Establishing a new Underrepresented Communities Civil Rights Grant program—by expanding the successful African American Civil Rights Grant program—would preserve and highlight the sites and stories associated with securing civil rights for all Americans, including women, American Latino, Native American, Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian, and LGBTQ Americans. The grants fund documentation, survey, planning, education, interpretation, oral histories, and bricks and mortar preservation. Completed projects promote vibrant communities, foster informed dialogue, and catalyze economic growth.

Background
Congress created the African American Civil Rights Grant Program in FY 2016 with an initial appropriation of $8 million and increased funding by $5 million in FY 2017. In its second year alone, the National Park Service (NPS) received more than 140 applications requesting nearly $30 million in funding. Thus far, the NPS has awarded grants to 90 projects totaling $20.36 million across 26 states and the District of Columbia. Approximately 40% of the awarded grants have gone to bricks and mortar preservation projects.

FY 2020 Appropriations Request
Please support $30 million for the Underrepresented Communities Civil Rights Grant Program, including $20 million for African American Civil Rights Grants in the FY 2020 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
AGENCY: National Park Service
ACCOUNT: Historic Preservation Fund
ACTIVITY: Competitive grants to preserve the sites and stories of Civil Rights for Underrepresented Communities, including African American Civil Rights

Recent Funding History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Enacted Funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2017</td>
<td>$13 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2018</td>
<td>$13 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2019</td>
<td>$14.5 million</td>
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<td>FY 2020</td>
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FY 2020 NTTP Recommendation: $30 million

JUSTIFICATION: An expansion of the existing African American Civil Rights Grant program to include civil rights sites and stories associated with underrepresented communities, including women, American Latino, Native American, Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian, and LGBTQ Americans, would better protect and interpret important civil rights sites for all Americans.
African American Civil Rights Grant Program: Highlighted Projects

**Clayborn Temple, Tennessee (Bricks and Mortar, Education)**
FY 2016 $400,000; FY 2017 $500,000 and $20,000

The City of Memphis received two grants enabling it to restore the previously shuttered Clayborn Temple, home base of the 1968 Sanitation Worker's strike that brought Martin Luther King, Jr. to the city. The National Trust for Historic Preservation also received funding to develop an exhibit on Clayborn’s story.

**Emmett Till Memorial, Mississippi (Bricks and Mortar)**
FY 2016 $500,000

The Emmett Till Memorial Commission of Tallahatchie, Inc. aims to completely restore the courthouse where Emmett Till’s murderers, whom later confessed, were acquitted. The award also supports a digital exhibit and an accompanying mobile GIS app where locations of related sites will be projected on the courtroom’s windows and visitors will be encouraged to explore the city.

**Central High School, Arkansas (Bricks and Mortar)**
FY 2016 $499,372; FY 2017 $499,218

Little Rock Central High School played a significant role in the desegregation of public schools when nine African American students enrolled in 1957. The City of Little Rock and the Little Rock School District both received grants to prevent water damage by restoring the exterior of Central High School.

**Mountain View Officers’ Club, Arizona (Bricks and Mortar)**
FY 2017 $500,000

The Arizona Department of Parks will use this grant to restore the building’s exterior and key elements of the Dance Hall to their 1942 appearance. Currently vacant, the goal is to reopen the building as a multipurpose community center.

**16th Street Baptist Church, Alabama (Bricks and Mortar)**
FY 2016 $500,000; FY 2017 $500,000

The 16th Street Baptist Church was a key meeting place for civil rights rallies led by Martin Luther King, Jr. as well as the site of the 1963 bombing that killed four young girls and injured 22 others. The grants will help the church complete phases II and III of its preservation efforts, including restoration of the pews and stained-glass windows.

**Hamtramck Stadium, Michigan (Planning)**
FY 2016 $50,000

The City of Hamtramck received a grant to conduct a conditions assessment and develop architectural plans for the Hamtramck Stadium, one of the last remaining Negro League stadiums in the country. The vision is to rehabilitate and reactivate the site as a multipurpose facility for youth sports leagues and events honoring its legacy.

**University of South Carolina, South Carolina (Education)**
FY 2016 $50,000

The University of South Carolina Center for Civil Rights History and Research conducted a Teacher’s Institute training program for middle school instructors. The teachers then submitted learning activities that were compiled into a sourcebook and distributed to public school districts in the state and published on the Center’s website.

**Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Alabama (Training)**
FY 2016 $47,000

The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute led a National Trust for Historic Preservation “Preservation Leadership Training” to equip preservationists, developers, and entrepreneurs to tackle unique challenges in preserving African American heritage and culture.

**Pauli Murray House, North Carolina (Bricks and Mortar)**
FY 2016 $237,575

The home of Pauli Murray, a civil rights activist, author, priest, and attorney, will undergo an extensive interior rehabilitation project conducted by the Pauli Murray Project. The home will reopen as a modern center for social justice in 2020.

**Various (Survey, Documentation, and Nomination)**

Multiple grants have also been awarded to numerous projects to survey and document African American sites with the goal of nominating them for the National Register of Historic Places. Some projects include: “New Sites, Statewide” (Idaho, FY 2016 $50,000); “The African American Experience in Nevada: An Historic Context” (Nevada, FY 2017 $46,032); and “African American Civil Rights in New York State (1900-1976)” (New York, FY 2017 $49,118).

For additional information, contact Tom Cassidy, Vice President of Government Relations, TCassidy@savingplaces.org, (202) 588-6078.