Cultural Programs

The National Park Service (NPS) administers many of our nation’s most significant historic preservation programs that help tell a fuller story of our history. Within its cultural programs, the NPS manages the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), certifies federal Historic Tax Credit projects, coordinates federal archaeology programs, and provides funding through the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Grants, Japanese American Confinement Sites Grants, and American Battlefield Protection Program Assistance Grants.

Background

NPS Cultural Programs support preservation of our cultural heritage through:

- National Register of Historic Places
- National Historic Landmarks Program
- Heritage documentation programs
- Technical preservation services in support of the federal Historic Tax Credit
- National Center for Preservation Technology and Training
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation (NAGPRA) Grants
- Japanese American Confinement Site Grants
- American Battlefield Protection Program Assistance Grants

FY 2020 Appropriations Request

Please support $28 million for NPS Cultural Programs in the FY 2020 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
AGENCY: National Park Service
ACCOUNT: National Recreation and Preservation
ACTIVITY: Cultural Programs

Recent Funding History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Enacted Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2017</td>
<td>$24.562 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2018</td>
<td>$25.062 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2019</td>
<td>$25.562 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2020 President’s Budget Request</td>
<td>$19.404 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2020 NTHP Recommendation</td>
<td>$28 million</td>
</tr>
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JUSTIFICATION: The National Park Service’s Cultural Programs implement our nation’s historic preservation laws and benefit local economies. Increased funding will enhance preservation of and access to the National Register, including modernizing its information system. It will also support sustained demands to review and approve federal historic tax credits.
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NPS Cultural Programs Highlights

About the National Register of Historic Places
The National Register is the official list of the nation’s historic places worthy of preservation. More than 93,000 sites and 1.8 million contributing resources are listed.

About the Federal Historic Tax Credit (HTC)
The federal Historic Tax Credit provides incentive to catalyze economic development through the reuse of America’s historic buildings. The credit applies to certified historic structures either listed individually on the National Register or contributing to the character of a National Register-listed Historic District. The tax credit is available for any income producing property, including residential rental projects. The credit generates new economic activity by leveraging private dollars—$144 billion since inception—to preserve historic buildings and create jobs. Through 2017, the rehabilitation of more than 43,000 historic buildings has created more than 2.5 million jobs.

Recent National Historic Landmark Theme Studies
• Finding A Path Forward: Asian American Pacific Islander National Historic Landmarks Theme Study (2018)
• The Era of Reconstruction: 1861-1900 (2017)
• LGBTQ America: A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, and Queer History (2016)
• American Latino Heritage (2013)
• Japanese Americans in World War II (2012)
• Protecting America: Cold War Defensive Sites Theme Study (draft 2011)

The Sears-Roebuck distribution center and retail store became an economic driving force in Memphis after its construction in 1927. After two decades of blight, federal historic tax credits and new markets tax credits were used in an adaptive reuse project known as Crosstown Concourse, which has catalyzed the revitalization of an entire neighborhood. PHOTO BY CHAD MELLON

For additional information, contact Pam Bowman, Director of Public Lands Policy, PBowman@savingplaces.org, (202) 588-6347.