2012

THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND **ANNUAL REPORT**

>> **Historic preservation in the United States** began with the saving of Mount Vernon by a group of determined women in 1860. Since then the movement has grown, evolved, and broadened past the preservation of the relics of our military and political leaders to include the broader patterns of social, cultural, and ethnic heritage that enriches America. As the Federal Preservation program and its partners including States, Tribes, and Certified Local Governments (CLGs) work to fulfill their daily preservation roles in a time of reduced budgets and resources, they still manage to reach out to those communities that are underrepresented and make them part of America's preservation story.

A tour of this work in underrepresented communities begins with the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) use of CLG funds for projects addressing the diverse culture of the state. The community of Bardstown funded a survey report and publication on the development of African American Neighborhoods from 1865-1930. Danville also undertook a survey of historic properties associated with African Americans in their city including: two downtown churches, a cemetery, the Old Wilderness Road neighborhood, Windsor Court and Alta Avenue. Two National Register of Historic Places nominations for the churches were prepared and presented for review in September 2012.

Next on to the great plains of Lincoln, Nebraska, and the history of a red-light district that was often ignored. The Rose Kirkwood Brothel was the last physical remnant of this history, and was listed in the National Register in August 2012. Research by the local CLG staff revealed the 1910 transformation of Lincoln's most flagrant brothel into the Peoples City Mission, a place of charity. The building's history embodies the illicit political and social values of the early 1900's, while the Peoples City Mission, symbolizes Lincoln's effort to promote social welfare by serving the poor and immigrant community. Both issues involve women as an underrepresented community and demonstrate a key transformation in Lincoln's social history.

Top: St. James AME Church, Danville, KY, *credit William D. Updike*

Bottom: Peoples City Mission clients,1915, Lincoln, NE, *credit Townsend Studio*

Moving West to the Pacific Coast provides the exciting discovery of the Latino Youth Summit in Washington State that is featured later in this report. In California, the SHPO listed Cabot's Indian Pueblo Museum, a folk art building created by a pioneer resident of Desert Hot Springs, in the National Register. Also in 2012, the California SHPO invited a guest archeologist from State Parks to help shepherd a nomination for Tishawnik, a fifty-acre river-front parcel where the Karuk tribe still perform the World Renewal Ceremony and White Deerskin Dance. The carefully tended and maintained dance grounds are the tangible remains of important ceremonies, and represent the Karuk struggle to maintain their culture. This successful nomination also created a unique partnership among the California State Parks' Archaeology, History, and Museums divisions and an incentive for future collaboration.

Jumping to the opposite coast finds the state of Vermont actively working on diversity at the Daisy Turner Farmstead, in Grafton. Rare for Vermont, this African American homestead was established in 1873 by escaped slave, Alexander Turner, father to Daisy Turner, a renowned storyteller. The State is acquiring the property as a wildlife area, and the SHPO played an important role helping Vermont's Natural Resources agency understand how to manage the cultural resources on the property and open it to the public for interpretation of this rare story in their state.

These are just a sampling of the diversity projects being accomplished through the HPF Fund, and the partnerships it helps create in serving the diverse history of America. Much more remains to be done however, to insure representation of the full range of America's communities in the national preservation program.

ORIGINS OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

In 1966, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, through its Special Committee on Historic Preservation, 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 source of preservation grants, authorized at $150 million per year, and funded by Outer Continental Shelf oil lease revenues, not tax dollars. The basis being the exploitation of one resource should benefit another, even though the HPF has never been fully funded at its authorized level. 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 (THPO) 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 THPOs help them undertake preservation activities and assume SHPO responsibilities on Indian land if desired.

HPF funding is used by States, Tribes, local governments, and eligible nonprofits to fund eligible preservation projects including: survey and inventory, National Register nominations, preservation education, architectural planning, historic structure reports, community preservation planning, and brick and mortar repairs 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 Certified Local Governments (CLG), local governments certified by NPS and the State as having made a local commitment to historic preservation, and being a local partner in the Federal preservation program. CLG funds are spent locally on preservation projects, 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*.

LATINO YOUTH SUMMIT: CONNECTING CULTURES

2012 brought the first Latino Youth Summit to the State of Washington, planned and executed by the hard work of the Washington SHPO, the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation (WTHP), and the NPS. The goal of the summit was to help young Latino students recognize the need to preserve places associated with their heritage. The preservation partners identified venues, itineraries, and presenters; reaching out to Latino educators, students, and leaders to develop program content and materials.

The effort culminated in a Latino Youth Summit July 10-13, that provided opportunities for 35 middle and high school students and six teachers from around the state to interact with and learn about the Latino heritage of the Yakima Valley and nearby Mount Rainier National Park. Building on these experiences, the young participants developed recommendations that focused on three themes: Advancing Appreciation of American Latino Culture and Heritage, Enhancing the Heritage Tourism Experience, and Saving Historic Places That Matter.

The students shared their ideas for learning opportunities and consulted with local leaders on the recently introduced American Latino Heritage Initiative. The Summit culminated in a moderated Town Hall meeting where students presented their recommendations to a panel of community leaders, government officials and educators with family members, preservation advocates, NPS staff, dignitaries, and elected officials in attendance.

The Washington State Youth Summit provided many powerful "first ever" experiences including: public speaking; visiting the Yakima Valley, which is steeped in Latino history and culture; visiting the iconic Mount Rainier National Park; and perhaps most importantly, experiencing learning about historic preservation and understanding how to be involved in saving historic places. The students tackled ideas about how to better share, save, and understand our nation's historic places, become stewards of our public lands, and make our national parks more welcoming and accessible to underrepresented groups. The success of the 2012 Latino Youth Summit sparked planning for a continuing summer program designed to stir awareness and appreciation for heritage in the state's future leaders.

THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND IN 2012

In fiscal year 2012, the U.S. Congress appropriated $55,910,400 from the Historic Preservation Fund for historic preservation projects. Only one third of the $150 million authorized from the fund, this amount represents an increase of $1.5 million from 2011, but a reduction of $25 million from the 2010 appropriation. HPF matching grants to States, Tribes, and local governments serve as catalysts for preserving and protecting our Nation's irreplaceable heritage without expending tax dollars. HPF funded grants and programs leverage private and nonfederal investment, while creating jobs that expand and accelerate historic preservation activities.

>> **FISCAL YEAR 2012** AT A GLANCE

- Over $3.15 billion of private investment occurred through the rehabilitation of commercial historic properties under the Federal Historic Preservation Tax program; a total of $66 billion since 1977.
- 6,366 low and moderate income housing units were created through the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit program, for a total of 124,341 units since 1977.
- An estimated 57,783 jobs were created by Federal Historic Preservation Tax program rehabilitation projects in 2012.
- Approximately 20.9 million acres were surveyed for cultural resources, with over 610,869 properties evaluated for their historical significance and added to State inventories. Approximately 242,175 acres were surveyed by Tribes, adding 1,115 properties and 4,746 archeological sites to Tribal inventories.
- 1,179 new listings were added to the National Register of Historic Places, including 30,316 contributing properties and 303 historic districts, bringing the cumulative total to 88,423 listings. Approximately 3,084 new listings were added to the Tribal Register.
- SHPOs reviewed 141,721 Federal undertakings, providing 104,813 National Register eligibility opinions. THPOs reviewed 32,883 undertakings and made 3,070 eligibility opinions.
- 42 new communities became Certified Local Governments (CLGs), bringing the cumulative total to 1,839 throughout the nation.
- Under local law, CLGs newly designated 101,000 properties and 74,500 properties took part in local preservation review, programs, and incentives.
- Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Groups, and Native Hawaiian Organizations were awarded $748,822 for 20 projects as part of the Tribal Project Grant program; over $1.8 million was requested ($610,202 in 2012 funds and $138,620 from previous years).
- Supplemental funding for the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program provided $2.9 million to 17 projects; over $7.2 million was requested.
- NPS staff reviewed 144 Save America's Treasures (SAT) and 13 Preserve America (PA) projects to ensure compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.* For SAT over 40 projects were completed in 2012 and over 250 remain active. For PA, over 30 projects were completed and over 120 remain active.
- The Historic Preservation Planning Program reviewed and approved 11 statewide historic preservation plans in 2012. Required under the NHPA, these plans communicate statewide preservation priorities, values, and goals to the preservation community, partners, and the public.

DEER LODGE, MONTANA, boasts a population of just 3,400 people. They are determined, creative, and proud, and work every day to preserve the heart and soul of their community, the Rialto Theater. Since 1921, this National Register listed Beaux-Arts movie palace brought movies, plays, concerts, and school recitals to the area. As with many movie palaces, the family that owned it for 74 years found they could no longer keep it up. When a casino showed interest, the community banded together to purchase the theatre, raising the $65,000 needed partly by teachers cutting up the phone book and calling everyone in the Deer Lodge area!

This CLG community spent the next eleven years restoring their local gem, even welcoming a restored marquis. But in November 2006, the unthinkable happened as the community gathered to watch 50 foot flames shoot from the Rialto's roof. Fire crews worked for three days as the community cried, an onlooker stating, "There should be enough tears here to put that fire out."

All that remained was the beautiful façade, side walls, and stage, ironically because of an asbestos curtain, designed to protect the audience in the event of a fire. Two weeks later, 255 people attended a community meeting, and voted to rebuild when two middle schoolers donated the $300 raised at a bake sale. The restoration estimate was $3.5 million, and over the next six years, the community's determination and creativity served as inspiration across the state. Volunteers hauled debris, cleaned, hung dry wall, and painted. Art students worked on the decorative ceiling, where a repurposed satellite dish cleverly serves as a dome. The NPS facility at Grant-Kohrs donated expertise, curatorial facilities, and use of their flatbed truck to haul supplies. And each year, the Deer Lodge CLG used their HPF subgrant - $5,500 for four years –toward planning their restoration project – making that $22,000 work harder by matching it with private funding.

In April 2012, the Rialto reopened, and once again serves historic Deer Lodge as a performance and gathering venue for the region. This CLG community has proven that a little help from the HPF, patience, volunteerism, planning, partnerships and extreme dedication can have extraordinary results.

DISTRIBUTION OF HPF 2012

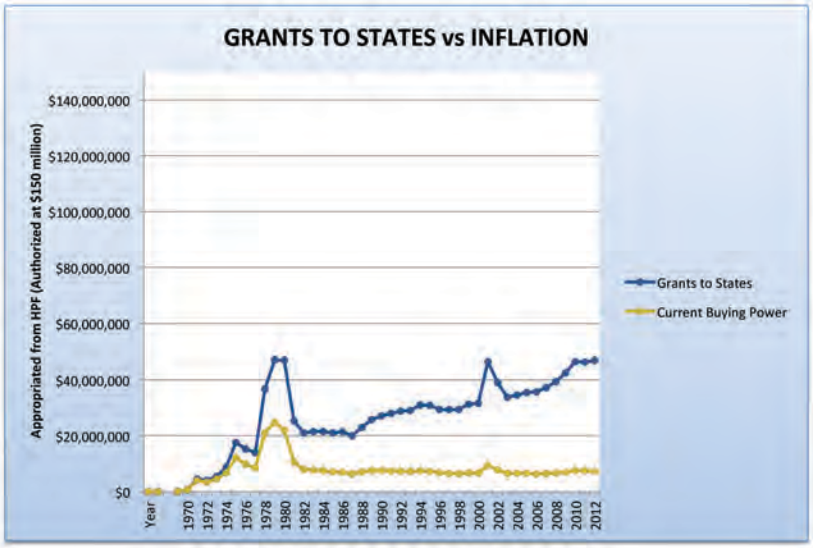
State Historic Preservation Offices	$ 46,924,800
Tribal Historic Preservation Offices	$ 8,375,398

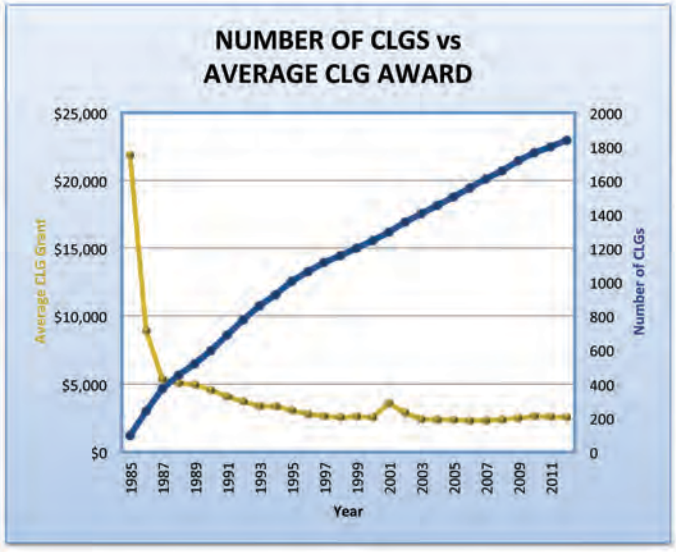
* For more detail see the 2012 Tribal Preservation Program Annual Report

Tribal Project Grants	$ 610,202
Total	**$ 55,910,400**

*Supplemental Japanese-American Confinement Sites preservation funding $ 2,890,368

*Funding for Save America's Treasures and Preserve America was not appropriated in 2011 though both programs continue to be authorized.





YOUTH RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LATINO YOUTH SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON STATE, JULY 2012

"When we have experience doing something at a place, we learn and remember more about the place. Everyone has a different way of learning. We need to let people do, see, taste, smell, and understand the place in many different ways."

"I think that being able to visit the historic sites is extremely difficult at times because we don't know that they are there or why they are important. We need to make this easier."

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