

Historic Preservation Fund Appropriations FY 2006 for **Save America's Treasures (SAT)**

Restore Funding to America's Local Bricks-And-Mortar Preservation Projects

Status:

On February 7, 2005, President Bush delivered his FY 2006 budget to Congress. The Administration request calls for drastically cutting SAT by half (\$15 million) and eliminating Congress' role in supporting local preservation projects. At a time when federal funds for preservation are already scarce, these reductions would deal a huge blow to the only major "bricks-and-mortar" preservation program in the nation today, jeopardize scores of preservation projects throughout the country, and mean that more of America's heritage will almost certainly be lost. SAT leverages millions of additional dollars from foundations, corporations, and individuals, and has literally made the difference in saving hundreds of historic sites around the country. Every federal dollar granted must be matched by a non-federal dollar, thus doubling its value. A reduction in SAT funding would send the wrong signal to the private sector – a message that would seriously compromise the program's goals and undermine the leveraging value of the government's stewardship role in the places and objects that tell America's story.

Funding for Save America's Treasures (in millions of dollars):

FY01	FY02	FY03	FY 04	FY 05	FY06 Admin	FY 06 Request
30	30	30	33	29.6	15	30

The Request:

An investment of \$30 million in FY 2006 to SAT through the Department of Interior Appropriations Bill will be multiplied many times over. With broad bi-partisan support in Congress and the leadership of First Ladies in both the Clinton and Bush Administrations, SAT has provided more than \$218 million in federal challenge grants to 726 historic preservation projects. These funds have brought new life to irreplaceable historic treasures – including buildings, documents and works of art – in every state.

SAT has also provided tremendous benefit to projects at National Park Service sites such as Ellis Island, Valley Forge, Thomas Edison's Invention Factory, Mesa Verde, Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill Cottage, and Dr. Martin Luther King's Ebenezer Baptist Church. More than 19% of SAT's private funding – over \$11 million – has been designated for NPS sites in dire need of these additional resources. This complements another \$12 million in SAT federal challenge grants to NPS sites.

While much has been achieved in the seven years since SAT was established, the need remains great. In just the first five years of the program, 1,648 grant applications were received, representing requests for more than \$773 million in critical preservation assistance. SAT funds have made a huge difference, but without maintaining last year's funding levels it will be virtually impossible to stimulate private matching contributions of an equal share.

Furthermore, if SAT is not funded at its current \$30 million level, the potential for productive partnerships with faith-based organizations – partnerships in which the private sector plays an especially critical role – would be extremely limited. Thus far, almost \$3 million in SAT matching grants have been awarded to 11 nationally significant religious sites, including Boston's Old North Church, Touro Synagogue in Rhode Island, and Socorro Mission in Texas.

For more information :
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