HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

State Historic Preservation Officers

State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) administer federal historic preservation programs at the state and local level, as well as administer their own state programs. These programs help communities identify, evaluate, preserve, and revitalize their historic, archaeological, and cultural resources. The National Park Service (NPS) distributes Historic Preservation Fund grants to SHPOs by apportionment formula, with states and territories required to match 40% of the funding they receive.

SHPO responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

• Reviewing Federal Historic Tax Credit projects
  In FY 2019, the federal Historic Tax Credit program leveraged $6.4 billion in total rehabilitation expenses and created 110,000 jobs
• Reviewing federal projects for their impact on historic resources (Section 106 review)
  SHPOs reviewed nearly 114,416 federal undertakings in 2019
• Locating, surveying, and recording historic and cultural resources
  In 2019, SHPOs and consultants surveyed approximately 7 million acres for cultural resources
• Facilitating nominations to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register)
  In 2019, SHPOs processed and reviewed 86,312 nominations for inclusion in the National Register, of which 21,668 met the criteria for listing
• Supporting local historic preservation programs through the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program

Located in Portland, Maine, the Motherhouse at the Sisters of Mercy Site was built in 1906 but closed in 2005 due to a dwindling number of Sisters living on the community’s 18.98 acres. A Portland developer used the historic tax credit to restore the unique character of the property including its grand stairways, stained glass windows, three-story chapel with altar, and grand organ. The National Register building now provides 66 affordable and 22 market rate apartments for seniors.

PHOTO BY DAVID MELE

FY 2022 Appropriations Request

Please support $60 million for State Historic Preservation Officers in the FY 2022 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
AGENCY: National Park Service
ACCOUNT: Historic Preservation Fund
ACTIVITY: Grants to States

Recent Funding History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Enacted Funding</th>
<th>President Budget Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2019</td>
<td>$49.675 million</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2020</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2022</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>$60.000 million</td>
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JUSTIFICATION: SHPOs are essential for the implementation of the nation’s historic preservation programs. For years, they have received relatively level funding while SHPO responsibilities and pressure to speed up the Section 106 review process have increased. Increased funding will allow SHPOs to maximize efficiencies in federal project reviews and better carry out their duties under the National Historic Preservation Act. Additional funding will also support the implementation of the Great American Outdoors Act, particularly for state and local Land and Water Conservation Fund projects.
Select Preservation Success Stories

One of the core duties of State Historic Preservation Officers is to work with federal agencies to review federal projects for their impact on historic resources, determine whether and how such resources may be affected, and mitigate adverse effects. Below are successful examples of a Section 106 project and also a Historic Tax Credit project.

**Desert View Watchtower, Arizona**

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona boasts an immense gorge, a significant geological history, and more than 12,000 years of human history, including 11 tribes that continue their association with the landscape today. Patterned off of several structures at Mesa Verde and Hovenweep, Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter designed the Desert View Watchtower, a 70-foot-tall rock tower with a hidden steel structure, in 1932. The tower also featured artwork by renowned Hopi artist Fred Kabotie. The Watchtower and the other buildings designed by Colter were designated a National Historic Landmark in 1979. However, years of deferred maintenance affected the structure’s exterior mortar joints and caused interior plaster instability.

In 2014, the National Park Service removed the Watchtower from the concessions contract prospectus with the intention of restoring the structure. As part of the Section 106 review process, the NPS worked with the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation, the Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer, associated tribes, and other consultants and partners to assess potential adverse effects to the Watchtower and test pilot treatments for restoration.

The Fred Kabotie murals on the interior of the Desert View Watchtower were restored to the highest level of professional standards. The project served as a catalyst for further development and programming with the larger Desert View compound as a locus for engaging the public with the history and culture of tribes that still call the Canyon home. The NPS intends to use this project as a national model for how the NPS and tribal communities can collaborate to increase tourism as well as sustainable economic development in tribal communities.

**Historic Avron Block, Montana**

Built in 1890, the Arvon Block on 1st Avenue South is one of the oldest buildings in Great Falls, Montana. The building originally housed a state-of-the-art livery stable, a greengrocery, and a hotel. Over the years, it served various commercial purposes and even became an opera house. After World War II, the downtown began to decline and parts of the area were demolished. The Arvon Block retained operating businesses throughout this period, but suffered from poor maintenance. An engineering study of the National Register building in 2008 discovered major structural failures and the city decided to demolish it.

Recognizing the significance of the building to the history of the town, a group of investors purchased the Block in 2011 with plans to rehabilitate it. The Arvon Block Redevelopment Venture LLC utilized the Federal Historic Tax Credit to restore the building and the remainder of the project was 100% locally owned and financed. The Arvon Block now houses an Irish pub and restaurant and a boutique hotel, all while retaining the building’s historic character.

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