help care for our cultural heritage. The resources cared for include publicly and privately owned and managed resources. Stewards care for such diverse resources as individual archaeological sites to entire complexes of structures, as well as outstanding examples of the historic built environment. Government entities (federal, tribal, state, or local), non-profit organizations, and businesses are eligible to apply to have their programs recognized.

PRESERVE AMERICA HISTORY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Since 2004, outstanding history teachers at the K-12 level have been recognized in each state, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories, followed by selection of the Preserve America History Teacher of the Year from among the state winners. State winners each receive \$1,000 and a core archive of history materials for their school libraries. The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History facilitates this award program and hosts its national recognition event each fall.



MIDLOTHIAN MINES, CHESTERFIELD, VA

EXECUTIVE ORDER 13287: “PRESERVE AMERICA”

The Preserve America Executive Order (2003) emphasizes federal policy for the protection, enhancement, and contemporary use of historic properties owned by the federal government. The order encourages agencies to seek partnerships with state, tribal, and local governments and the private sector to make more informed use of these resources for local economic development and other recognized public benefits. It also directs agencies to support state, tribal, and local heritage tourism with existing authorities and resources. As required by the order, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation reviews agency stewardship and partnership efforts and provides a status report to the President every three

years. The first two reports were compiled and issued in 2006 and 2009, based on reporting from individual federal agencies with land- and property-management responsibilities.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Preserve America has worked with The History Channel’s “Save Our History” initiative, which has created a teacher’s manual with lesson plans and volunteer ideas that involve students in preserving historic sites in their communities. Save Our History annual grants of \$10,000 are available to help local non-profit organizations and school districts work together on educational projects focusing on cultural heritage. The History Channel is also working on related educational programs, such as service-learning models, with the ACHP and other partners.

TASTE OF NEWTON, NEWTON, NJ





CHINATOWN, LOS ANGELES, CA
(STEPHEN BAY / BAYIMAGES)

EXPLORE AND ENJOY OUR HERITAGE

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT PRESERVE AMERICA:

WWW.PRESERVEAMERICA.GOV

WWW.ACHP.GOV

PRESERVE AMERICA SUMMIT AND THE FUTURE OF PRESERVATION

In recognition of the 40th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, a Preserve America Summit was convened in 2006 with 450 participants to consider the future of the national preservation program. A Youth Summit met in conjunction with the larger conference and has provided a model for subsequent youth projects, including promotion of historic preservation service-learning as an educational tool. Key recommendations emerging from the Summit to improve the effectiveness of historic preservation efforts nationally through better resource identification, stewardship, community support, education, and leadership were adopted by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and are now being implemented by federal agencies and non-federal partners.

PROGRAM OPERATION

A Web site (www.preserveamerica.gov) provides details and updates on Preserve America, including information on how to get involved and other resources, with links to many other related programs. The program is administered jointly by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Department of the Interior, in cooperation with an interagency steering committee that also includes representatives from the White House and the Executive Office of the President; the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Housing and Urban Development, and Transportation; the General Services Administration; the Institute of Museum and Library Services; the National Endowment for the Humanities; and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an independent federal agency, promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of the nation's historic resources and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy.



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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