ACHP COMMITTEE MEETINGS
SUMMARY OF EVENTS
Meetings via Zoom
July 2021

PRESERVATION INITITIVES COMMITTEE

Federal Policy on Climate Change and Historic Properties
Committee Chairman Rick Gonzalez called the Preservation Initiatives Committee to order on July 20. Regarding climate change, the committee discussed how the ACHP can raise awareness in the Administration and Congress about the need to address climate change impacts on historic places during federal climate policymaking. Chairman Gonzalez asked Office of Preservation Initiatives Director Dru Null to brief the group on action to date with the Administration. She noted that the ACHP corresponded with Administration officials in the spring regarding several initiatives that are under development in response to Executive Order 14008. One is America the Beautiful, the initiative to conserve at least 30 percent of America's lands and waters by 2030. Ms. Null announced that the ACHP had just learned that it has been included on a new America the Beautiful interagency working group established by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

Chairman Gonzalez led a discussion on sustainability and climate change. Ross Davidson (VA) indicated that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is especially concerned with building sustainability, particularly for health care facilities. The agency is doing facility performance evaluations, and historic facilities are being leveraged for health care delivery. Nancy Boone (HUD) noted that Federal Preservation Officers need to be part of planning in their agencies about how historic places contribute to sustainability and the important role they can play. Chairman Gonzalez stressed the importance of educating Members of Congress and others as to why "the greenest building is one that's already been built." Acting Executive Director Reid Nelson noted that the ACHP needs to reinforce with agencies that adapting and hardening historic buildings is feasible and better than demolition for vulnerable buildings. Erik Hein (NCSHPO) said the climate change/sustainability topic is too large to tackle without breaking it down and tackle more manageable topics, such as: promoting the "greenest building" message; urging consideration of the direct impacts of climate change on historic places; and addressing the impact of clean energy projects on historic properties.

Katherine Slick (ACHP Foundation) stressed that the ACHP also needs to consider preservation and climate change broadly, not just regarding buildings, but also landscapes and other cultural resources. Ramona Bartos (NCSHPO) indicated that from a state government perspective, key issues are emergency management, sea level rise, wild fires, and the likelihood that entire communities and cultural traditions are at risk. Some places will not survive, so documentation and saving peoples' stories and experiences will also be necessary. People leaving places and relocating will also have impacts that need to be considered. Ann Walker (Preserve America Youth Summit) noted the importance of additional cultural resource survey, especially in the West, in order to fully understand what historic properties are vulnerable. Mr. Davidson stressed that more maintenance of federal buildings is needed, since the cost of sustained investment can be less than replacement. Brian Goeken (NPS) reported that the focus areas of

the National Park Service (NPS) climate change response strategy are science, adaptation, mitigation, and communication. Stephanie Paul (NAPC) reported that the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions is offering training courses for local commissions on resilience and disaster planning. Chairman Gonzalez stressed the importance of visualizations, such as ones illustrating projected sea level rise done by the University of Florida, in helping people realize the scope of the threat.

Shaw Sprague (National Trust for Historic Preservation) reported that the National Trust's advocacy report to the Administration, Historic Preservation Solutions to Build Back Better, includes a climate change section. He noted that the Senate confirmation hearing for ACHP Chairman Nominee Sara Bronin will be an important opportunity to present the ACHP's message on climate change and historic properties to Congress. Mr. Nelson suggested the possibility of seeking an Executive Order or Presidential Memorandum on climate change and historic properties, and seeking more support for survey, documentation, and digitization. ACHP Vice Chairman Jordan Tannenbaum noted the importance of also addressing environmental justice as it relates to climate change and historic properties. He indicated support for creating a task force to address these issues, and there was a general consensus by the committee members that a task force should be established.

Proposed ACHP Action on Pending Legislation

The committee considered proposed ACHP action on pending legislation, specifically whether it should recommend that the membership discuss and adopt three draft motions advising Congress on bills that address enhancing conservation corps and creating a civilian climate corps; surface transportation programs reauthorization; and rehabilitation tax credits. Ms. Null walked the group through the legislation and draft motions discussed in the briefing material.

Regarding bills focused on conservation corps and a civilian conservation corps, the consensus of the committee was that the ACHP should push for inclusion of cultural resources in these bills. The committee agreed to recommend the adoption of the draft motion at the ACHP business meeting.

Committee members next discussed bills relating to surface transportation. Reauthorization of Transportation Alternatives funding was among the preservation-related issues addressed in the proposed draft motion. Mr. Hein noted that this program allows more state discretion than previously, and it would be good to know which states are using this funding. The consensus of the committee was to recommend that the full membership consider adoption of the draft motion at the upcoming ACHP business meeting. However, Mr. Sprague noted that the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity (HTC-GO) Act had been included in an infrastructure bill that passed the House last year. He suggested that this was a precedent to consider for the current bills. The committee agreed that the draft motion should be edited to signal support for including the provisions of the HTC-GO Act as part of the current surface transportation/infrastructure legislation.

The committee then turned to discussion of tax incentive legislation, specifically the HTC-GO Act and the REHAB Act. Mr. Hein raised concerns regarding the REHAB Act. Without clarification that it cannot be used for projects affecting National Register-listed or -eligible buildings, it could serve as a disincentive to using the existing Historic Tax Credit, which has more requirements for ensuring appropriate historic rehabilitation. Mr. Sprague indicated that the National Trust supports the REHAB Act. It would serve to partially revive the previous 10 percent tax credit for older buildings that was dropped from the tax code. It also would incentivize creation of affordable housing. Mr. Nelson suggested modifying the motion to express the ACHP's overall support for the REHAB Act but concern that it not unintentionally discourage use of the existing tax credit for rehabilitation of historic structures. The committee agreed with this approach.

Ms. Walker asked whether the ACHP would be willing to support a site-specific bill, the Amache

National Historic Site Act. The bill would designate Colorado's Granada Relocation Center as a National Historic Site. Thousands of people of Japanese descent were incarcerated there during World War II. She indicated that there is broad support for the legislation in the community, and it is being fast-tracked in Congress. Ms. Null noted that the ACHP normally does not comment on site-specific bills, but that the ACHP has an internal policy that sets out situations where it could be appropriate. A site this important would probably meet the policy's criteria. Ms. Slick said precedents include the ACHP's support for the Atomic Heritage sites and the Rosenwald Schools. Mr. Nelson indicated that staff would review the ACHP's policy, seek further information on the bill, and provide material to the members so they could decide whether they want to address the bill at the business meeting.

FEDERAL AGENCY PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Committee Chairman Jay Vogt called the meeting to order on July 21, welcomed participants, and reviewed the agenda. He called on Mr. Nelson to provide updates on staffing and recruitment. The Assistant Director, Federal Property Management position has been advertised, and the ACHP is reviewing referrals. Recruitment for the second liaison to the NPS is now moving to interviews.

Planning for Section 106 Responsibilities in Federal Agency Climate Change Response and Adaptation Activities

In opening discussion on the agenda item concerning climate change, Chairman Vogt noted that this is not a new topic for members of the committee, as many have been implementing projects related to climate change solutions for years. Three of the ACHP's four committees are addressing the issue this week to capture this broad topic. He called on Mr. Nelson for additional context and how the ACHP may have an interest in climate change response.

Mr. Nelson said there are current opportunities to talk about climate response at a policy level, and that it is useful to consider what the ACHP can do but also how the agency can work with others. Given the size of the issue, the committee does not need to define the entire universe of ACHP interests. It would be particularly helpful to hear from federal agencies about their immediate priorities in this area. Mr. Nelson also noted that Administration policy discussions have focused on natural resources so far, offering an opening to talk about the link to cultural resources. A new chance to do that has emerged with the ACHP's invitation to join the America the Beautiful Work Group led by CEQ.

Following a summary of past Section 106 involvement related to various climate response activities, Chairman Vogt reviewed the questions in the meeting book and asked members for their input on how to raise awareness about connections between climate change and protection of historic properties. Shasta Gaughen (NATHPO) mentioned the relevance of a recent report on climate change and Indian tribes from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. From her work, the tribal perspective is that environmental and cultural sides of the issue are the same. As an example, oak trees suffer from the effects of excessive heat and wild fires. They are an environmental resource but also have traditional cultural significance.

Jennifer Eberlien (USDA) echoed these comments about the environmental links to traditional knowledge and food sources. She observed that environmental justice is another integrated element of climate change discussions. Any infrastructure managed by the Forest Service damaged in a disaster may be a concern. Ms. Bartos suggested that case studies on the topic would be helpful by bringing the discussion down to the specifics of successful methods for handling climate response and preservation. As an example, measures to halt shoreline erosion can preserve cultural resources but also benefit wildlife. Dr. Gaughen commented in the chat that another good example is the revival of cultural burning in California, a climate change adaptation that draws on cultural practices that are centuries old. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum observed that this topic is likely to be of interest during the confirmation hearing for the

ACHP chairman nominee.

Reno Franklin (Native American/Native Hawaiian Member) said this is not a new discussion and reminded the committee how Indian tribes learn how to practice their culture around the environment. He also recommended highlighting successes such as the Point Reyes National Seashore and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, where the effects of sea level rise on sacred sites has been managed in coordination with Indian tribes in the area.

Sarah Koeppel (DHS) made a comment that one way the ACHP could contribute would be by outlining adaptation methodologies for federal facility management. She also suggested that development of a government-wide Section 106 program alterative for infrastructure to support electric fleets would be helpful. Kate Plimpton (DoD) agreed with those kinds of strategies and voiced support for such activities that could help agencies managing a large number of properties.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said a Civilian Climate Corps may have relevance to federal agency response to climate change. With respect to federal property management, Ms. Eberlien said climate considerations could affect how the agency uses infrastructure in relationship to leasing and its own facilities. The ACHP should be approaching the General Services Administration regarding leasing. The matter may also affect agency purchasing systems.

Chairman Vogt asked committee members to share their thoughts on what the ACHP should be doing to assist agencies and other stakeholders in climate response. Ms. Slick noted the intersection with the work of the Digital Information Task Force and the importance to federal agencies of knowing where cultural resources are located. In renewable energy project development, the focus should be on areas near tie-ins to electrical transmission lines. Ideally, appropriate locations for such development would be discussed with tribes before industry comes with a specific project proposal. Mr. Nelson proposed the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan prepared by the Bureau of Land Management a few years ago with ACHP participation could be a case study of informing site selection.

Mr. Franklin cautioned the committee that there are good and bad aspects to renewable energy projects and that it is a tribal choice to participate in any effort to identify locations for them. Ms. Bartos said the question is how to have a seat at the table in preplanning when decisions are made about where infrastructure will be invested, as this directs other growth. How do you work with that aspect when Section 106 is so reactive, she asked. Ms. Slick asked in the chat whether improving the planning language in the National Historic Preservation Act's Section 110 should be considered.

Caroline Henry (DOI) suggested the ACHP could contribute by creating talking points on the intersection of climate change and historic preservation. Many people do not understand the intersection, and the ACHP could explain how these two topics are connected.

Chairman Vogt asked whether a task force should be formed to address this topic. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said yes, and that it should include members from the Native American Affairs and Preservation Initiatives Committees. Other members also voiced agreement.

Section 106 and Infrastructure and Surface Transportation Legislation

The Preservation Initiatives Committee, which met the previous day, supported weighing in on permanently authorizing the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), supporting transportation alternatives and context sensitive design, and commenting on provisions requiring a Government Accountability Office study of the Rail Rights-of-Way Program Comment, Mr. Nelson said.

Mr. Nelson also noted that the committee might consider whether investments in infrastructure

development could also include support for systems that improve mapping and site identification. Infrastructure projects include not only highways but also things like broadband, installation of which the ACHP has covered reasonably well through existing program alternatives. He asked federal agencies what the Section 106 pinch points are that they anticipate coming out of potential surface transportation or infrastructure legislation.

Ms. Bartos typed a comment about how digital tools and digital records were invaluable to continuing State Historic Preservation Office operations during COVID and telework. States need funding for digitization of legacy data and to build out GIS. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum asked whether program alternatives could be developed to assist federal agencies in this area. Ms. Koeppel noted in the chat that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would support the creation of a government-wide program alternative initiated by the ACHP or any other agency-specific program alternatives for areas such as fleet electrification and associated infrastructure, facility backlog maintenance, energy conservation measures on federal facilities, etc. that could be expected from an infrastructure bill. Mr. Nelson said the staff has had a discussion with DHS about fleet electrification and infrastructure which could be expanded to include other agencies.

Basia Howard (USDA-RUS) said an influx of funding for broadband was likely and that information to support building more general knowledge of Section 106 for applicants and industry would help the Rural Utilities Service. In particular, tailoring training to utilities or rural applicants would help reach this constituency. Another problem the ACHP could help address is coordination with federal land managers for broadband projects crossing federal lands, particularly those managed by the Department of the Interior. Consolidating information on how agencies' Section 106 processes work could help them work together and help applicants. Mr. Nelson responded that while the ACHP has information about Section 106 tailored to applicants, more could be added. He suggested the Federal Preservation Officers Forum might take up the topic of broadband project coordination on federal lands, and that the ACHP would be happy to participate if invited.

Mr. Nelson asked if preservation organizations advocated for digitization funding recently. Mr. Hein responded that preservation organizations did put ideas forward, but so far those ideas have not gotten traction. Elected officials are less understanding of the important role digital information plays in historic preservation reviews and planning, and some assume that the HPF funding provided to State Historic Preservation Offices/Tribal Historic Preservation Offices covers digital information management needs. He said preservation partners could use some assistance in overcoming this hesitation. Mr. Nelson suggested that these points could be clarified in letters to Congress should the ACHP decide to provide views on current bills.

Human resources are also a concern, Mr. Hein noted, especially with an increase in Section 106 review volume from agencies and/or applicants who are newer to Section 106 review. Thus, it is important to make sure agencies receiving funding for infrastructure programs have Section 106 staff in place. Since agencies also have these staffing concerns, Mr. Nelson asked agency representatives to let the ACHP know if this is an issue for them.

Implementation Status of Action Plans for Section 3 Report, Leveraging Federal Historic Buildings Working Group, and Digital Information Task Force

Members have previously reviewed and provided input on how three recent ACHP reports are implemented. Assistant Director Blythe Semmer called members' attention to the summary of recent actions to advance these reports in the meeting book and mentioned a few recent activities, such as reaching out to key partners to begin implementing specific recommendations from the Leveraging working group and continuing coordination with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and others to address digital information goals. These also help support the objectives of the

Section 3 report, as does wrapping up the work of the Program Comment Review Panel and forming a staff working group to begin updates to the ACHP's guidance on Section 106 reviews and highly technical and scientific facilities.

Chairman Vogt asked if members were aware of new or current opportunities to advance recommendations in any of the reports. Members did not have comments, and Mr. Nelson asked them to email staff if they see new opportunities for the ACHP to take specific actions in the near term.

Updates
The Program Comment Review Panel has drafted a set of recommendations and is working to refine those based on feedback from key stakeholders. The panel anticipates delivering its recommendations to the vice chairman soon, perhaps later this month.

Mr. Nelson said updates on program alternatives in development are available in the meeting materials and on the OneDrive site. He asked ACHP staffer Rachael Mangum to update members on accomplishments regarding the Army Program Comment for Inter-War Era Housing. She said the Army had recently completed a context statement stipulated in the Program Comment several months ahead of schedule, and it is available online via a link from the ACHP's website.

COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Committee Chairman Luke Nichter called the meeting to order on July 21 and asked members to introduce themselves. He reminded members that the ACHP continues to embrace the principles of inclusiveness through its Building a More Inclusive Preservation Program. One of the most fulfilling strategies is by building and strengthening partnerships. A goal for staff is to form new alliances and build on existing relationships that allow the histories and the stories of all cultures to be recognized and told.

In the past, the ACHP has worked with Latinos in Heritage Conservation (LHC). The coming year will be an exciting time for LHC, and the ACHP looks forward to supporting the organization. He introduced Desiree Aranda and Sarah Gould, co-chairs from LHC, to talk about what their priorities will be in the coming year. Ms. Aranda said LHC formed in 2014 as a loose network of preservation advocates and has grown into a national network. Ms. Gould said they wanted to promote historic preservation in an intentional way. People had been doing the work, but they may not have known others on compatible paths. LHC is planning a national gathering called Congresso in Denver next April and hopes the ACHP will be able to be involved. Another project of interest is the Abuelas project in digital humanities where they will be documenting history starting in Texas surrounding farm workers.

The co-chairs asked if the ACHP would be able to help educate Latino communities about Section 106 to help them better understand that historic preservation is not something to be afraid of, but that it could be good for them. Chairman Nichter suggested an LHC intern at the ACHP in the coming months as well as a social media campaign. Ms. Walker said she was excited to be partnering with Congresso in Denver and offered that National Register nominations pose a challenge if they are not offered bilingually; she suggested making a push for that. Mr. Nelson asked how LHC would suggest getting Section 106 information into the hands of those who need it. Expanding access to and distribution of the Spanish version of the *Citizen's Guide to Section 106 Review* is a good start.

Webinars
ACHP staffer Lynne Richmond gave an overview of the four webinars the ACHP offered this spring to students and others at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions. She said the plan is for the ACHP to offer continuous webinars on a schedule starting this fall, and is planning to hire interns from the Virtual Student Federal Service internship program though the U.S. Department

of State. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum suggested the topic of climate change as it relates to historic preservation. He also suggested reaching out to the service academies as a good audience for the webinars. Ms. Slick suggested talking to the alumni of the Preservation in Practice program to see what issues they would find useful and how to engage their peers. In addition, service corps members (i.e., AmeriCorps) have young people working on historic preservation projects, but they are not being introduced to the value and future career potential of such work. Ms. Walker suggested podcasts are a popular medium to engage young people.

Having a series of webinar subjects related to careers is an important point members raised. Mr. Tannenbaum said there could be a webinar for guidance counselors and college counselors to help them learn jobs are out there in historic preservation for their students. ACHP staffer Maya Lavinier suggested that her college peers do not all know what historic preservation is, that we need to educate them.

C-SPAN Outreach
Chairman Nichter gave an overview of the ACHP's plan to reach out to C-SPAN to pitch story ideas for the "American Artifacts" series. He said it would be a good opportunity to promote the ACHP and historic preservation and reach an audience who already likes history and would be interested. As a former executive producer at C-SPAN, he knows they always need content for their programming, and the stories the ACHP is planning to pitch are in the DC-area, so film crews would not need to travel too far. Ms. Walker said this idea is extraordinary and would be epic. Ms. Slick suggested a recasting of the history we know; a different telling of a slice of history would be compelling. ACHP staffer Angela McArdle suggested the topic of artifacts in federal collections could be interesting.

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Native American Affairs Committee met July 22 and opened with a brief presentation by ACHP staffer Emily Choi, on the article she is writing for the National Trust for Historic Preservation on Hawaii's climate crisis. Ms. Choi noted that Hawaii adopted a resolution declaring the climate emergency, and she is examining the impact of the climate crisis on Native Hawaiians. In conducting research for the article, she has interviewed many Native Hawaiians who are working to combat climate impacts. Office of Native American Affairs Director Valerie Hauser noted that Ms. Choi's work is a good reminder to include Native Hawaiians as the committee discusses the Tribal Climate Resilience paper in the meeting book.

Tribal Climate Resilience
The discussion began with an acknowledgement of the Biden Administration's focus on addressing climate impacts and the work being done in the White House Council on Native American Affairs. Committee Chairman Reno Franklin noted that the climate discussion in the Federal Agency Programs Committee was good, and now it is time to take action. Ms. Hauser explained that the recommendations outlined in the meeting book paper are meant to initiate a discussion about potential ACHP actions and noted the changing and evolving priorities. There are policy and staff level recommendations.

Ms. Slick raised questions about the first recommendation which seems to be suggesting funding for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices as well as tribes. Ms. Slick suggested the language be revised to simply recommend that funding be provided to all Indian tribes to build capacity in order to respond to climate impacts. She also asked if there are funding sources other than the HPF. Chairman Franklin added that the crux of the issue is equity for Indian tribes.

Chairman Franklin went on to explain that consultation is not just about impacts on tribal lands but includes traditional territory. So, how can funding be provided to tribes to consult off reservation? There needs to be an equitable way to provide opportunities for tribes to participate and have dialogue.

Assistant Director Jaime Loichinger explained the intent behind the second and third recommendations. The ACHP, as a member of both the Unified Federal Review and the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, is looking to elevate consideration of Indian tribes in the work of these entities and to bring tribes into planning sooner. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum asked about agreements between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and individual tribes, and John Ketchum (FEMA) explained that these agreements are intended to address FEMA's Section 106 tribal consultation responsibilities but are not funding mechanisms.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum also asked about the ACHP's participation in the America the Beautiful working group and the ACHP's work on climate change. Chairman Franklin suggested Vice Chairman Tannenbaum ask the other members of the working group how historic properties could be protected in post-disaster recovery.

Ms. Hauser then explained that the fourth recommendation includes actions the ACHP staff can take in the course of its administration of the Section 106 process, and while such actions are admittedly small and local, they could result in significant changes.

Ms. Slick talked about advancing the idea of nature and culture being the same thing and also suggested the fourth recommendation be separated into multiple recommendations. Ms. Hauser suggested an overall ACHP climate plan with a tribal and Native Hawaiian component. Ms. Hauser then asked the committee members if they have any objections to a member task force, and there were none.

America the Beautiful (30x30) Initiative
Ms. Hauser reminded the members of the ACHP's invitation to join the interagency working group. She asked what the members would like Vice Chairman Tannenbaum, the ACHP's representative to the working group, to bring to first meeting. Chairman Franklin offered to brief him in advance of the first meeting.

Updates
Ms. Hauser provided an update on the Traditional Knowledge Initiative and on the development of a special report, *NHPA as a Model for the Protection of Sacred Sites in Other Nations*.