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Preserve America News | January 2012

The Big Read Program Offers Grants for Literate Historic Non-Profits

Preserve America Communities and Preserve America Presidential Award (PAPA) winners are encouraged to check out their connections with the 31 celebrated authors connected with the National Endowment for the Arts' The Big Read project.



A quick glance at the authors and works involved reveals at least 16 Preserve America Communities and one PAPA recipient are strongly linked with these famous writers. Dashiell Hammett (St. Mary's County), Robinson Jeffers (Pittsburgh), Jack London (San Francisco) and Tobias Wolff (Birmingham) were all born in Preserve America Communities, and Edith Wharton built, worked and resided at The Mount, a PAPA winner.

The Big Read offers 75 grant opportunities for non-profits to create reading programs in their communities. The deadline for applications is Feb. 1, 2012. [Read details of the Big Read](#) and more information on connections with Preserve America Communities.

The Mount, Lenox, Mass.

Saving Historic Cemeteries

Cemeteries are iconic features in urban and rural landscapes, open spaces with unique cultural ties to the past for both individuals and communities.

Maintaining them can be a challenge, particularly for historic cemeteries that face neglect and heightened deterioration. Across the country, volunteers are working to preserve historic cemeteries for future generations. Two Preserve America Stewards—the Texas Historical Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission of South Bend and St. Joseph County--have been designated for their work with historic cemeteries.

The Texas Historical Commission's [RIP Guardian Program](#) provides technical assistance and education to a statewide network of cemetery preservation volunteers. These volunteer groups provide site maintenance, conduct research and survey efforts and work to increase community awareness and support for historic cemeteries. Similar

efforts are underway at **Historic City Cemetery in South Bend, Ind.**, where the Historic Preservation Commission of South Bend and St. Joseph County has partnered with the Schuyler Colfax chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to promote the cemetery's preservation.

The ACHP encourages volunteer groups that are working to preserve historic cemeteries to apply for designation as Preserve America Stewards. Designated Stewards receive a certificate signed by First Lady Michelle Obama.

RIP Guardian Program



National History Teacher of the Year

This fall, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, along with Preserve America and HISTORY, honored elementary school teacher Stacy Hoeflich of Alexandria, Va. with the National History Teacher of the Year Award.



Hoeflich wins an array of books for her school's library and a prize of \$10,000. ACHP Vice Chairman Clement Price was on hand at the ceremony as was New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg; both praised Hoeflich for her innovations in the classroom and commitment to history. [Read more.](#)

From left, Clement Price, Stacy Hoeflich, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, with students from Hoeflich's class

New Communities Named

Communities in California and New York are the latest recipients of First Lady Michelle Obama's letter of designation as Preserve America Communities. They are the following: Historic Filipinotown, Los Angeles, Calif.; Auburn, Brookhaven, Kinderhook, and Ogdensburg, N.Y. [Read more about these historic treasures.](#)



America's Great Outdoors 50-State Report and Preserve America Communities

As part of the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative, the Department of the Interior (DOI) released a report listing proposed projects in each state as well as the District of Columbia that would be undertaken by DOI and other federal agencies in association with state and local governments and other stakeholders. The projects highlight and support priority activities identified in consultation with the nation's governors, senior state leadership and stakeholders, which also advance one or more of the goals of the national AGO Initiative.



[Read the full report with project listing and a brief summary of what is included.](#)

A preliminary analysis by the ACHP has identified more than 75 designated Preserve America Communities that would be directly or indirectly involved and potentially benefitted by the projects, which include land and water trails, river restoration work, landscape conservation and urban park development . The communities include the following: Phoenix, AZ; Dumas, Helena, and Little Rock, AR; Denver, CO; Old Lyme and Wethersfield, CT; Dover and Lewes, DE; Washington, DC; Kauai Co., HI; Boise, ID; Lafayette, Logansport, and Wabash, IN; Lexington-Bell Court and Lexington-Gratz Park, KY; New Orleans, LA; Annapolis, Calvert Co., Dorchester Co., St. Mary's Co., and Worcester Co., MD; Springfield and the Blackstone Valley communities from Blackstone to Worcester, MA; Minneapolis, MN; Biloxi, Pascagoula, and Ocean Springs, MS; St. Louis-Soulard, MO; Missoula, MT; Las Vegas; NV; Canandaigua and Ithaca, NY; Columbus-German Village, OH; Muskogee, OK; West Linn, OR; Borough of Columbia, Lancaster Co., Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh, PA; Blackstone Valley communities from Providence to Woonsocket, RI; Columbia, SC; Sioux Falls, SD; Brownsville, El Paso, Galveston, Hidalgo, and Laredo, TX; Brigham City and Salt Lake City, UT; Brattleboro, Montpelier, White River Junction, and Winooski, VT; Hinton, WV; and Jackson and Teton Co., WY.

Kauai, Hawaii

Latino Heritage Project

President Barack Obama and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar hosted a forum of high-ranking Administration officials and Latino community leaders and scholars to identify avenues through which the story of the American Latino can be told in a more complete and inclusive way. The daylong event on Oct. 12,



2011, featured presentations and discussions about how the federal government could raise the awareness of American Latino Heritage through its many programs.

Currently under development by the National Park Service and others are an American Latino Theme Study to identify potential national park units and National Historic Landmark nominations; documentation of

the Forty Acres historic site associated with United Farm Workers' champion Cesar Chavez; two youth summits to involve young Latinos in preservation in their communities; and an American Latino National Register Travel Itinerary. The ACHP will be working with NPS on opportunities for involvement by Preserve America Communities and Stewards, as well as one or more service learning projects. [Read more.](#)

Cesar Chavez

Coalition Endorses Congressional Support for Historic Preservation and Conservation

Former ACHP Chairman John L. Nau, III joined 600 organizations in support of historic preservation and conservation funding and programs in a letter to Congress. The coalition offered to work with Congress to support conservation and historic preservation funding and fiscal responsibility. [Read more.](#)

Preserve America Session at the National Trust Conference

Representatives of Preserve America Communities and Neighborhoods, Certified Local Governments (CLGs), Main Street Communities, and historic properties participated in a Preserve America Forum about preservation and outdoor recreation. The forum was in conjunction with the National Trust for Historic Preservation's annual preservation conference in Buffalo, N.Y. in October.



This year's theme was "Historic Communities and America's Great Outdoors." Participants were invited to explore the community implications of the federal America's Great Outdoors Initiative and how it should be integrated with local preservation. Organizers wanted to discuss ways local preservation organizations and governments might successfully combine preservation with outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation, and how communities are currently working to make their hometowns more livable and sustainable in today's challenging economy.

After introductory remarks by John Fowler and Ron Anzalone of the ACHP, speakers/presenters included Brenda Barrett of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, talking about Localities and the Land and Water Conservation Fund; Bill Callahan, Western Pennsylvania Community Preservation Coordinator, Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office, on CLGs and the Pennsylvania Wilds Preserve America Grant project on community design; Isaac Kremer of the Oyster Bay, N.Y. Main Street Association, talking about Oyster Bay as well as Theodore Roosevelt's nearby home at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site; JoAnn Beck of the City of Rochester, N.Y. on Rochester's Olmsted Park system; and Suzanne Clary of the Jay Heritage Center at the John Jay historic estate in Rye, N.Y. Megan Brown, CLG Coordinator for NPS, was also on hand.

For further information about the conference or to receive the session's PowerPoint presentations, contact [Judy Rodenstein](#) or [Ron Anzalone](#) at the ACHP.

Rochester, N.Y.'s Olmsted-designed Highland Park includes the Lamberton Conservatory.

Join our Facebook Community

Would you like to be able to discover new resources, access model programs, share your successes and seek advice from your peers? Would you like to do this anytime, anywhere? If



so, we would like your input on developing a lively and useful Preserve America Communities Facebook page. If you'd like to be part of a small group helping to create this new resource and collaboration tool for our 872 Preserve America Communities, please e-mail [Judy Rodenstein](mailto:Judy.Rodenstein@preserveamerica.com).

Economic Potential of Civil War Anniversary

The Civil War Sesquicentennial promises to have an economic impact on many communities, while building an important educational and tourism base for the future. NPS' Manassas (or Bull Run) National Battlefield in Prince William County, Va. (a Preserve America



Community) was the site of two major battles in 1861 and 1862. A local analysis of economic impacts from a series of public events and activities held over a three-day weekend in July 2011 to commemorate the First Battle of Manassas found that the City of Manassas increased its restaurant revenue by more than \$800,000 compared to the previous July, which resulted in a 14 percent increase in the collected meals tax. About 55 percent more sales tax revenue for the month was generated in the city's Old Town historic area, as well as nearly 11 percent more lodging tax receipts. This was in spite of a heat wave that forced curtailment of some events and reduced overall visitor numbers. Read the [full economic report](#).

Grants from the National Trust Now Available

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is now accepting applications for grants from the National Trust Preservation Fund, the Hart Family Fund for Small Towns, the Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation and the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors. The application deadline for all four programs is Feb. 1. Guidelines and links to applications can be found [here](#). (Please note: the Hart Family Fund for Small Towns uses the general National Trust Preservation Fund grant application. Grants from the Hart Fund are awarded to projects in communities with populations of 5,000 or less.)

Any questions can be sent to grants@nthp.org.

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