

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) and National Historic Landmarks (NHLs), 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.



The Camden Public Library and Amphitheatre in Camden, Maine was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2013. The grounds of the library are among the few public projects of Fletcher Steele, one of America's premier practitioners of 20th-century landscape design. The 1931 project is considered the first public Modernist landscape.

PHOTO BY BRIAN P. D. HANNON

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 that administers 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
- Historic Preservation Fund Grants

FY 2023 Appropriations Request

Please support \$35 million for NPS Cultural Programs in the FY 2023 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:

FY 2020 Enacted Funding:	\$31.127 million
FY 2021 Enacted Funding:	\$31.938 million
FY 2022 Enacted Funding:	\$31.938 million
FY 2023 President's Budget Request:	\$32.977 million
FY 2023 NTHP Recommendation:	\$35.000 million

JUSTIFICATION: The NPS's Cultural Programs support many of our nation's premier preservation programs that benefit local communities. Increased funding will maintain and improve access to the National Register, including modernizing its information system. It will also support ongoing demands to review and approve federal historic tax credits and administer expanded grant programs.

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 95,000 sites listed in the National Register represent 1.8 million contributing resources, including buildings, sites, districts, objects, and structures.

About the Federal Historic Tax Credit (HTC)

The federal Historic Tax Credit provides incentives to catalyze economic development through the reuse of historic buildings. The credit applies to historic structures listed individually or eligible for listing in the National Register, or to historic buildings that contribute to the character of a National Register-listed Historic District. The tax credit is available for any income producing property, including residential rental and low-income housing projects.

The credit generates new economic activity by leveraging private dollars—\$173.7 billion since inception—to preserve historic buildings and create jobs. Through 2019, the rehabilitation of more than

45,000 historic buildings has created more than 2.8 million jobs.

Recent National Historic Landmark Theme Studies

- Civil Rights in America: Racial Discrimination in Housing (2021)
- 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)

The Academy Lofts development in southwest Atlanta is a mixed-use preservation project with the goal of connecting people and building community. Formerly George W. Adair Elementary School, the building now features 10 units of affordable housing for artists, 20 additional affordable housing units, 5 market-rate apartment units, a café, event venue, and nonprofit office space. The financing of the project included \$1.3 million in federal historic tax credits, \$2 million in New Markets Tax Credits, state historic tax credits, and a loan from the city of Atlanta.

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