



**ACHP COMMITTEE MEETINGS
SUMMARY OF EVENTS
Meetings via Zoom
February 2023**

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Office of Native American Affairs Director Ira Matt called the meeting to order on February 21 in place of Committee Chairman Reno Franklin who was unable to attend the meeting.

Traditional Cultural Places (Bulletin 38) Update

Sherry Frear (NPS) summarized efforts to update National Register Bulletin 38. Information included key dates for outreach and listening sessions, review timelines, and proposed future consultation opportunities. Ms. Frear discussed recent outreach efforts including presenting at the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) annual conference with Mr. Matt. She provided a synopsis of Traditional Cultural Places (TCPs) clarifying that they are not a new property type and noted that updates to the Bulletin address questions about continuity of use, access, and the role ownership of a land or structures may have on a site's ability to be considered a TCP. Other key updates include integration of Indigenous Knowledge as an independent line of evidence and further discussion on defining boundaries.

Mr. Matt said the ACHP has been providing comments and content on a recurring basis and remain available to do so. Shasta Gaughen (NATHPO) said for Indian tribes, this is very personal and emotional. She discussed the possibility of pursuing a fifth criterion based on tribes and tribal knowledge.

Policy Statement on Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects

Mr. Matt updated members on the status of the ACHP's draft Policy Statement on Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects including an overview of the recent nationwide consultation with Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations (NHOs). Chair Sara Bronin noted that the consultation with Indian tribes and NHOs included a robust conversation and that adopting this policy statement was a priority, given the significance of the topic.

Mr. Matt outlined pending updates resulting from the consultation effort including modifying definitions, adding a new principle about compensation, and better addressing trauma. He said the implementation section of the policy statement was designed to further inform the principles through development of guidance, training, and other resources. He advised members that they should expect to see an updated document prior to the vote at the business meeting on March 1. Chair Bronin noted implementation is going to be important, including conducting outreach efforts to ensure people know this resource is available.

Valerie Grussing (NATHPO) said NATHPO supports the ACHP's efforts to incorporate historical trauma into the policy statement. Vice Chairman Jordan Tannenbaum also supported the discussion of historical trauma and recognizing the transfer of trauma through generations. Colleen Vaughn (DOT) asked about the timeline, particularly in relation to recent updates including the principle on compensation. Reid Nelson responded, noting that the principle on compensation did not convey any new information beyond what members had previously approved; the addition of that language in the policy simply recognized the

gravity and importance of the situation particularly to burial sites, human remains, and funerary objects.

ACHP Policy Statement on Indigenous Knowledge and Historic Preservation

Mr. Matt gave an overview of the ACHP's plan to develop a policy statement on Indigenous Knowledge and historic preservation. The summary included background information, a brief recounting of member comments provided in 2022, a preliminary outline, draft areas of focus for policy principles, and potential terms to be defined. The policy statement will tailor the recently released *Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Indigenous Knowledge* document to the needs of the historic preservation community along with incorporating comments and requests made by Indian tribes and NHOs over the past several decades. He said the Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA) intends to facilitate listening sessions with Indian tribes and NHOs in late March and early April to further inform this action prior to more formal consultation occurring later in 2023.

Chair Bronin said she appreciated the effort and the focus on consultation. She emphasized the need for ACHP members to support this effort to ensure it remains on the proposed timeline. Dr. Gaughen supported the efforts to develop this policy statement and asked that any outreach efforts include tribal environmental departments and other offices beyond preservation programs and offered to be a conduit for that effort. Chair Bronin supported Dr. Gaughen's comments and noted the connection between the proposed Indigenous Knowledge policy statement and the ACHP's proposed policy statement on climate change and hoped these two efforts would build off one another. Chair Bronin also supported inclusion of articles from the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples noting that having connection with cross cultural offices would improve the ACHP's efforts.

Mr. Matt said similar to the process used when developing the burial sites policy statement, ONAA would be developing a webpage to facilitate access to the resources for the members and the public to ensure everyone had the opportunity to inform this effort.

Other Updates

Dr. Gaughen expressed gratitude to the ACHP staff and leadership for their participation at NATHPO's annual conference hosted by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Dr. Grussing provided an overview of the conference and some key lessons learned and thanked everyone from the ACHP who took the time and effort to make the trip. She noted that NATHPO members and the audience appreciated hearing directly from Chair Bronin about her plans for her tenure at the ACHP.

FEDERAL AGENCY PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING

Federal Agency Programs Committee Chairman Jay D. Vogt called the meeting to order February 21 and recognized new ACHP Chair Sara Bronin. He asked Mr. Nelson for a report on recruitment. Mr. Nelson mentioned that the Digital Operations Coordinator position had been offered and accepted, though the individual's name could not be announced yet. Mr. Nelson mentioned that the ACHP recently opened recruitment for an Assistant Historic Preservation Specialist in the Federal Permitting, Licensing, and Assistance section.

Workforce Development

The committee turned to the topic of workforce development and specifically how students prepare for careers in preservation and cultural resources management (CRM) involving federal preservation programs. Blythe Semmer reported on the ACHP's plans to query federal agency staff like Federal Preservation Officers, CRM consulting firms, and State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) about the skills and knowledge they seek in new hires. The Office of Federal Agency Programs (OFAP) will collaborate with the Office of Communications, Education, and Outreach (OCEO) on seeking information from educators who are training students in preservation-related disciplines, and more discussion was anticipated on that topic in the CEO Committee meeting. The spring semester training intern, Tarin Jones,

will also be gathering information from faculty who teach courses involving Section 106 at the upper level undergraduate and graduate levels. His analysis will help the Section 106 training program update existing materials and create new content and formats responsive to the learning interests of students at that level.

Members shared their views on what questions the ACHP staff should emphasize in learning from hiring organizations. A central concern is the perceived mismatch between student preparation and course curricula with hiring expectations in the field. Students applying for entry level jobs also seem to have fewer experiences in applying their coursework to a professional setting involving federal preservation regulations, such as through a practicum. Such apprenticeship-like learning opportunities could support career preparation while helping moderate tuition costs. Members also noted the challenge of varying job descriptions, such as between the Office of Personnel Management and the Secretary of the Interior's qualifications standards, when job duties are substantially similar. Development of a group of core competencies for preservation and CRM work involving Section 106 review could help develop greater consistency. Finally, members reiterated the need to get information about jobs working with federal preservation programs out to diverse applicant pools and within disciplines adjacent to, as opposed to directly preparing students for, CRM.

Section 3 Report

The next Report to the President under the Preserve America Executive Order 13287 will be delivered on February 15, 2024, and the ACHP is beginning preparations now. Chris Koeppel described the development of reporting guidance to help agencies prepare their reports for submission by the end of September. He outlined three general broad themes of focus: equity, climate change, and infrastructure. Members noted these themes are all timely, though they urged greater specificity in terms of what aspects of property stewardship the ACHP will focus on related to each. Mr. Koeppel noted that more specifics can be provided in the reporting guidelines. Agencies were encouraged to begin thinking now about examples that could be featured in the upcoming report.

Program Alternatives

Members heard about progress by the staff in developing additional and updated guidance on nationwide programmatic agreements. Materials under preparation include a development process flow chart, examples of monitoring and reporting protocols, and information on managing timelines for development of any program alternative. These will be incorporated into the ACHP's training materials and the Guidance on Agreement Documents, as well as being shared via other means with Section 106 practitioners. Members mentioned the need for additional information on NEPA-Section 106 coordination. Also useful would be guidance on the development of various program alternatives, tools, or information to help an agency select the best approach. The ACHP is addressing that need through webinars and a new set of questions on program alternative goal statement development on its website. The agency's guidance should also communicate that a program alternative is not always the best way to solve a Section 106 process challenge.

The Army resubmitted its request for a program comment on Vietnam War Era Housing, and members participated in a special meeting on the subject on February 17. Mr. Koeppel said when members considered the Army's initial proposal in the fall, most comments centered on the inclusion of demolition as a management action and how many properties of particular importance would be identified. The Army responded to these comments, in part by carrying out the survey to identify properties of particular importance, which constitute 7 percent of the relevant housing inventory and are located at one installation in Hawaii. Recent consultation meetings have been convened by the ACHP with SHPOs and Indian tribes. While the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) submitted comments, no tribal comments were received, and the public comment period remained open through February 22. An updated packet with information on all comments received will be shared with members along with instructions for voting on the request via unasssembled meeting March 13-17.

Bulletin 38

Chairman Vogt asked members who attended the Native American Affairs Committee meeting to share observations from the presentation of Ms. Frear of the National Register on revisions to Bulletin 38, Traditional Cultural Places. Mr. Nelson acknowledged the past work of the ACHP with the National Park Service (NPS) on a companion set of guidance that operationalizes Bulletin 38 in the context of Section 106. The ACHP expects to be well-positioned to quickly get out related Section 106 guidance when NPS finalizes the revisions. Issues involving boundaries and confidential information were mentioned as key topics to address.

Other News

Committee members were reminded of the availability of the OneDrive link for information on other program alternatives in development. Katry Harris said the ACHP has offered four new or substantially revised webinars to a very strong registration response and attendance in February. The training program has also opened registration for 2023 in-person and virtual classroom courses. The ACHP looks forward to returning to in-person instruction in Washington, D.C., and through partnerships with the Colorado and California SHPOs, who will host courses in their facilities this year. Erik Hein (NCSHPO) invited members to an open house during the NCSHPO Annual Meeting on March 7.

COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Committee Chairman Luke Nichter called the meeting to order February 22 and asked members to introduce themselves.

Workforce Development

Chairman Nichter gave an overview of the previous efforts that the ACHP has taken to reach students and encourage a preservation ethic. Starting in 2009, a partnership with the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area brought history to life with high school students. Those efforts were followed by the Building a More Inclusive Preservation Program. Preservation in Practice and Cultural Heritage in the Forest followed, along with a youth strategic plan that ACHP members adopted in 2016. A large part of OCEO's work is aimed at increasing diversity in CRM and engaging youth in preservation.

He said OCEO continues to work on the education path of the larger workforce development issue. OCEO sent out an email to more than 4,000 recipients about the urgent need for qualified professionals in the preservation field. An ongoing webinar series aimed at college students is hoping to connect them with preservation jobs. Efforts also continue with OFAP regarding listening sessions. Staff is exploring two listening sessions: one for professionals looking to hire, and one for educators about how students can be introduced to preservation and CRM. He hoped to get a cross-section of stakeholders.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said he thought it was important to develop a module to share with teachers. He said we cannot assume educators know what the ACHP is and what it does and the role of Section 106. Ann Walker (Preserve America Youth Summit) warned that students become resentful if a group gets together to talk about what students want but does not include students. She added that teachers generally have to connect their work to Advanced Placement tests or state standards. Perhaps using America250 would be a way to engage students. She offered to bring together Colorado students. She said it is important to not continue talking to ourselves but to reach out to colleagues in the states.

Ramona Bartos (NCSHPO) said we cannot assume the general public knows what historic preservationists do. She suggested a sample survey question could be "what do you think historic preservation is?" She said it was important to ask what career paths people think are out there within this topic. If parents see this is a viable job, they might support their children going into this field. Rick Gonzalez said there needs to be an "elevator speech" about what historic preservation is. He suggested a

large gathering such as a conference to get the word out. He said historic preservation is about touch, going to see and feel a building.

Chairman Nichter asked about getting students in grades below college involved in historic preservation. Katherine Slick (ACHP Foundation) said the ACHP might get lost in the overall America250 events, but the 60th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act is coming up, and that could give the ACHP a spotlight. Dr. Gaughen said we need to market it differently. She asked if there was a way to make historic preservation “sexy” to young people. She suggested connecting it with climate change, a topic that is important to young people. She said kids want a job that they are passionate about. Ms. Walker said students are interested in climate change and cultural connections. They want their voices heard, and they are seeking recognition. National History Day is an option, or to have SHPOs nominate youth-focused projects to focus attention on them.

Ms. Bartos asked if there was a toolkit or lesson plan that could be distributed to state school boards. She suggested a mentoring program to make ACHP members available to students. She also warned against taking photos of buildings without people in them! It is important to increase empathy.

Chair Bronin said she is setting up virtual office hours with students to talk about historic preservation. In addition, she signaled an interest in speaking at colleges and offering other meetings, such as a happy hour in a historic pub, to try to get students involved and interested.

HBCUs

Chairman Nichter asked members to consider how they might participate in outreach efforts to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Serving Institutions. Members could participate directly in such things as panel discussions, how they got into the historic preservation career field, giving students practical information. He suggested members could be featured in short videos talking about their careers. Mr. Gonzalez said he would be happy to be on the panel, as did Vice Chairman Tannenbaum.

Stephanie Paul (NAPC) said the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions has ways to reach people at the community level; she could put the ACHP in touch with thousands of commission members. The ACHP Foundation’s 21st Century Leaders Fellow Matthew Kenyatta asked about the visits to HBCUs and what projects were in collaboration with the campuses or community around the campuses. Susan Glimcher gave an overview of the relationships the ACHP has had with HBCUs.

Other News

Ms. Glimcher said OCEO is suggesting an update to the youth strategic plan and will discuss it at the summer business meeting. Shayla Shrieves gave an overview of the OCEO interns including the two Virtual Student Federal Service (VSFS) interns who have worked all school year on the webinar project; a senior from Cranbrook School who will do his “Senior May Project” in OCEO this spring; and a summer intern who will work remotely for 10 weeks as part of the traditional ACHP intern program.

Lynne Richmond gave an overview of the webinars and podcasts, noting they are posted on YouTube, and the calendar for upcoming events is available. Patricia Knoll noted the National Trust/ACHP award deadline is February 24, the submissions will be vetted soon after, and the jury will meet this summer to decide on a winner. The ACHP/HUD Secretary’s Award will be given in conjunction with the summer ACHP business meeting. Ms. Knoll said there will be a chance to revisit the criteria for the Chairman’s Awards now that Chair Bronin is in place.

Ms. Glimcher said Cultural Heritage in the Forest is moving ahead for this summer, and she is happy to work with the Forest Service again on this project. There will be two faculty advisors this year.

PRESERVATION INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Preservation Initiatives (PI) Committee Chairman Rick Gonzalez convened the meeting on February 22 and welcomed new ACHP Chair Sara Bronin. Chair Bronin expressed her interest in the issues on the PI Committee's agenda and that she looks forward to hearing input from committee members.

ACHP Legislative Priorities, 118th Congress

Chairman Gonzalez noted that one of the ACHP's primary responsibilities is to advise Congress on historic preservation matters. For recent Congresses, the ACHP has approved legislative priorities to help focus action on individual bills. For the new 118th Congress, the staff has suggested a revised set of legislative priorities for member consideration. Dru Null reported that the list of legislative priorities prepared for the 116th Congress is still mostly germane and useful as a basis from which priorities can be removed and added, as appropriate. Previous priorities recommended for removal address preserving the integrity of the National Register of Historic Places and supporting Presidential designation of National Monuments. No major legislation related to these themes is on the horizon. Ms. Null recommended tweaking the language about building a more inclusive preservation program and adding new priorities to the list. These include reauthorizing and making permanent the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) since the current authorization ends in September, and pushing for digitization and mapping of historic properties. Other new suggested priorities relate to climate change and historic preservation, as well as community development and affordable housing.

Ms. Bartos said increasing the amount of the HPF should also be addressed. The National Trust and NCSHPO both strongly support this. Shaw Sprague (NTHP) expressed appreciation for the ACHP prioritizing the HPF reauthorization, and he also supported the addition of climate change as a priority. Chairman Gonzalez suggested that the draft motion in the meeting book should be advanced at the business meeting. Ms. Null asked if the HPF bullet should be edited prior the business meeting to include mention of an increased level of funding, and the consensus was to do so, and then to introduce the revised motion for a vote at the business meeting.

Climate Change and Historic Preservation Policy Statement

Chairman Gonzalez reviewed the history of the policy statement's development. Feedback on the first draft by the Climate Change and Historic Preservation Task Force has been incorporated into a second draft. The entire ACHP membership will have an opportunity to give feedback at the upcoming business meeting. He asked Chair Bronin if she had any comments, and she thanked the task force members and staff for their efforts to date. The policy statement is close to the finish line and the next step will be consultation with tribes and with others. Once finalized and adopted, the completed policy statement can be used for advocacy.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum, chair of the task force, suggested that the task force be expanded to include some additional agencies. John Finley asked what parts of the policy statement might generate pushback. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said issues of funding and of the potential slowing down of projects are usually raised. Mr. Finley stressed the need not to rush, which often leads to unintended consequences. Ms. Null invited task force members present to weigh in. Mr. Sprague noted appreciation of the National Trust's representation on the task force. Ms. Bartos thanked Ms. Null and others for the opportunity to provide feedback and praised the very collaborative process. Mr. Sprague noted that the National Trust's government relations staff is developing informational material on climate and building reuse, emphasizing that historic preservation is climate action. The National Trust and American Institute of Architects met with U.S. Rep. John Curtis of Utah, chairman of the Conservative Climate Caucus, to discuss the importance of addressing carbon emissions through building reuse in hopes of focusing the caucus's attention on the issue. Chairman Gonzalez brought up the concept of latent value, that the greenest building is an existing one.

Ms. Null summed up next steps, including formal consultation with tribes on the latest version of the policy statement, which will incorporate feedback provided at the ACHP business meeting, if any. Notice will be sent to tribes, inviting participation in an early April listening session, followed by 30 days during which written comments can be submitted. Another listening session will be set up for SHPOs and their staff. A final version of the policy statement will then be provided to members for a vote on adoption in May through an unassembled meeting.

Internship Program Update

Chairman Gonzalez noted that the ACHP's internship program is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. To further expand the ACHP's internship options, Chair Bronin has developed a new internship track to engage interns who will work under her direct oversight. Chair Bronin explained that these internships will be for students in internship/externship programs (e.g., a Semester in D.C. program) for which they will receive credit for the internship and/or be compensated directly by their academic institution with a stipend. The application period will close on February 28.

Chairman Gonzalez called on Judy Rodenstein to give an update on administration of the internship program. She noted that the ACHP is hosting two spring semester interns: Ernie Andreoli, a Chair's Intern doing research for various projects, and Tarin Jones, a Program Intern, working with OFAP's training specialist to research if and how Section 106 is taught in graduate historic preservation programs and how that might be improved.

The ACHP is offering summer Program Internship opportunities in three offices—the Office of General Counsel, OCEO, and OFAP. Sixty-two applications were received, and additional outreach to increase the diversity of the applicant pool seems to have had some impact on the diversity of candidates. The ACHP Foundation is providing stipends equivalent to \$15 per hour. The legal intern will research case law and agency policy and practice to explore and assess claims of “sufficiency” of mitigation in the Section 106 review process. The communications intern will develop materials highlighting the importance and benefits of historic preservation for all Americans. The training intern's projects align with the ACHP's initiative on historic preservation workforce development and strengthening connections with undergraduate and graduate programs in historic preservation and related fields.

Other internship-related initiatives are centered in OCEO: periodic week-long externships for Rutgers University students; two VSFS interns working all academic year on developing a webinar series aimed at, but not limited to, students at HBCUs; and a new partnership with the Cranbrook School to host a high school student doing a senior project in May.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said he is excited by the opportunity to grow the internship program further. He recommended seeking endowments to support named internships. He said naming opportunities are very desirable. Endowment interest could be used to fund internship costs and cover overhead. There would have to be a determination about where the endowment principal would be kept. Ms. Slick suggested the money could be kept with the ACHP Foundation. She stressed the need to increase the stipend for paid interns. She also advised looking at subsidizing transportation and housing costs, whether for entire internships or to provide a short period in Washington, D.C. for mostly remote interns. Ms. Walker asked what other federal agencies are doing regarding internships, being concerned that federal agencies are adverse to naming opportunities in general. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum pointed out that the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is federal and has named internship opportunities.

Other Business

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum thanked Chairman Gonzalez for his mentorship while the vice chairman served as the acting ACHP chairman.