

The Historic Preservation Fund Annual Report


2008

Making Preservation Work at the Local Level: The Certified Local Government Program

2008 was an important year for the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program as it welcomed 51 new communities, for a program total of 1,661 across the country, and worked with its preservation partners to establish two pilot programs to support local preservation. The CLG Program is a preservation partnership between Federal, state, and local governments focused on promoting historic preservation at the grass roots level. The program is jointly administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) in each state, and involves communities that have worked through a certification process to become recognized as a CLG, an active partner in the Federal Historic Preservation Program.

Federal Preserve America grant funding enabled the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (SHPO) to establish a pilot CLG program in 2008 to hire the first statewide Preserve America Agent in the country. In a partnership between the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas, the SHPO, NPS, and Arkansas' Main Street and Tourism programs, a unique opportunity for CLG communities and those just getting started down the road to preservation was created. This Agent has targeted priority communities that are either CLGs or involved in the Main Street program to encourage being a part of the Preserve America program, tapping into the funding provided, and learning how their historic resources can foster and promote economic development.

The Wyoming SHPO wanted to address a need for basic preservation training among their existing CLGs, and with funding from Preserve America and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a second pilot CLG program was created in 2008. Seventeen of Wyoming's CLGs took part in training sessions conducted across the state from May to September 2008, enabling over 200 community members to receive an introduction to preservation. This pilot was an active working partnership between NPS, the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, and the National Trust, as well as Wyoming's SHPO, Main Street, and Arts Council programs. The community of Riverton stated the best thing about the training was, "energizing our CLG and meeting historic preservation people face to face." For the national CLG program the best thing about both of these pilots is the ability to share them with other states and bring renewed energy to CLG programs across the country.



Preserving Chicago's past is critical to our city's economic development – it strengthens neighborhoods, promotes tourism, demonstrates sustainable leadership, and improves the quality of life for all our residents.

Programs supported through the Historic Preservation Fund are an important tool to assist in the rehabilitation of buildings and neighborhoods across the city. I'm proud that the City of Chicago has benefited from programs like the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program, which has supported more than 300 projects in Chicago during the last 25 years, totaling hundreds of millions of dollars in preservation assistance."

Mayor RICHARD M. DALEY, Chicago, Illinois

The rebirth of Spokane, Washington's Fox Theater was an idea that arose from its proposed destruction and was supported by the programs of the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). In 2000, the Fox was to be demolished for parking, but the Spokane Symphony, looking for a permanent home, negotiated to save the impressive Art Deco masterpiece and turn it into a performing arts venue.

The opulent Fox Theater opened in 1931, seating over 2,000 people. The auditorium, lobby, and mezzanine murals created the illusion of moving through an undersea world into a forest canopy of dense foliage, to the uppermost level with castles and clouds, all illuminated by a huge sunburst in the ceiling. By the 1970s, it had fallen into disrepair and was split into a multiplex in the 1980s.

To fund the Theater's purchase and \$30 million rehabilitation, a combination of preservation incentives were used including \$246,919 in Save America's Treasures funding and almost \$3 million in Historic Preservation Tax Credits, both programs of the HPF.

Rehabilitation began at the end of 2005, with jackhammers dismantling the concrete that divided the theater. Depression-era murals were cleaned of 75 years of popcorn grease, grime, and smoke, many once covered with layers of white and red paint. Amazingly, the historic integrity remains, and after the multi-million dollar restoration, the building reopened in November of 2007. This art deco icon now has a new lease on life in Spokane's thriving downtown.



Origins of the Historic Preservation Fund

In 1966, the Special Committee on Historic Preservation of the U.S. Conference of Mayors addressed the need to establish a national historic preservation program. The result was the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) which authorized a State Historic Preservation Officer for each State and created the National Register of Historic Places, a

mechanism for better Federal agency planning. The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) was established in 1977 as a matching grant program, currently authorized at \$150 million per year,

and funded by Outer Continental Shelf oil lease revenues. The idea being the exploitation of one resource should benefit another. Subsequent amendments to the Act in 1980 created the Certified Local Government program and in 1992 established Tribal Historic Preservation Officers.

How Does The Historic Preservation Fund Work?

The National Park Service (NPS) administers the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, and uses the majority of appropriated funds to provide matching grants to State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers to assist in their efforts to protect and preserve their historic resources. Each State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), appointed by the Governor for each state, manages this annual appropriation to perform the Federal preservation responsibilities required by the NHPA. Preservation activities may be carried out directly by States, or in the form of subgrants and contracts to public and private agencies, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and individuals. HPF grants to Indian Tribes help them assume SHPO responsibilities on Indian land and undertake preservation activities.

Funding is used by States and Tribes to pay for HPF eligible preservation projects including: survey and inventory, National Register nominations, preservation education, architectural planning, historic structure reports, community preservation plans, and bricks and mortar repair to buildings. The HPF allows each State the flexibility to shape a program according to its needs, as long as they are meeting the overall responsibilities outlined by the NHPA. Ten percent of each SHPO's allocation must be subgranted to assist Certified Local Governments, local governments certified by NPS and the state as having made a local commitment to historic preservation. These funds are spent locally on projects like those listed above, with selection decisions made at the State level. All HPF assisted projects must follow the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation*.

“We know that six jobs are created for every \$250,000 of direct private investment in historic building rehabilitation and an additional \$282,500 is pumped into the economy.”

Brian Conway, State Historic Preservation Officer, Michigan

The Historic Preservation Fund in 2008

In fiscal year 2008, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$70.38 million from the HPF for historic preservation grants.

HPF matching grants serve as catalysts for preserving and protecting our Nation's irreplaceable heritage. HPF-funded grants and programs also encourage private and non-Federal investment in historic preservation efforts nationwide and assist State, Tribal and local governments with expanding and accelerating their historic preservation activities.

Also in 2008, Congress appropriated an additional \$7.38 million for the Preserve America grant program. These funds are dedicated to increasing economic development through historic preservation and heritage tourism.

Fiscal Year 2008 at a Glance

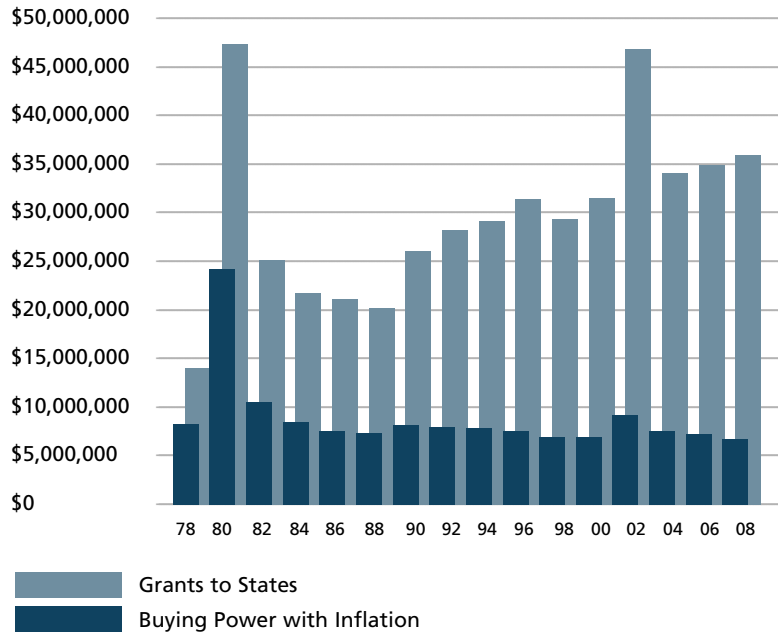
- Over \$5.64 billion of private investment in the rehabilitation of commercial historic properties under the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Program; a total of \$50.82 billion since 1977.
- 10,392 low and moderate income housing units created through the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit program, a total of 187,088 units since 1977.
- An estimated 67,705 jobs created by Federal Historic Preservation Tax Program rehabilitation projects.
- Approximately 11 million acres surveyed for cultural resources, with over 132,300 properties evaluated for their historical significance and added to State inventories. Approximately 176,780 acres surveyed and 2,800 properties added to Tribal inventories.
- 1,319 new listings to the National Register of Historic Places, including 291 historic districts, bringing the cumulative total to 83,884 listings in the National Register. Approximately 3,600 new listings were added to the Tribal Register.
- State Historic Preservation Offices reviewed 114,000 Federal undertakings providing 93,700 National Register eligibility opinions. Tribal Historic Preservation Offices reviewed 31,100 undertakings and made 5,300 eligibility opinions.
- 51 new communities became Certified Local Governments (CLGs), bringing the cumulative total to 1,661 CLGs throughout the nation.
- Under local law, CLGs newly designated 48,200 properties, and 86,600 properties took part in local preservation review, programs, and incentives.
- Save America's Treasures was funded for the tenth year at \$24.6 million to support the restoration of nationally significant properties and collections. A total of 110 projects in 40 States and the District of Columbia were awarded, over \$83 million was requested.
- Preserve America was funded for the third year at \$7.38 million to support planning for heritage tourism development and preservation in local communities. A total of 82 projects in 36 states were awarded, over \$20 million was requested.
- Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Groups, and Native Hawaiian Organizations were awarded \$678,300 to 19 projects as part of the Tribal Grant program, over \$2.2 million was requested.

This house, owned by Neil and Debbie Plass, in Manitou Springs, Colorado, was rehabilitated using Colorado's state historic preservation tax credit. Neil and his son Tim, shown in the photo, were part of the sweat equity put in by the entire family. Due to the success of projects like this one, Colorado's legislature reauthorized its twenty percent state historic preservation tax credit for a third ten-year period. In a year witnessing budget difficulties where no new tax credits were considered, preservationists worked hard to renew this program that is often coupled with the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit. Testimony to the legislature included data illustrating the overall economic benefits of

historic rehabilitation as well as statistics proving that ninety percent of projects benefited homeowners doing small projects with a median credit of \$9,000. According to bill sponsor State Representative Claire Levy of Boulder, "The state tax credit is an important incentive for designation and rehabilitation benefiting not only the rich resources in my district but the state as whole."



Grants to States vs. Inflation



Distribution of HPF for FY 2008

State Historic Preservation Offices \$39,376,000

Tribal Historic Preservation Offices \$ 5,720,300

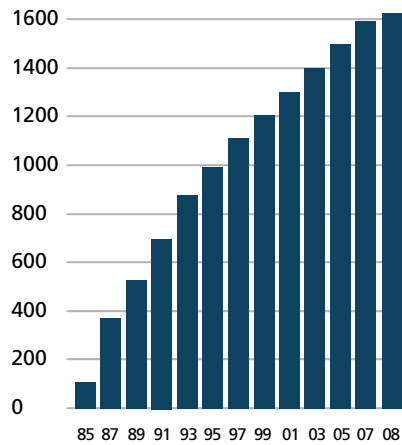
Save America's Treasures \$24,610,000

Tribal Project Grants \$ 678,300

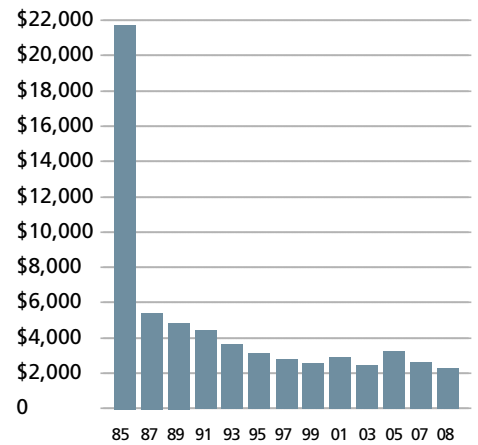
Total \$70,384,600

*Supplemental Preserve America \$ 7,383,000

Number of CLGs



Average CLG Award

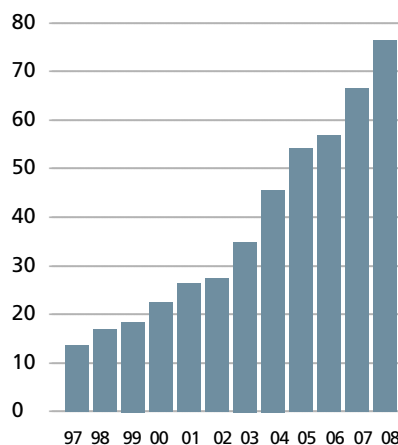


NCSHPO

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Historic Preservation Grants Division
Washington, DC
www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg
(202) 354-2020
Preservation_Grants_Info@nps.gov

NCSHPO
National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers
Washington, DC
www.ncshpo.org
202-624-5465

Number of THPOs



Average THPO Award

