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Contact: Bruce Milhans
202-606-8513
bmilhans@achp.gov

Preserving America's Heritage

ACHP to Discuss Revitalizing African American Communities Using Historic Preservation at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Conference

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Leading national experts will discuss how historic preservation tools support economic, educational and cultural renewal in the nation's African American communities at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation annual conference in Washington, D.C. at a 4 p.m. session September 19, 2013.

“Preserving African American Historic Places: Breathing New Life into Our Communities” highlights how historic preservation offers a grassroots opportunity to recognize and interpret historic places as they relate to the nation's many diverse communities. Historic preservation is a timely subject during this commemorative season of Civil Rights anniversaries. The panel will discuss how preservation provides opportunities to identify, interpret and celebrate African American communities and their heritage resources while creating jobs, providing educational benefits and revitalizing communities using tools such as the Historic Tax Credit and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The session features leaders in historic preservation and history:

- Dr. Clement A. Price, the ACHP's Vice Chairman and an eminent professor of history at Rutgers University, will speak about the National Historic Preservation Act and the tools it provides the African American community to bring the economic and other benefits of historic preservation to the nation's communities.
- Mr. Robert G. Stanton, former Director of the National Park Service and Chairman Emeritus, African American Experience Fund, will note current efforts to better preserve and present the full history of African Americans.
- Ms. Stephanie Meeks, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will moderate the panel's presentations and speak to the overall importance of historic preservation and its relevance to all communities.
- Mr. Irvin Henderson, Chair of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Community Investment Corporation, will discuss how Historic Tax Credits assist the effort to create more vibrant and successful communities.
- Ms. Sonja Sohn, Actress and Founder and CEO of ReWired for Change (featured in the HBO series “The Wire”) as well as a community-based preservationist in Baltimore, will talk about how her non-profit organization empowers at-risk youth, families and communities living in under-served areas through educational programming, community building support and media and social advocacy.

The session will begin at 4 p.m., September 19, 2013, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Room 209-B, and conclude by 5:30 p.m. Media and public are welcome to attend. “General Attendee” entry badges are available free of charge from one of the registration kiosks at the Convention Center prior to the session. Attendees must obtain a badge in person.

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