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 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
- Grants Administration

FY 2021 Appropriations Request

Please support $32.627 million for NPS Cultural Programs in the FY 2021 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 2018 Enacted Funding: $25.062 million
FY 2019 Enacted Funding: $25.562 million
FY 2020 Enacted Funding: $31.127 million
FY 2021 President’s Budget Request: $20.648 million
FY 2021 NTHP Recommendation: $32.627 million

JUSTIFICATION: The National Park Service’s Cultural Programs implement our nation’s historic preservation laws and benefit local economies. 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 93,000 sites and 1.8 million contributing resources are listed.

About the Federal Historic Tax Credit (HTC)
The federal Historic Tax Credit provides incentives 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—$162 billion since inception—to preserve historic buildings and create jobs. Through 2018, the rehabilitation of more than 44,000 historic buildings has created more than 2.7 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)

Renovation of the former Shenandoah Hotel in Martinsburg, WV, will provide residential and commercial space to the community, reactivating the commercial corridor. The project combines the federal Historic Tax Credit and the New Markets Tax Credit, and developers are working in close coordination with the local Main Street program ensure the needs of the community are met.

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