

February 28, 2023

Director Shalanda Young
Office of the Director
Office of Management and Budget
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20503

Mr. Michael Hildner
Interior Branch Program Examiner
Office of Management and Budget
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20503

Director Young and Mr. Hildner:

We appreciate this opportunity to present recommendations for Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations. We, the undersigned, represent a coalition of national historic preservation organizations.

We offer deep gratitude for the robust funding recommendations made by the administration for historic preservation priorities during the FY 2022 and FY 2023 cycles. This includes the recommendation of \$151.8 million for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for both fiscal years. The FY 2023 enacted level of funding in the amount of \$204.5 million underscores Congress' recognition and commitment of issues related to historic preservation. We look forward to the FY 2024 budget recommendations and how they will address the ongoing needs for investments to sustain and support our nation's rich heritage of cultural and historic resources that also generate lasting economic and civic vitality for communities throughout the nation.

The HPF is the principal source of funding to implement the nation's preservation programs from the federal to the local levels. HPF funding supports fundamental preservation activities such as survey, nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places, public education, and project reviews required for federal Historic Tax Credit (HTC) projects. Among many highlights, we would like to emphasize the support for the African American Civil Rights grants program and for the second year its expansion to preserve and highlight sites and stories associated with securing civil rights for All Americans, including women, American Latino, Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and LGBTQ Americans.

The competitive grant programs within the HPF have seen remarkable growth in recent years and could reach even greater heights to effectively steward our nation's vast historic and cultural resources with forward-looking investments. We are also appreciative of the increases provided to state and tribal historic offices and know they continue to have significant unmet financial needs. Local governments also rely on a portion of the HPF funding to undertake projects that identify and preserve places that are significant and have meaning for their local communities.

We request the President recommend a total **FY 2024 HPF appropriation of \$225 million**. Within that funding, we recommend:

- \$70 million for State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs);
- \$34 million for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs);

- \$28 million for competitive grants to preserve the sites and stories of efforts to advance African American Civil Rights;
- \$7 million for the History of Equal Rights Grants program to preserve the sites and stories associated with securing civil rights for All Americans, including women, American Latino, Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and LGBTQ Americans;
- \$5 million for Underrepresented Community grants;
- \$13 million for grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities to preserve and rehabilitate historic buildings;
- \$40 million for Save America's Treasures grants;
- \$17 million for Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization grants; and,
- \$11 million for Semiquincentennial Preservation Grants.

Thank you for considering our request. We stand ready to assist in any way to support our recommendations.

Sincerely,

National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

American Cultural Resources Association

Preservation Action

National Alliance of Preservation Commissions

Main Street America

American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Society for American Archaeology