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The Full Spectrum of History: Prioritizing Diversity and Inclusion in Preservation



National Trust for Historic Preservation

**Preservation
Leadership Forum**

The First Step Is Reaching Out: Toward a Common Ground

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One theme emerging from the PastForward 2015 Diversity Summit was the call for a national network to establish common ground and advance collective priorities around preservation issues.

Preservationists share common roots with all other individuals and organizations who care about heritage, love history, and have a passion for protecting the places that evoke our shared cultural legacies—tangible and intangible. But we need to expand the boundaries of our field to find that common ground and identify ways to work together. When we focus on people, places, stories, identity, culture, heritage, and collaboration, we will find opportunities for mutual understanding, input, and buy-in.



Jose Antonio Tijerino
speaking at PastForward
2015.

Hispanic Heritage Foundation President and CEO Jose Antonio Tijerino spoke frankly and with passion about the need for developing a common ground:

Anything can happen at any point if you're thoughtful, if you're brave, if you take chances, and if you're willing to do all the work—give all the credit—to make something happen...

I've never felt that there was a call from your industry [historic preservation], from your field for the Latino community that I've seen so far, even though we play a very important role in that.

So the first step is reaching out. And also making it relevant. How is it relevant to a young black man? Woman? A young Latino? Young Asian? Young LGBT? To be able to feel connected to what your mission is...

And that, I think, is the challenge. You don't have a choice. You have to reach out to minority communities—it's not the right thing to do, it's a value proposition.

Watch Tijerino and the other thought leaders on the 2015 Diversity Summit panel to hear their insights on building a more inclusive, effective national network for advancing historic preservation. **FJ**



VIDEO

Watch the 2015 Diversity Summit panel.

SANDI BURTSEVA is the content manager in the preservation resources department at the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



TAKEAWAY

Read Jacqueline Johnson's "2015 PastForward Diversity Summit (Part 1): The Executive Voices."