The original designation of the Fort Snelling Historic District National Landmark in St. Paul, MN, focused on military history and failed to tell lesser known, but significant, stories about Native American, African American, and Japanese American peoples. An HPF grant will be used to make the designation for both the National Register and NHLs listings more inclusive.

**Background**

The National Register and NHLs are key inventories of the nation’s historic and archaeological places considered “worthy of preservation.” Yet, these identified sites do not tell the stories of all Americans. In 2014, the NPS found that less than 8% of National Register and NHL designations reflect the stories of communities considered underrepresented by the NPS, including African American, Asian American, American Indian, American Latino, Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian, LGBTQ, and women. The competitive grant program was created and funded for the first time in FY 2014 to better recognize places that tell a richer American story.

**FY 2020 Appropriations Request**

Please support $1 million for the Underrepresented Community Grant Program 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 for the survey and nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places and as National Historic Landmarks associated with communities currently underrepresented

**Recent Funding History:**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Fiscal Year</th>
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**FY 2020 NTHP Recommendation:** $1 million

**JUSTIFICATION:** Increased funding for the Underrepresented Community Grant Program will further protect and interpret America’s diverse heritage and support economic opportunities in local communities. It would also result in more successful nominations to the National Register or NHL or amendments to existing nominations to be more inclusive.
Underrepresented Community Grant Program: Highlighted Projects

**Identifying Montana’s African American Heritage Places, Montana**
**FY 2014 $27,788**
The Montana State Historic Preservation Officer received funding to research and nominate sites related to the African American experience in Montana, particularly in Helena.

**Inventory Latino Properties in Yakima Valley and Seattle, Washington**
**FY 2014 $34,374**
The grant enabled Washington State’s Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to organize a study of Latino heritage in the Yakima Valley by conducting oral histories, preparing a report in both English and Spanish, completing thirty-seven historic property inventory forms, and nominating two National Register sites.

**Organized Village of Kake Nomination Project, Alaska**
**FY 2015 $33,153**
The Native Village of Kake received a grant focused on preparing National Register nominations for historic properties connected with Native Alaskan (Tlingit) heritage.

**Los Angeles Asian American Historical Context Project, California**
**FY 2015 $72,000**
California’s Office of Historic Resources assembled a team of consultants to develop five cultural and ethnical historic context statements for SurveyLA. The team will submit National Register nominations for sites associated with LA’s Japanese, Filipino, Thai, Korean, and Chinese American communities.

**DC LGBT Heritage Project, District of Columbia**
**FY 2016 $50,000**
The DC Inventory of Historic Sites contains nearly 750 places and districts, only two of which have been listed for their significance to LGBTQ history. The grant will support the DC State Historic Preservation Officer’s efforts to increase public awareness of LGBTQ communities by supporting the DC Community Heritage Project and contributing to and expanding the local and national inventory of significant sites.

**Women’s Suffrage Sites Nomination Project, Maryland**
**FY 2017 $30,500**
This grant enables the Maryland Department of Planning to prepare for the 100th anniversary of women securing the right to vote in America by identifying and protecting sites related to the suffrage movement. The project will include creating new National Register forms, updating existing National Register districts, and producing or adding to Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties forms.

**California Mission System Project, California**
**FY 2017 $41,872**
The State of California will use this grant to submit National Register nominations of missions built along the El Camino Real—the California Mission Trail—to tell a richer story of Native American interactions with the mission system.

**Rio Vista Farm Historic District National Historic Landmark, Texas**
**FY 2016 $19,800**
The Rio Vista Farm became a processing center for the Bracero Program, a program that brought skilled Mexican guest-workers to address farm laborer shortages in America between 1942 and 1962. The $19,800 grant will enable the City of Socorro to nominate this significant but overlooked site as an NHL.

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