



TOUCHING HISTORY: Preservation in Practice

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FROM LEFT, TYLER LITTLES, TRENTON SCOTT, DOMONIQUE JILES, KAYLA HEARD, AND TY'KWON SUMMERVILLE WORK AT THE BAR BC RANCH IN JACKSON, WYOMING. Photo courtesy NPS



“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. In order to raise awareness about the importance of historic preservation and conservation, the program engages 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
- ▶ Expand the number of HBCUs participating in Touching History

CONTINUED >>>





MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
REPOINT BRICKS AT THE PEALE CENTER
IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.



ACHP EXPERT MEMBER ROBERT STANTON AND
STUDENTS FROM MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
TOUR DC HISTORIC SITES LIKE THE MARY
MCLEOD BETHUNE COUNCIL HOUSE.



TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS RECEIVE
PRESERVATION TRAINING AT THE WESTERN
CENTER FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, GRAND
TETON NATIONAL PARK.
Photo courtesy NPS

Touching History opens doors for African American students into careers that perhaps they might not have considered. It offers interaction with professionals who can serve as mentors and can potentially provide them with a path to highly skilled jobs. One of the strengths of the 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 federal leaders
- ▶ Participate in authentic experience of historic sites and exposure to original source documents and artifacts
- ▶ Be encouraged to reinvent legacies of historic resources on campus through active historic preservation work

“Touching History has given me a different outlook on architecture—it’s made me want to pay homage to the people who came before me, like Booker T. Washington. My most meaningful experience was working on the windows of the Willcox E building. Tuskegee University was built by the students, and so by continuing to build on it and rebuild on it, I feel like I’m contributing to a legacy.”

—TY’KWON SUMMERVILLE
Senior architecture student, Tuskegee University

“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

Learn more about the ACHP: www.achp.gov

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

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

401 F Street NW, Suite 308, Washington, DC 20001 • Phone: 202-517-0200 • Fax: 202-517-6381 • achp@achp.gov • www.achp.gov