



Preserve America Summit Implementation Progress Report

Provide more technical assistance to local communities to promote historic preservation and heritage tourism, and explore the concept of a Preserve America Community Agent or similar mechanism to work more actively with local communities.

Lead Agency/Agencies: National Park Service (NPS); Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)

Summit Recommendation Progress: The agencies have pursued separate but complementary work. NPS has developed local preservation training in Wyoming, and worked with Arkansas on the hiring of a Preserve America Agent. HUD and the ACHP provided training for HUD's 10 Regional Directors about the Preserve America program and historic preservation, and worked with HUD field offices on promotion among their community constituents. Both NPS and ACHP expanded their involvement with the annual meeting of the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC).

For the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Program Pilot, Preserve America grant funding has been used for hiring the first statewide Preserve America Agent. Subgrants have also been awarded to eight Preserve America communities in Arkansas to fund heritage tourism/preservation plans. The community agent has contacted representatives from all 21 cities listed as priorities by the Arkansas Preserve America Advisory Committee. Priority cities are those currently involved in the Arkansas Mains Street Program or Certified Local Government Program. The community agent has officially visited 24 cities and other visits have been scheduled or discussed. Six Arkansas communities submitted Preserve America Community designation applications in the fall of 2008, and eight other cities have started the application process and plan to submit applications by spring of 2009. The community agent has developed a one page information sheet for distribution that describes the Preserve America initiative and benefits. The first *Preserve America in Arkansas* monthly e-newsletter was sent on December 1 with Preserve America updates, heritage tourism articles, and state rehabilitation tax credit information.

For the Wyoming Certified Local Government (CLG) Training Pilot, the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) used Preserve America grant funding to create basic preservation/tourism training for 17 of their Certified Local Governments. Trainings were conducted from May to September 2008, reaching over 200 participants. This pilot is a working partnership between the SHPO, NPS, NAPC, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to target a part of the country that has less advanced preservation/tourism skills but has many resources to preserve. Thirteen communities received information on the fundamentals of historic preservation. Four communities with a stronger preservation knowledge base received training that touched on the basics but focused heavily on design review. Historic preservation commission members were the target audience, but many others attended including: representatives from local historical societies, Main Street organizations, downtown development authorities, city/county officials and staff, local business owners, contractors, and the interested public. Each participant received a packet of information that included available grants, technical assistance, preservation partners, and general preservation information. Additionally, each community received the complete library of preservation resources that are published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Partially funded by a Preserve America Grant, the NACP Forum biannual meeting was held in New Orleans, Louisiana in July 2008. The City of New Orleans, a Preserve America community, partnered with NACP to use the grant funds to provide several educational tours and sessions on disaster planning and using heritage tourism for economic development. NPS and ACHP personnel were active in the opening plenary, as well as information sessions on NPS, Preserve America, and grant writing.

The Certified Local Government (CLG) website has been revised and provides links to the Preserve America website for local communities. It also provides the ability for State CLG coordinators to update each of their CLG's contact information, thereby enabling both NPS and ACHP to have a more accurate list of contacts for distribution of future Preserve America program opportunities.

Next Actions: For the Arkansas pilot, the Preserve America Community Agent will continue to work with communities and assist them with their subgrants and future designation and grant applications while promoting the program. The Wyoming pilot training is complete, but the PowerPoint training presentations that were used will be made available on the CLG website in the coming year.

Important Links:

National Alliance of Preservation Commissions: <http://www.uga.edu/sed/psd/programs/nacp/nacp.htm>

National Trust for Historic Preservation: www.preservationnation.org

Wyoming SHPO: <http://wyoshpo.state.wy.us/>

Arkansas SHPO: <http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/>

National Park Service CLG Program: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/clg/index.htm>

HUD Community Planning and Development:

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/environment/library/subjects/preservation/index.cfm>

Comments or Questions? Please send comments or questions to preserveamerica@achp.gov.

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