



ACHP COMMITTEE MEETINGS SUMMARY
Meetings via Zoom
July 2023

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Committee Chairman Reno Franklin called the meeting to order on July 6.

Implementing the ACHP's Policy Statement on Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects

Chairman Franklin opened by sharing his gratitude that the Policy Statement on Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects was passed unanimously. He discussed the importance of the policy and identified it as one of the most significant actions the ACHP has taken. He then turned to Ira Matt to discuss implementation efforts that have occurred since March 1, 2023. Mr. Matt identified four ways the ACHP has actioned the policy since it passed including the following: (1) outreach and education through podcasts, presentations, and writing and pitching op-eds; (2) development of template language to assist federal agencies with integrating the policy into Section 106 agreement documents; (3) development of a guidance document designed to advise federal agencies, state and local governments, and nongovernmental institutions with implementing the policy; and (4) advancing ACHP support for the proposed *Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools Policies Act*.

Chairman Franklin discussed the atrocities of the boarding school era and the opportunities the ACHP has to support the effort by Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiians to begin to heal from that legacy. ACHP Vice Chairman Jordan Tannenbaum asked about international coordination and recommended working with the Canadian government. Alicia Sylvester (DoD) shared Department of Defense (DoD) efforts to improve the knowledge of the boarding school history and DoD's role. This effort includes funding for Indian Tribes to do research. ACHP Chair Sara Bronin closed by encouraging members to identify ways the ACHP can continue to implement this policy at the federal, state, local, and international level.

Developing an ACHP Policy Statement on Indigenous Knowledge and Historic Preservation

Chairman Franklin opened by discussing the role Indigenous Knowledge has in historic preservation and the need for the ACHP to advance a progressive policy. Mr. Matt shared a PowerPoint that included draft content and updated members on recent outreach efforts to Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiians, and federal agency personnel.

Shasta Gaughen (NATHPO) thanked the staff for their efforts to develop this policy and offered to support the office in their outreach efforts and with developing any content. Jennifer Talken-Spaulding (NPS) said the policy contains important and easy-to-follow principles and that the draft document hits on all the key issues. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum also voiced support and asked about future implementation. Mr. Matt said implementation options are still all on the table and are being openly discussed during outreach efforts.

Analysis of 36 CFR Part 800

Chairman Franklin reminded the committee about prior discussions on updating the regulations. To support this analysis, staff conducted an analysis of the regulations and summarized member comments to identify any shortcomings or areas that could be improved. Staff also identified opportunities to address

any issues or member comments including updates to guidance, development of policy, and improving training resources. In particular, staff have identified a need to update *Consultation with Indian Tribes in the Section 106 Process: A Handbook*, continued development of the proposed *Policy Statement on Indigenous Knowledge and Historic Preservation*, and updating the *Section 106: Questions and Answers* website. Staff intends to update members on these actions and their ability to address member comments.

Salish Kootenai College Educational Modules

Staff updated members regarding ongoing efforts to develop educational modules for Salish Kootenai College (SKC). This ongoing effort will provide guidance to SKC's Tribal Historic Preservation and Tribal Governance Programs related to topics of particular interest to Indian Tribes including sacred sites, treaty rights, properties of religious and cultural importance, and Indigenous Knowledge, among others. Staff will work to develop these modules throughout 2023 and will seek to convert written materials into online modules students can access virtually in 2024.

PRESERVATION INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Preservation Initiatives Committee Vice Chairman Ramona Bartos (NCSHPO) called the meeting to order on July 6.

Presentation on Traditional Trades Training

Nicholas Redding, President and CEO of Preservation Maryland and the Campaign for Historic Trades, and Moss Rudley, Superintendent of the National Park Service Historic Preservation Training Center, were introduced for a presentation on traditional trades training. Both were vice chairmen of the ACHP Task Force on Traditional Trades Training, which produced a policy statement adopted by the ACHP in October 2020. Mr. Redding said that policy statement is working as it should, as a broad statement that validates and supports work going on in the field and that can be used in advocacy work.

They reported progress on a number of fronts toward expansion of traditional trades training, including the following: launching [HistoricTrades.org](https://www.historictrades.org); piloting a Save Our Skills workshop series; convening the first [American Historic Trades Summit](#); issuing a first-of-its-kind [labor study](#) on the status of historic trades in America; and obtaining congressional approval and funding to purchase land and expand the [Historic Preservation Training Center](#). The Campaign for Historic Trades also is working on: posting open-source curriculum modules for trades training; pursuing formal registration of several traditional trades apprenticeships with the Department of Labor; and creating a free directory of preservation trades businesses. Ms. Bartos reminded the group that ACHP members would have an opportunity to visit the Historic Preservation Training Center the day before the business meeting and continue the discussion of next steps.

Proposed ACHP Action on Pending Legislation

Ms. Bartos said the committee needed to consider motions on four bills, three of which were discussed at the May meeting and all of which deal with issues the ACHP has addressed in the past. The first motion was in support of the Historic Preservation Fund Reauthorization Act. Ms. Bartos and Shaw Sprague (National Trust) noted that the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) and the National Trust support this bill and are working to see if the Senate will advance a similar or identical bill. Dr. Gaughen indicated that the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) does not oppose the bill but is seeking more secure funding for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) from the Senate. She also pointed out that current funding from oil and gas leasing will lessen, so other funding sources eventually should be sought. Stephanie Paul (NAPC) reminded the group that 10 percent of State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) funding goes to local governments. Jay Vogt advised dropping proposed language regarding the ACHP's continued support for considering permanent reauthorization, but Chair Bronin said leaving the language in would give her leeway to mention it in discussions with Members of Congress. The committee's consensus was to support the motion as written.

The next proposed motion was in support of the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity (HTC-GO) Act. Mr. Sprague provided context on the bill and offered appreciation for the ACHP's past support. The National Trust is educating Members of Congress, seeking more bipartisan support, and gaining ground. The committee's consensus was to advance the proposed motion at the business meeting. The committee also supported bringing motions to the business meeting regarding the Save Oak Flat From Foreign Mining Act and the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act.

Housing and Historic Preservation Policy Statement

Chair Bronin said the ACHP is seeking to update and expand its 2007 Affordable Housing and Historic Preservation Policy Statement. A draft discussion outline prepared by Dru Null folds in material from the previous document, which is focused on Section 106 review and still offers solid policy guidance. The draft outline would expand the scope to include a wider variety of housing concepts, guidance for state and local entities, and a discussion of Tribal housing. Written comments on the draft outline were requested by July 24, and Chair Bronin would like to complete this policy statement revision in the near future. She also would like to see the policy statement address housing broadly, not just affordable housing. Ms. Bartos and Erik Hein (NCSHPO) voiced support for this approach.

Ms. Bartos asked if there were any reactions to the draft. Ann Walker (Preserve America Youth Summits) said compliance with local building codes is a big issue and suggested it should be called out as its own line item. Kate Plimpton (DoD) mentioned addressing post-pandemic issues—such as conversion of office buildings to residential properties—and the need for changes to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards to address climate change and housing. Ms. Bartos suggested that there should be more training of building inspectors on how to apply existing flexibilities. Mr. Sprague shared a link to a new [related National Trust report](#) on state historic tax credits, which touches on the role of historic preservation and affordable housing. Cynthia Herhahn (BLM) encouraged training for contracting officers.

Brian Lusher (HUD) said the existing policy statement remains solid but that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is open to new ideas and additional discussion. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum stressed the importance of working with developers and nonprofits and suggested that there be outreach during development of the policy as well as in reviewing it. Coordinating with HUD on such engagement, including potentially convening focus groups, was discussed. Speaking with the Historic Tax Credit Coalition was also suggested. Mr. Hein shared a link to [research](#) the Preservation Priorities Task Force did on this issue. One finding of the report is that the housing shortage is not a problem everywhere, that some smaller, rural communities have excess housing and seek new residents. He cautioned that the policy statement should take that into account in terms of its wording and recommendations. Chair Bronin indicated the need to address the climate change case for rehabilitation, focusing on reducing energy use and affordability.

Policy Guidance Regarding ACHP Advising on State and Local Legislation

Ms. Bartos noted that the National Historic Preservation Act authorizes the ACHP to provide advice on state and local legislation but that the ACHP has rarely done so. Chair Bronin said the draft policy guidance on when and how the ACHP should do so is much needed, and she suggested it be an appendix to the agency's operating procedures. Ms. Walker said she thought this could be incredibly helpful based on her experience in Colorado. Written comments on the draft were requested by July 7.

Climate Change and Historic Preservation Policy Statement

Ms. Bartos noted that the policy statement has been formally adopted by the ACHP, and possible implementation ideas are listed in the meeting book. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum asked committee members if they had any favorite ideas or other suggestions. Ms. Bartos suggested that the ACHP act as a repository, consolidating information on mitigation, adaptation, Indigenous Knowledge, and nature-based solutions. Dr. Gaughen agreed but noted the need to better publicize where the information is available. Ms. Plimpton said the ACHP should seek ways to support industry and private development. Vice

Chairman Tannenbaum suggested developing better technical guidance on addressing climate change issues during Section 106 reviews, such as when addressing emergency situations and when considering deconstruction as an alternative. Ms. Plimpton noted that DoD is looking at issues related to deconstruction. Ms. Paul said the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) has a [Resilience and Disaster Planning Initiative](#) for local preservation programs and communities that includes training and resource guides.

Public Comments on the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties

The ACHP is seeking comments on the application and interpretation of the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards. Chair Bronin noted the importance of seeking views from a broad audience. The public comment period ends on July 20.

Other Business

Chair Bronin introduced the interns attending the meeting and encouraged committee members to provide their contact information in the chat if willing to be contacted by interns. Ms. Bartos encouraged the interns to reach out. Chair Bronin stressed the importance of providing internships as part of building a preservation workforce for the future.

COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Committee Chairman Monica Rhodes called the meeting to order on July 7. She announced that Chair Bronin had appointed Expert Member Kristopher King as the new vice chairman of the committee. Mr. King said he is focused on how to engage younger people in historic preservation and hopes to facilitate job connections. Office of Communications, Education, and Outreach (OCEO) summer intern Melissa Paduk introduced herself, and Chair Bronin introduced the other ACHP interns who were on the call.

Workforce Development

Chairman Rhodes gave an update on the listening session with educators that OCEO hosted on June 6. She said the listening session was designed to gather information about the work of educators and academics, in order to solicit recommendations on how to raise awareness about preservation and job opportunities in cultural resources management. Some of the participants were teachers and/or part of preservation programs, and some were not.

Susan Glimcher briefed members on the findings from the session, during which a number of ideas were offered about how to further insert preservation into introductory courses such as public history, landscape design, planning, law, archaeology, and architecture. Several participants stressed the importance of reaching out to young people at an earlier age. The idea of expanding digital outreach to these audiences ties in with the work that the Office of Federal Agency Programs (OFAP) is planning.

OCEO will continue to work on a parallel path with OFAP on this subject. OCEO will focus on priority ideas to introduce students to federal preservation work and will also be working with OFAP to create a joint webpage that outlines the work being done from several perspectives.

Chairman Rhodes then asked Katry Harris to summarize the listening session OFAP hosted on this topic on June 28. Ms. Harris said OFAP met with representatives of professional organizations, federal agencies, SHPOs, THPOs, local governments, and others who are hiring emerging historic preservation and cultural resources management professionals. Their comments provided additional detail to help inform staff recommendations, including what kind of skills and experience they are looking for when hiring new staff.

Ms. Bartos (NCSHPO) said it is imperative to get to students before college and offered partnership ideas with groups like the American Association for State and Local History and National History Day. Ms.

Walker (Preserve America Youth Summits) said History Day is a good way to connect with history teachers. She said many states have THPOs and SHPOs identify teachers who need community service networking. Many students need community service hours to graduate, and there are ways to introduce them to historic properties. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum asked if there was an organization for teachers of Advanced Placement courses, or Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts. Katherine Slick (ACHP Foundation) suggested high school counselors may be a group to reach out to.

Mr. King suggested members serve on panels answering the question, “how did you get into preservation?” Students do not know about preservation, certainly not the federal preservation program, and they can learn what the professional landscape looks like, how it is navigated. He said ACHP members all arrived here from a different path.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

Chairman Rhodes introduced the subject of better supporting HBCUs and said before COVID-19, out of 111 HBCUs, 107 college presidents attended the White House Initiative on HBCUs’ annual conference. This is an audience that is interested in what opportunities are available to students and faculty.

Lynne Richmond reported that the webinar series was a success over the winter and spring, with more than 300 registrants, many from HBCUs. The ACHP will participate in the HBCU Week conference at the end of September. She added this is the second year of Cultural Heritage in the Forest partnering with the U.S. Forest Service and HBCUs. Students will meet with ACHP and Forest Service leadership during their week in Washington, D.C.

Perri Meldon (NPS) offered an idea of a webinar on disability history, with regard to historic sites, related to the National Park Service’s publishing of a disability handbook. Several members, including Chairman Franklin, said they would be happy to participate in future webinars, as well.

Ms. Glimcher reported that discussions have resumed with the Department of Labor (DOL) and its apprenticeship program with historic preservation jobs. Ms. Null noted in the chat, regarding to DOL, they may wish to contact the Campaign for Historic Trades about their work on establishing several traditional trades apprenticeships.

Youth Outreach

Chairman Rhodes discussed suggested edits to the Youth Strategic Plan. Ms. Bartos asked what the staff capacity is to fulfill many of the ideas. Members had suggestions, including discovering who might serve as “influencers” in social media having to do with historic preservation, and exploring the National Council on Public History. There was also discussion about the definition of “students” and “young people.” Dr. Gaughen (NATHPO) suggested people make career changes later in life, so not every student is necessarily a “young person.”

Other resources included adding scholarships to students at conferences; getting student feedback on outreach. Ms. Bartos suggested ACHP members make themselves available on a one-on-one basis to be able to talk with students and suggested members reach out to their own college alumni networks. Ms. Richmond reminded members the ACHP participates in Rutgers University’s externship program, offering “externships” to students. She suggested members find out if their own alma maters offer any programs like that where the ACHP could get involved.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum suggested in the chat, that the ACHP consider offering a conference for high school teachers offering segments on an overview of the preservation program, ways to incorporate preservation into history courses, and looking into if the ACHP Foundation could identify a funder. Ms. Walker suggested in the chat that the ACHP reach out to teachers in order to generate a pipeline of students and create a contact list of teachers who could help build a broader network.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum asked in the chat what the America250 organization is planning that might showcase or involve preservation? The “updated marketing efforts” for America250 launched on July 4, and the ACHP is contributing content.

Ms. Walker suggested in the chat that the ACHP create an award for students in historic preservation. She said students are drawn to competition and always want resume builders. America250 provides a timeline and motivation.

Awards

Patricia Knoll reported the ACHP/HUD Secretary’s Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation ceremony would take place at HUD headquarters July 27 and that members were invited. The National Trust/ACHP award will be given out at the PastForward conference in November in Washington, D.C.

Publications

Shayla Shrieves noted the ACHP just published two fact sheets in Spanish. They are on the ACHP website. ([Publications | Advisory Council on Historic Preservation \(achp.gov\)](#))

FEDERAL AGENCY PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Federal Agency Programs Committee Chairman Jay D. Vogt welcomed participants on July 7. Reid Nelson noted hiring a new OFAP director was progressing, and hopefully someone will be in place by the end of the summer. He also mentioned that the ACHP will hire an equity officer soon. OFAP is welcoming a new staff member: Assistant Historic Preservation Specialist Max Sickler. Training Specialist Katry Harris will be moving to a new position at the Council on Environmental Quality in August.

Preparation of the 2024 Section 3 Report

Chris Koeppel provided an update on the planned Section 3 report themes, which include infrastructure and approaches to support its accelerated development, job creation, equity, and climate change. The themes shaped the guidelines the ACHP issued to help agencies prepare progress reports, and they will organize the analysis and recommendations in the forthcoming Report to the President. The staff is also looking at recommendations from the 2021 report to assess what progress has been made on those objectives. Members noted the positive impact of visuals such as story maps and videos in an electronic report format. They also discussed different opportunities to point out proposed changes or needs for federal historic property stewardship, particularly relating to capacity and training, in the final report.

Analysis of the Section 106 Regulations

A recent staff analysis of the Section 106 regulations examined whether updates to the regulations may be necessary. This effort included a close reading of the text, member input at the May Federal Agency Programs and Native American Affairs Committee meetings, and consideration of staff experience and feedback on Section 106 review implementation. Blythe Semmer reported that the analysis concluded amendments to the regulations are not necessary, though some areas would benefit from clarification and elaboration in guidance and training. In general, the flexibility in the regulations is one of their strengths. The staff proposed two areas for updates to guidance and technical assistance, such as the addition of example scenarios and factors to consider in applying the regulations: the [Section 106 Regulations Section-by-Section Questions and Answers](#), and *Consultation with Indian Tribes in the Section 106 Process: A Handbook*. Members also suggested other areas for future guidance refinements, including more attention to timing in review coordination and additional information on National Environmental Policy Act substitution.

Workforce Development Update

Dr. Semmer updated the committee on a recent listening session the staff had with representatives of

professional organizations, state and Tribal offices, consultants, and federal agencies who hire entry-level preservation and cultural resources professionals to work with Section 106 review. The session generated informative takeaways about what skills and experiences hiring organizations look for in new professionals joining their organizations, including hands-on experience such as internships, an understanding of the context for federal cultural resources laws, and experience working with diverse communities in applying them. Staff will take this information to develop, in coordination with OCEO, a set of recommendations to help students interested in preparing for a career in federal preservation work. OFAP will also add information about federal preservation jobs to existing training and develop a new e-learning module on Section 106 geared to students. Federal members also commented on the ongoing challenge of the lack of an Office of Personnel Management job series for cultural resources management positions.

Updates

Members welcomed several interns attending the committee meeting. Halona Young-Wolfe is interning in OFAP this summer and working on the student-focused e-learning module referenced above. Chair Bronin introduced several of the Chair's Interns in attendance from teams working on related topics such as Section 106 identification and wildfire management approaches. Members expressed excitement about the involvement of students in learning about the ACHP's work through these experiences.