

Weekly Legislative Update for State Historic Preservation Offices

September 5, 2008 | Volume II | Number 28

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1) STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICES REACH OUT TO STATE HOUSING AGENCIES

On July 30th President Bush signed into law the 2008 Housing and Economic Recovery Act (HERA). The legislation contains important historic preservation related provisions. Among these, the new federal law requires that state housing finance agencies include “the historic nature of the project” as part of their required selection criteria for their low income housing tax credit (LIHTC) qualified allocation plans (QAPs). Another provision permits state housing agencies, at their discretion, to increase by up to 30% the LIHTCs available to a project, including historic preservation projects, which could help mitigate the negative impact of twining the two types of credits. This legislative idea was a part of the Community Restoration and Revitalization Act (H.R.1043), first introduced in 2004.

State Historic Preservation Offices are strongly encouraged to contact your state’s housing finance agency over the next two weeks to open doors toward implementing and maximizing the benefits of these provisions.

Many states will hold hearings on their 2009 Qualified Allocation Plans during September.

A complete list of links to state housing finance agencies can be found at www.ncsha.org/section.cfm/4/39/187. Information about QAP hearings is generally posted on housing finance agency websites.

2) PRESERVE AMERICA PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS DUE NOVEMBER 1

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is accepting nominations for the 2009 Preserve America Presidential Awards to honor exemplary achievements in historic preservation and heritage tourism efforts involving natural and cultural historic resources. The deadline for submitting nominations is November 1.

The Preserve America Presidential Awards are part of an initiative established by President Bush that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy our nation's cultural and natural heritage assets. Mrs. Laura Bush is Honorary Chair of Preserve America. Four Preserve America President Awards are given each year. These are given to organizations, businesses, and government entities for:

- Exemplary accomplishments in the sustainable use and preservation of cultural or natural heritage assets;
- Demonstrated commitment to the protection and interpretation of America's cultural or natural heritage assets; and
- The integration of these assets into contemporary community life, and combination of innovative, creative, and responsible approaches to showcasing historic resources in communities.

The nomination form guidelines, as well as information on past winners and other elements of the Preserve America initiative are available at <http://www.preserveamerica.gov>.

3) NATIONAL HISTORIC TAX CREDIT CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 24 - 26

From September 24 until September 26, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers will hold the National Historic Tax Credit Conference at the historic Blackstone Hotel. The conference will include noted speakers and experts from around the country. The conference is a terrific networking opportunity and thorough introduction to the details of the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit program – from the perspective of developers and bankers who use the credit often.

For the full agenda and registration information, visit:

<https://custom.cvent.com/FF82BE72A310442FB877DE63B5B9D9D1/files/7d2e76ba823d4f86bfb61d737918a78e.pdf>

UPCOMING DATES

- NCSHPO/IPED National Historic Tax Credit Conference – Sept. 24-26, Chicago, IL
- NCSHPO Annual Members and Partners Meeting – October, 22 Tulsa, OK
- Board Meeting – December 6-9, Little Rock, AR
- Advocacy Day/NCSHPO Annual Meeting – March 8-11, 2009, Washington D.C.