

Save America's Treasures

Bricks and Mortar Grants for the Nation's Most Significant Historic Properties

March 2008

STATUS

The President's FY2009 budget request would seriously underfund Save America's Treasures (SAT) by providing only \$15,000,000 for the nation's only bricks-and-mortar grant program for historic preservation. This would be half of what the program has received in previous years – normally \$30 million.

REQUEST

Support \$30 million for Save America's Treasures (SAT).

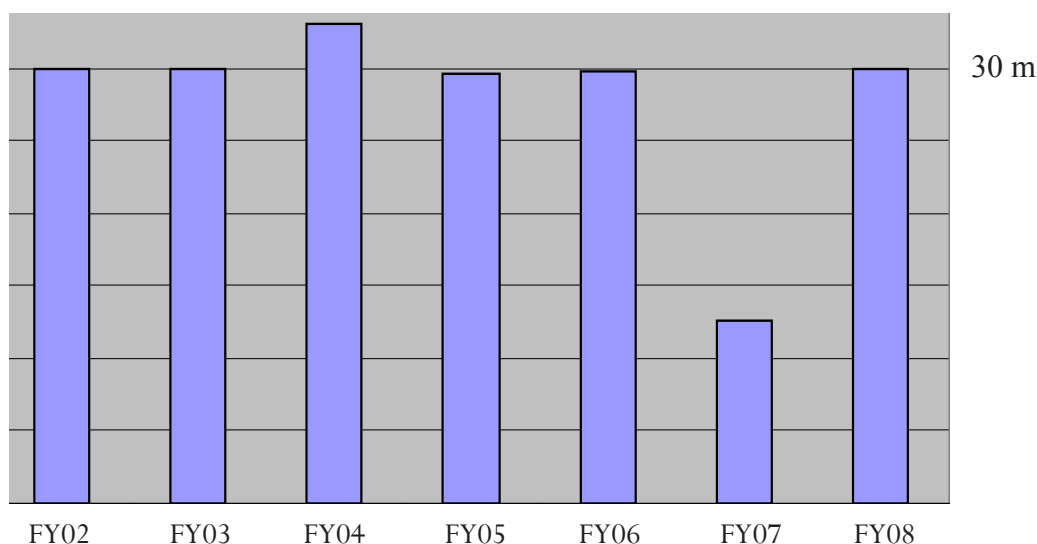
BACKGROUND

SAT leverages millions of additional dollars from foundations, corporations, and individuals, and has literally made the difference in saving hundreds of nationally significant 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 by undermining its leveraging value and governmental stewardship role in the places and objects that tell America's story.

With broad bipartisan support in Congress and the leadership of First Ladies in both the Clinton and Bush Administrations, SAT 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 (NPS) 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 nine 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 the \$30 million funding level it will be virtually impossible to stimulate private matching contributions of an equal share.

Save America's Treasures Funding Since FY2002



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Preservation Action
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