

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Grant Program

Since Reconstruction, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have provided African Americans with greater access to higher education and told the story of the struggle for social justice. The historic buildings and landscapes on HBCU campuses—many of which were built and designed by African American architects, planners, and students—hold a diverse and empowering collection of stories and artifacts that help tell the full American story and reflect the important legacy of the African American educational experience and communities that surround and support these institutions.



Lula Johnson Hall, formerly Vawter Hall, was constructed in 1908 and was the first building on Virginia State University's campus built explicitly for classroom use. The university has received two grants to renovate the exterior and interior of the structure.

PHOTO BY CALDER LEAH

Background

The HBCU Grant Program was enacted in 1996 and competitive grants were awarded to projects “honoring and preserving the unique and important role [HBCUs] played in advancing the realization of a more free, equal, and just society.” However, appropriations for the program lapsed in FY 2009. In FY 2017, Congress renewed its commitment to preservation projects at HBCUs and appropriated \$16.3 million between FY 2017 and FY 2019. All of these awards have gone to support bricks and mortar, job-creating projects. Recently passed legislation extends the authorization of this program to FY 2025 and the program received full funding for the first time in FY 2020.

FY 2023 Appropriations Request

Please support \$12 million for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Grant Program in the FY 2023 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACCOUNT: Historic Preservation Fund

ACTIVITY: Grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Recent Funding History:

FY 2020 Enacted Funding:	\$10 million
FY 2021 Enacted Funding:	\$10 million
FY 2022 Enacted Funding:	\$10 million
FY 2023 President's Budget Request:	\$10 million
FY 2023 NTHP Recommendation:	\$12 million

JUSTIFICATION: Full funding for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Grant Program will further protect and interpret America's diverse heritage, demonstrate a clear investment in education for underrepresented communities, and support job-creating projects to preserve our nationally significant historic fabric.

HBCU Grant Program: Highlighted Projects



Duckett Hall, erected in 1925, is Benedict College's third-oldest building and one of five structures in the College's Historic District.

PHOTO BY AJ SJORTER

Benedict College, South Carolina FY 2020 \$500,000

Duckett Hall, erected in 1925, is Benedict College's third-oldest building and one of five structures in the College's Historic District. Today, the historic structure houses the Tyronne A. Burroughs School of Business & Entrepreneurship. Close to a third of the student population walks its halls daily. For many years, the College's Historic District has been threatened by deferred maintenance. Strategically devising a building plan for Duckett Hall will allow the structure to continue having a positive impact on campus.

Morgan State University, Maryland FY 2019 \$500,000

In 2020, Morgan State University received a \$500,000 grant to restore the original windows of the University Memorial Chapel. Morgan State was founded in 1867 as one of the nation's earliest higher education institutions for African Americans. The National Trust for Historic Preservation named Morgan State a National Treasure in 2016 and facilitated a HOPE Crew project there in 2019, providing young African

American students firsthand experience in historic preservation and related career paths.

Miles College, Alabama FY 2019 \$499,869

Miles College received a grant to restore historic Williams Hall, the oldest building on the college's campus. Erected in 1907, Williams Hall served as a historic site of the Civil Rights Movement but has fallen into disrepair over recent years. Miles College intends to stabilize and restore the building and then repurpose it into a teaching museum that would honor the founders, students, alumni, and the college's role in the modern-day fight for racial justice.

Virginia State University, Virginia FY 2020 \$500,000

Lula Johnson Hall, formerly Vawter Hall, was constructed in 1908 and was the first building on campus built explicitly for classroom use and continues today as the home of the Language and Literature Department. The FY 2020 grant will cover the costs of renovating the building's interior, as a FY 2018 grant went toward exterior renovation.

Kentucky State University, Kentucky FY 2020 \$494,850

In 1887, Jackson Hall was the first building constructed as part of Kentucky State University's campus. Upgrades will address structural issues, improve space use and accessibility and implement environmental upgrades that will directly support the museum and the Center for Excellence for the Study of Kentucky African Americans.



Jackson Hall was the first building constructed as part of Kentucky State University's campus in 1887.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW PEEK

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