

The Historic Preservation Fund Annual Report

2009

WATER LINE



With the flood line over their heads, Galveston Arts Center staff stand next to their landmark that SAT helped save.

Save America's Treasures: Preserving the Nation's Cultural Heritage for More Than a Decade

The Federal Save America's Treasures (SAT) grant program was established in 1999 to preserve nationally significant historic properties and collections for future generations of Americans. This grant program, funded from the Historic Preservation Fund for over ten years, is administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, with assistance from private partners including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, and the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers.

In the spirit of the National Historic Preservation Act, which calls on the Federal government to "contribute to the preservation of ... historic resources and give maximum encouragement to organizations and individuals undertaking preservation by private means," SAT awards grants to Federal agencies, State and local governments, Indian tribes, and nonprofit organizations. From 1999 to 2009, Congress appropriated \$293.7 million to 1,132 projects. Matched dollar-for-dollar, these funds have leveraged over \$377 million in private investment and added over 16,000 jobs to local and State economies. SAT is more than just a preservation grant program; it is an economic development tool that can provide critical support during times of crisis.

Constructed in 1878, the First National Bank Building in Galveston, Texas, part of The Strand National Historic Landmark (NHL) District, encountered such a crisis when Hurricane Ike decimated the island community. Listed among *America's 11 Most Endangered Places*, the Bank, which now houses the Galveston Arts Center, was awarded an SAT grant for emergency stabilization. Structural scaffolding, put in place only a few months prior to the storm, prevented collapse as ten feet of storm surge rushed in and out of the building, destabilizing the brick walls even further. The \$250,000 in SAT funding paid for storm repair, but it did much more than just save a significant corner property in an NHL district. The project employed ironworkers, brick masons, and restoration carpenters, creating 50 full- or part- time jobs, paid \$450,000 in wages to local skilled and unskilled laborers, and purchased more than \$100,000 in materials locally. The total economic impact provided by the SAT grant to the distressed Galveston economy resulted in more than \$600,000, demonstrating why preservation, while saving our Nation's history, can mean even more to a community.



/// All of this work was made possible because of that first \$250,000 grant from SAT, which has led to more than \$1.5 million and counting in mostly private support for this project. The grant was just the start of a full-blown restoration project for the Galveston Arts Center, and when they are done, they will double their staff. Those new positions are directly related to the work that was started by the SAT grant." STEPH MCDOUGAL, McDoux Preservation LLC, Kemah, Texas

The push for energy efficiency and the availability of stimulus dollars and tax credits to homeowners has encouraged many to replace their historic wood windows with new ones, a potential problem in historic neighborhoods. In Michigan, which is experiencing the highest unemployment in the Nation, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN), and the City of Kalamazoo decided to combat both of these problems by training unemployed and underemployed contractors in rehabilitation of historic wood windows.

Kalamazoo, a long-time Certified Local Government (CLG), took advantage of a CLG grant of \$30,382 and the MHPN's experience with rehabilitation field schools and building trades councils. The workshop was offered free of charge in July 2009 to fourteen students. It was so successful that more are now scheduled for 2010 and training will be expanded to homeowners as well.

Lorri Sipes, a student so inspired that it led to a career change, described: "The window workshop lit a spark in me that I did not expect. I've always loved the craft side of architecture, and as an architect, I helped my clients with the specifics of how to care for their historic buildings. But now, with the hands-on skills I learned at the workshop, I've retired from my architectural practice and become a full-time window restorer. I am now practicing the actual restoration of historic elements instead of talking about it. I feel like I've found my calling for the remainder of my career."



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, not taxes. 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*.

// *Generally speaking, people accept the idea promoted by window manufacturers that existing wood windows cannot be repaired. They think the only option they have is to replace them. That simply is not true. Typically, wood windows can be made to be just as energy efficient as replacement windows, last for decades, and have a faster payback than replacements."*

Brian Conway, State Historic Preservation Officer, Michigan

The Historic Preservation Fund in 2009

In fiscal year 2009, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$69.5 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 nonfederal investment in historic preservation efforts nationwide and assist State, Tribal and local governments with expanding and accelerating their historic preservation activities.

Fiscal Year 2009 at a Glance

- Over \$4.7 billion of private investment in the rehabilitation of commercial historic properties under the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Program; a total of \$55.51 billion since 1977.
- 6,710 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 70,992 jobs created by Federal Historic Preservation Tax Program rehabilitation projects.
- Approximately 9 million acres surveyed for cultural resources, with over 146,600 properties evaluated for their historical significance and added to State inventories. Approximately 154,300 acres surveyed and 7,200 properties added to Tribal inventories.
- 1,115 new listings to the National Register of Historic Places, including 291 historic districts, bringing the cumulative total to 84,999 listings in the National Register. Approximately 2,900 new listings were added to the Tribal Register.
- State Historic Preservation Offices reviewed 106,900 Federal undertakings providing 104,100 National Register eligibility opinions. Tribal Historic Preservation Offices reviewed 33,000 undertakings and made 10,700 eligibility opinions.
- 55 new communities became Certified Local Governments (CLGs), bringing the cumulative total to 1,715 CLGs throughout the nation.
- Under local law, CLGs newly designated 53,700 properties, and 89,300 properties took part in local preservation review, programs, and incentives.
- Save America's Treasures was funded for the eleventh year at \$20 million to support the restoration of nationally significant properties and collections. A total of 96 projects in 38 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico were awarded, over \$87 million was requested.
- Historic Black Colleges and Universities were funded at \$14.25 million appropriated through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support rehabilitation of National Register listed campus buildings. A total of 20 projects were funded at 21 schools, over \$142.5 million was requested.
- Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Groups, and Native Hawaiian Organizations were awarded \$678,300 to 18 projects as part of the Tribal Grant program, over \$2.4 million was requested.



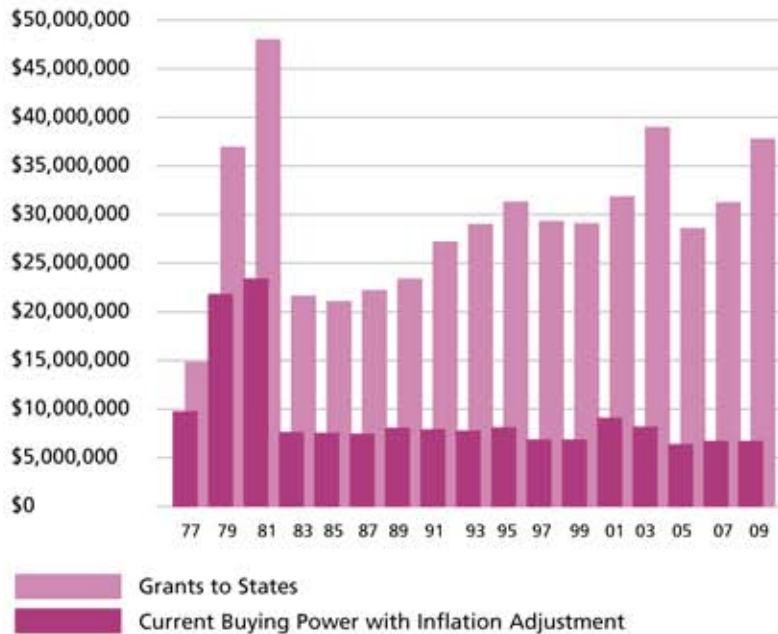
In 2003, the Garden Conservancy and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy formed a partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) to restore and maintain key gardens on Alcatraz Island, part of the Golden Gate Recreation Area. The project received a \$250,000 Save America's Treasures grant to support the restoration of the Alcatraz Island landscape. Through the Alcatraz Historic Gardens Project, the partner organizations have preserved, rebuilt, and continue to maintain the gardens created by those who lived on the island during its military and prison eras. The restored gardens interpret Alcatraz's history, horticulture, and cultural significance for visitors.

The SAT grant and matching funds helped restore structural elements of the gardens, rehabilitate plantings, and develop the infrastructure to sustain them. Volunteers logged over 3,600 hours between July and December 2009 working on the project. The Gardens now provide a new website with a comprehensive guide,

and allow visitors to view restored Officers' Row gardens from a walkway recently opened by the NPS. The restoration was the recipient of two 2009 California Preservation Foundation awards for preservation and design,

as well as being featured in HGTV's "Gardening by the Yard", Preservation Magazine, and BBC Gardens Illustrated.

Grants to States vs. Inflation



Distribution of HPF for FY 2009

State Historic Preservation Offices \$42,500,000

Tribal Historic Preservation Offices \$ 6,321,700

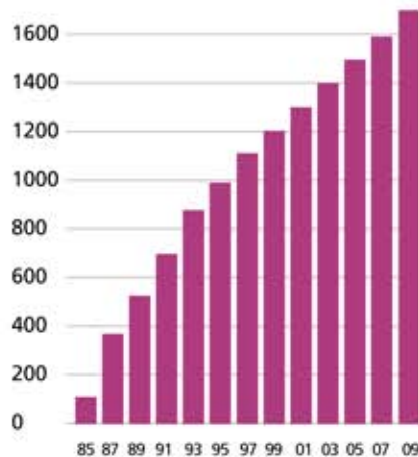
Save America's Treasures \$20,000,000

Tribal Project Grants \$ 678,300

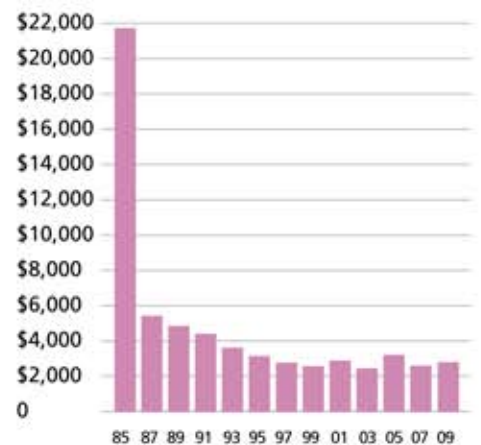
Total \$69,500,000

*Supplemental HBCU through ARRA \$14,250,000

Number of CLGs



Average CLG Award

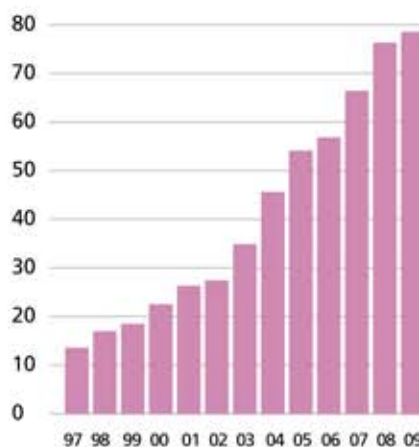


NCSHPO

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

