

# Preserve America

Support for Community Economic Development and Education with Historic Resources

March 2008

## STATUS

The President's FY2009 budget recommends Preserve America receive \$10,000,000.

## REQUEST

Support \$10,000,000 for the Preserve America grant program.

## BACKGROUND

Preserve America grants are a critical element of the Preserve America initiative. Announced on March 3, 2003 by the First Lady, the initiative includes direction to federal agencies through Executive Order 13287, "Preserve America," signed by the President on that day. The Executive Order emphasizes federal policy to provide leadership in preserving America's heritage by actively advancing the protection, enhancement, and contemporary use of the historic properties owned by the federal government. The Executive Order encourages agencies to seek partnerships with state, tribal, and local governments and the private sector to make more efficient use of these resources for economic development and other recognized public benefits.

The President's FY 2009 budget includes a request for \$10 million in matching grants to support community efforts to demonstrate sustainable uses of their historic and cultural sites, focusing on the economic and educational opportunities related to heritage tourism. Administered by the National Park Service, approximately \$5 million annually has been awarded in FY 2006 and 2007, totaling 140 grants in 40 states. Just under \$7.5 million is available for FY 2008, and the first round of grants is currently underway. Grant amounts range from \$20,000-\$150,000 with a required 1:1 match.

Preserve America grants support projects in five categories: research and documentation, planning, interpretation and education, marketing, and training. The program does not fund bricks-and-mortar projects but rather complements the Save America's Treasures grant program by helping local communities develop sustainable resource management strategies and sound business practices for the continued preservation and use of heritage assets. Successful projects feature public-private partnerships and serve as models to communities nationwide for work in heritage tourism, historic preservation, education, and economic development.

Funded activities have included rural or downtown survey and documentation projects; wayfinding, signage, and interpretive guides; regional tourism planning and development initiatives; marketing and promotion plans; and hospitality and docent training. Eligible applicants include designated Preserve America Communities; State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and Certified Local Governments that are in the process of applying for Preserve America Community designation.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Preservation Action

401 F Street NW STE 324  
Washington, DC 20001  
tel: 202-637-7873

[www.preservationaction.org](http://www.preservationaction.org)

### National Trust for Historic Preservation

1785 Massachusetts Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
tel: 202-588-6000

[www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org)

### National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

444 N. Capitol NW STE  
342

Washington, DC 20001  
tel: 202-624-5465

[www.ncshpo.org](http://www.ncshpo.org)

### National Alliance of Preservation Commissions

325 South Lumpkin Street  
Founders Garden House  
Athens, GA 30602

tel: 706-542-4731

[www.uga.edu/napc](http://www.uga.edu/napc)