

Historic Preservation Fund Appropriations FY 2006

The Foundation for Funding Core Programs to Discover, Celebrate and Protect America's Historic Resources

Status:

President Bush's FY 2006 budget proposal would flatline funding for State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and Tribes, the fundamental elements of the nation's historic preservation program. It would drastically cut in half (\$15 million) Save America's Treasures, a core part of the HPF that is the only major "bricks-and-mortar" preservation program in the nation today. While it would provide monies for the new Preserve America initiative, Congress must fully fund core HPF programs in addition to and as an essential component of this worthwhile endeavor.

Funding History and FY 2006 Request:

The historic preservation community's funding request, outlined below, sustains the established set of programs of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as well as new initiatives. The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) provides the federal contribution which is matched dollar for dollar by states and non-federal sources. The HPF is authorized to receive \$150 million annually in Outer Continental Shelf Oil Lease revenues, however rarely has Congress appropriated more than one-half of that amount, leaving a \$2.8 billion unexpended balance. This trend has thwarted the HPF's ability to achieve the nation's historic resource protection objectives. A \$104.5 million HPF appropriation in FY 2006 will begin to reverse decades of inequity in funding for historic resources. It will leverage private investment, build public-private partnerships, revitalize communities, seed local preservation initiatives, promote heritage tourism, and inspire a new generation of preservation activities for the benefit of all.

Request (in millions of dollars):

	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY 04	FY 05	FY06	FY 06 President Request
SHPOs	46.6	39	33.7	34.5	35.4	35.4	50
Tribes	5.6	3	3	3	3.2	3.2	12
SAT	35	30	30	33	29.5	15	30
HBCU's **	6.8			3	3.47		
Trust Sites ***		2.5	2	.5			
Preserve America						12.5	12.5
Total	94	74.5	68.7	74	71.57	66.1	104.5

* Save America's Treasures, ** Historically Black Colleges and Universities, *** National Trust for Historic Preservation Historic Sites Fund

For more information :
 Preservation Action
 1054 31st St, NW # 526
 Washington DC, 20007
 202-298-6180
 fax:202-298-6182
www.preservationaction.org

The Program:

Thirty-five years ago, the NHPA established a set of incentives and programs supported by the HPF which foster local decision making and redirect private investment to existing historic resources. Funding cuts for these core programs undermine the ability of the program to contribute fully toward achieving our nation's historic resource protection objectives. Now more than ever, we need to work to defend the very places that give meaning and context to the American experience.

State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs): The HPF supports half the cost of the preservation program carried out by the SHPOs. States and non-federal sources pay the rest. The program includes the leveraging of \$2 billion annually in economic development through the federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, promoting and sharing community history through heritage tourism, fostering local decision making through the Certified Local Government program, commenting on the effects of federal actions on historic resources, participating in preservation planning, and broadening understanding of our history through National Register nominations.

Unfortunately declining financial support and an increasing federal work load are combining to compromise the effectiveness of the SHPOs to carry out these programs. REQUEST: \$50 MILLION

Tribal State Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs): THPO's are responsible for delivering the historic preservation program to Tribes in much the same way as the SHPOs. Cuts and level funding for the Tribes, however, have been even more devastating because each year new Tribes are becoming certified. In effect, each year individual Tribes must share dwindling dollars among a greater number of recipients. REQUEST: \$12 MILLION

Save America's Treasures Grants: This popular program has been in place since 1999 and extends grants on a matching basis to federal agencies and organizations for preservation projects. Under this program "preservation" is broadly defined to include objects and cultural works. The program has traditionally received \$30 million annually, 1/2 of which is earmarked by Congress for specific projects. A decrease in funding as proposed by the Presidents budget would cut funds in half resulting in many worthwhile projects left in question. REQUEST: \$30 MILLION

Preserve America Grants: Preservationists applaud the President's \$12.5 million Preserve America program to address the long-standing needs of historic places important to Americans. These grants compliment Save America's Treasures grants which are available to nationally significant resources only. REQUEST: \$12.5 MILLION