

Save America's Treasures and Preserve America: Federal Grant Programs That Support Communities

Save America's Treasures (SAT): SAT is a federal matching grant program that leverages millions of dollars from foundations, corporations, and individuals, and saved hundreds of nationally significant historic sites around the country. Every federal dollar granted must be matched by a non-federal dollar, creating \$377 million in private matching funds and more than 16,000 jobs since its inception. The program is funded through annual congressional appropriations.

With broad bipartisan support in Congress and the leadership of the two previous 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 and sites such as Ellis Island, Valley Forge, Thomas Edison's Invention Factory, Mesa Verde, Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill Cottage, Dr. Martin Luther King's Ebenezer Baptist Church, and the Star Spangled Banner.

Preserve America (PA): Preserve America grants, administered by the National Park Service, support projects in five categories: research and documentation, planning, interpretation and education, marketing, and training. The program helps 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; way-finding, 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 (of which there are almost 800); State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and Certified Local Governments that are in the process of applying for Preserve America Community designation.

What is at Stake

- America's historic heritage! Eliminating SAT would put hundreds of deteriorating nationally significant sites and landmarks at risk to being lost forever.
- The Government is turning its back on saving American history and creating jobs for architects, masons, painters, contractorsA reduction in SAT funding 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.
- SAT grants are a powerful stimulus and publicity tool that leads to major private contributions, without which, private contributions will likely decrease.
- Unlike many grant programs, Preserve America grants actually help local communities develop sustainable resource management strategies and sound business practices for the continued preservation and use of heritage assets – leading to more local economic development.

Our Request:

The President has proposed eliminating FY11 funding these programs.

Provide \$25 million for SAT and \$4.6 million for PA.