



Preserving America's Heritage

## **BUILDING A MORE INCLUSIVE PRESERVATION PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS** **Adopted July 14, 2016**

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) has embraced the principles of inclusiveness in an initiative called Building a More Inclusive Preservation Program, which complements the ongoing work of other leaders in the national historic preservation community to help ensure the history of all Americans is recognized, appreciated, and preserved.

The recommendations relate directly to the report issued after the 2006 Preserve America Summit, which took place in New Orleans, Louisiana, to recognize the 40th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The Summit report urged the preservation program to: *“Promote cultural diversity in the identification of historic properties by evaluating the National Register of Historic Places for its inclusiveness and encouraging local, state, and tribal governments to evaluate their own inventories.”*

The following recommendations were adopted by the ACHP at its July 14, 2016, business meeting. Those recommendations are the following:

### ***Actions for the ACHP:***

- **Federal agency guidance.** In consultation with federal members of the ACHP, create a fact sheet and website section that provide guidance on outreach to, and improved consultation with, underserved communities with regard to historic preservation. The outreach and literature would offer information about consultation during the Section 106 process, suggestions about how agencies, State Historic Preservation Officers, and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers can reach out to potential consulting parties, and information about how local communities can connect with federal agencies to find out about opportunities and resources.
- **Leadership.** Incorporate ongoing efforts to work with federal agency and private organization leadership to commit to engaging underserved audiences. Create a program in alliance with the ACHP Alumni Foundation, similar to the intern program, where alumni members are asked to mentor a student from an underserved community through a partner university or college as they pursue a career in historic preservation.
- **Partnerships.** Encourage partners, including State Historic Preservation Officers and Federal Preservation Officers, to offer technical assistance and develop training and guidance for diverse communities interested in preservation. Engage professional experts to offer known strategies so agencies and non-governmental organizations can implement the goal of reaching a more diverse audience themselves. Expand the universe of partnerships to engage with organizations and agencies which focus on the humanities. On a limited basis and within existing resources, offer to cooperate in developing such programs.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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- **Best practices and case studies.** Continue to develop and share existing web materials in collaboration with special interest groups such as Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation (APIAHiP), the 1882 Foundation, Chinese American and Japanese American historical societies, Latinos in Heritage Conservation, and other preservation organizations.
- **Preservation toolkit resource.** To complement the work done by partners, create an accessible, web-based resource that brings together information on the national historic preservation program and facilitates online access and training for more detailed preservation information on the National Register of Historic Places, the Section 106 process, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines, historic preservation tax incentives, funding, the Preserve America program, local preservation review, and technical assistance on preservation matters, and offers general contact information and other materials potentially useful for communities.
- **Look outward.** Ensure that opening pages on the ACHP website containing contact information and basic explanation of historic preservation and Section 106 are available in at least one other language. Increase outreach with campaigns aimed at reaching more diverse communities, beginning with the communities that have participated in ACHP listening sessions. Create email databases of interested organizations and citizens who are committed to spreading the word about historic preservation.
- **Look inward.** Ensure that the same standards and commitment levels are met with regard to the ACHP's members and staff as well as the agency culture. Actively look for ways to bring members, staff, and interns onboard with a special interest in or representing more diverse communities. Ensure that ACHP members and staff are kept informed about efforts that exemplify work with more diverse communities.
- **Preservation funding.** Continue to support additional targeted funding for underserved communities to actively participate in the national historic preservation program while continuing to advocate for full funding for the Historic Preservation Fund.

*Actions for Others:*

- **Better consideration of historic properties important to diverse constituencies.** Encourage federal agencies to better integrate diverse communities in the Section 106 process at its earliest stages and to identify and interpret historic places under their jurisdiction that may be associated with those communities.
- **Eliminate barriers to the engagement of diverse communities.** Urge federal agencies to examine their policies, programs, and procedures to identify and modify existing impediments to the participation of under-represented communities in activities that affect their cultural heritage.
- **Community awareness.** Assist federal agencies in strategies to identify consulting parties and inform the public about proposed undertakings. Encourage agencies such as the Department of Housing and Urban Development to offer webinars or online information on community development and preservation, including issues of affordable housing, neighborhood financing, and tax incentives that can be shared with leaders in historic ethnic neighborhoods.

- **Public education.** Encourage recognition of and respect for the role and contributions of all Americans in telling the story of the nation and its historic places. Urge the Department of Education to promote place-based learning that reflects all of the nation's diverse cultures.
- **Create new stakeholders.** Continue to work with diverse constituencies using occasions to encourage their participation in the national historic preservation program. Utilize conferences and events to share information about engaging more diverse audiences, such as those sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus or Latinos in Heritage Conservation.