



# TOUCHING HISTORY: Preservation in Practice

ACHP EXPERT MEMBER AND FORMER NPS DIRECTOR ROBERT STANTON, CENTER, WITH MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND PARK RANGERS AT THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



**“Touching History: Preservation in Practice,”** is a program developed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), the National Park Service (NPS), and the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s HOPE Crew, which connects historic preservation and conservation through a joint project with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The project brings African American young professionals into historic preservation and related career paths, such as architecture, history, conservation, city and regional planning, construction, and engineering and raises awareness of the rich cultural legacy of HBCUs.

Education and outreach are core components of these organizations' missions. As part of the goal to raise awareness about the importance of historic preservation and conservation, the program seeks to engage young people in historic preservation.

According to the National Architectural Accrediting Board, the organization that accredits architectural education programs, there is little growth in the proportion of African American and Latino students in architecture since 2009. Only 0.3 percent of licensed architects are African American women, as reported by Patrick Sisson on the website Curbed.

## PROJECT GOALS:

- ▶ Bring African American young professionals into preservation-related careers
- ▶ Raise awareness of the rich cultural legacy of HBCUs
- ▶ Explore ways of improving the relationship between the federal government and HBCUs
- ▶ Train students in historic preservation theory
- ▶ Increase the number of HBCUs that offer degrees in historic preservation and related fields
- ▶ Restore and preserve the historically significant buildings on HBCU campuses

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MONIQUE ROBINSON AND TIFFANY DOCKINS  
WORK AT THE PEALE CENTER



NATHANIEL MITCHELL WORKS  
AT THE PEALE CENTER

Touching History opens doors for African American students into careers that perhaps they might not have considered. It allows students to interact, face-to-face, with professionals who can serve as mentors, ambassadors, and can potentially provide them with a path to highly skilled jobs once they graduate. One of the strengths of such a project is that it brings together business, history, and heritage with career opportunities both in and out of federal, state, and local government. More importantly, it is a two-way street—helping to bring a much more diverse group of students into fields that are traditionally not diverse.

## DURING THE PROGRAM, STUDENTS WILL DO THE FOLLOWING:

- ▶ Learn preservation theory and receive hands-on training at the Western Center for Historic Preservation in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, or another NPS historic preservation training center
- ▶ Work with the National Trust for Historic Preservation's HOPE Crew on a historic preservation project
- ▶ Network with preservation professionals, elected officials, and other leaders in business
- ▶ Visit historic sites and participate in authentic experience of historic places and exposure to original source documents and artifacts

## EXPECTED PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- ▶ Connecting student participants to job opportunities
- ▶ Creating opportunities for students to interact with organizations, federal agencies, state and local governments, elected officials
- ▶ Informing African American students about opportunities in preservation fields
- ▶ Raising awareness of the rich cultural legacies of buildings on HBCU campuses
- ▶ Encouraging students to reinvent legacies of historic resources on campus through active historic preservation work
- ▶ Expanding the number of HBCUs participating in Touching History

Join us in this eye-opening adventure connecting students to their heritage and history, while opening the door to new career opportunities.

*“For me, I knew historic preservation. I didn't know what it entailed, and I never considered it as an option or an opportunity, but going through this program and working with the ACHP and the other partners, it opens your eyes. The first step to all of these things is awareness and saying, ‘Hey, this is out here, and there's tons of opportunity and tons of jobs.’”*

—TAYLOR PROCTOR  
Morgan State University Architecture Graduate, 2018

Learn more about the National Trust for  
Historic Preservation and the HOPE Crew:  
<https://savingplaces.org/hope-crew#.XILYzjYo7cs>

Learn more about the National Park Service: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

Learn more about the ACHP: [www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov)

**Get Involved! Call the ACHP at: (202) 517-1480**

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