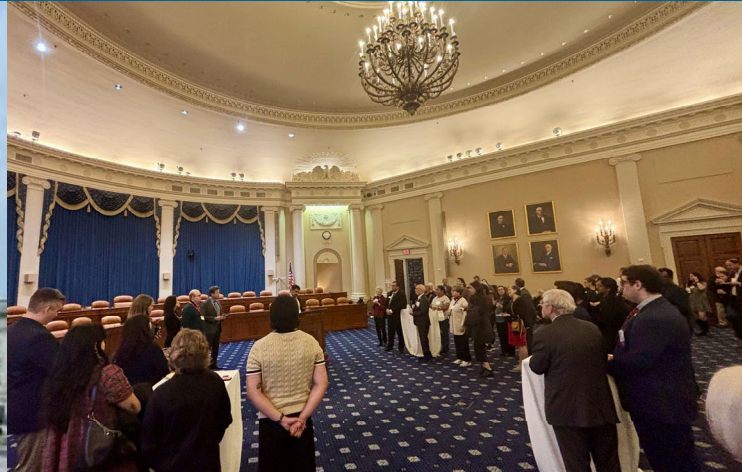




National Trust *for* Historic Preservation
**Preservation
Leadership Forum**



Federal Preservation Priorities for 2026

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Today's Speakers



Pam Bowman
Senior Director,
Government Relations,
NTHP



Lauren Cohen
Director,
Government Relations,
NTHP



Chris Cody
Senior Associate
General Counsel,
NTHP



Evan Johnston
Deputy Chief of
Staff/Legislative Director
Rep. Chellie Pingree

Agenda

- ❖ Welcome and Webinar Overview
- ❖ Federal Funding for Preservation
- ❖ National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and Section 106
- ❖ Federal Legislative Update
- ❖ Upcoming Webinar
- ❖ Q&A



National Trust *for*
Historic Preservation®

PROGRAM	RECENT APPROPRIATIONS HISTORY BY FISCAL YEAR (IN MILLIONS)				
	FY23 ENACTED	FY24 ENACTED	FY25 ENACTED	FY26 ENACTED	FY27 REQUEST*
Historic Preservation Fund					
State Historic Preservation Officers	\$62.150	\$62.150	\$62.150	\$62.150	\$70.000
Tribal Historic Preservation Officers	\$23.000	\$23.000	\$23.000	\$23.750	\$34.000
African American Civil Rights Grants	\$24.000	\$24.000	\$24.000	\$24.000	\$28.000
History of Equal Rights Grants	\$5.000	\$5.000	\$5.000	\$5.000	\$7.000
Underrepresented Community Grants	\$1.250	\$1.250	\$1.250	\$1.250	\$5.000
Historically Black Colleges and Universities Grants	\$11.000	\$11.000	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$13.000
Save America's Treasures Grants	\$26.500	\$25.500	\$25.000	\$25.500	\$40.000
Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants	\$12.500	\$10.000	\$10.000	\$7.906	\$17.000
Congressionally Directed Spending	\$29.115	\$19.766	\$0	\$15.596	N/A
Semiquincentennial Preservation Grants	\$10.000	\$7.000	\$7.000	\$4.907	\$11.000
Historic Preservation Fund (Total)	\$204.515	\$188.666	\$168.900	\$181.059	\$250.000
Deferred Maintenance					
Line-Item Construction on Projects	\$126.700	\$80.600	\$80.600	TBD	\$145.000
Repair and Rehabilitation	\$135.980	\$110.980	\$110.890	TBD	\$150.000
Cyclic Maintenance	\$188.184	\$188.184	\$172.255	TBD	\$205.000
Other NPS Programs					
Affiliated Areas	\$5.787		\$5.787	TBD	\$6.750
Cultural Programs	\$39.327	\$39.327	\$39.327	TBD	\$46.000
African American Burial Grounds Program	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$3.000
National Heritage Areas	\$29.232	\$29.232	\$29.232	\$29.9195	\$34.000
National Networks					
National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom	\$2.505		\$2.505	TBD	\$2.750
African American Civil Rights Network	\$5.384	\$5.000	\$5.000	TBD	\$6.000
Reconstruction Era National Historic Network	\$0.627	\$0.621	\$0.621	TBD	\$1.000
WWII Heritage Cities Network	\$0.627		\$0.621	TBD	\$1.000
Japanese American World War II History Network	N/A	\$0.250	\$0.250	TBD	\$1.000
Independent Agencies					
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	\$8.585	\$8.585	\$8.585	\$8.285	\$10.500
National Endowment for the Arts	\$207.000	\$207.000	\$207.000	\$207.000	\$209.00
National Endowment for the Humanities	\$207.000	\$207.000	\$207.000	\$207.000	\$209.00

Historic Preservation Fund for FY 2027

- FY 2024, 2025, 2026 asks were for **\$225 million** reflecting the needs of the field.
- Coordinated coalition advocacy ask of **\$250 million** for FY 2027
 - 250th commemoration of the United States
 - 60th anniversary of the NHPA
 - 50th anniversary of the HPF
- Includes \$25 million for survey and digitization grants to SHPOs and THPOs.
 - This would address technology and data gaps, including non-digitized or inaccessible historic property needs

250 *for*
250

What We're Watching

- FY 2025 HPF funds were delayed in disbursement for SHPOs and THPOs
 - Rep. Pingree (D-ME) led efforts of inquiry to Secretary Burgum and OMB Director Vought in committee hearings
- Reauthorization of the HPF
- President's Budget Request
 - For FY 2026, it included only \$11 million for the HPF



Preservation Partners

June 27, 2025

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
725 17th St NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Vought,

The undersigned organizations write to express deep concerns regarding the delay in the disbursement of fiscal year 2025 (FY 2025) Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grants-in-aid to our nation's State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs). These funds are of critical importance to those offices' ability to meet their statutory responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as well as their delegated responsibilities of review under the federal historic tax credit program (HTC). Without the expedited release of funds, consequences will include increased inefficiencies and costs for federal projects, economic stagnation resulting from delayed federal project deliveries, and the loss of private sector jobs—all while unnecessarily placing our nation's historic and cultural heritage at risk.

Although appropriated by Congress and signed into law by the president in March 2025, the delay of these funds has prompted the elimination of SHPO and THPO staff. These crucial staff review federally funded and permitted projects, identify and protect historic and cultural places, and administer technical support benefiting countless communities. In Ohio, nearly one-third of the SHPO staff have been let go, increasing project review time from 24 days to 47. Nationally, the number of layoffs will continue to rise, and it is anticipated that SHPOs and THPOs will close entirely, jeopardizing billions in direct federal infrastructure investments unless the funds are immediately disbursed. Federal undertakings will not only be delayed and become more costly but will also likely result in negative, irreversible impacts on historic, cultural, and archeological sites.

Section 106 Rulemaking

“Consider how the Section 106 regulations might be modified, clarified, and streamlined to better accomplish the statutory objectives and requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act.”

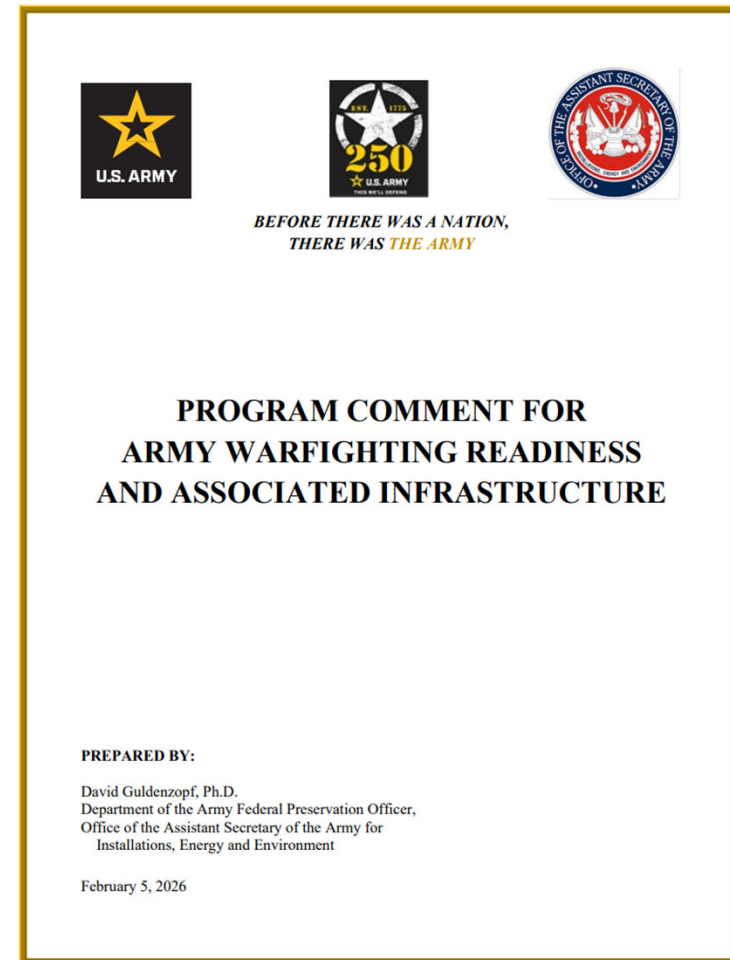
Specific Issues

1. Defining the undertaking and establishing the area of potential effects
2. Assessing indirect and cumulative effects
3. Managing review/scope of review for long linear projects with limited federal involvement
4. Managing timelines for review



New Army Program Comment

- All Army historic resources included in scope, 122,000+ historic buildings and 84,000+ archaeological sites
- Army estimates that 300,000+ new historic resources will come under its control “in the coming years”
- Would end all Army Section 106 consultation
- Would end Army compliance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties
- Unlimited duration
- Army has 115 existing Section 106 agreements that the Program Comment would authorize the Army to terminate
- ACHP Chair may unilaterally extend to other military departments



FOR SALE: Federal Historic Buildings



Federal Legislation Update: 2026

- Permitting reform
 - SPEED Act (H.R. 4776) and other bills
- Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act
 - (H.R. 5470, S. 2887)
 - 8 key states: IL, MO, KS, OK, TX, NM, AZ, CA
 - Route 66 Centennial
- America the Beautiful Act (S. 1547)
 - \$16 billion over 8 years for deferred maintenance backlog at federal agencies
- Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act (HTC-GO)
 - (H.R. 2941, S. 1459)
- African American Civil Rights Network Reauthorization





Upcoming Webinars

Crucial Insights and Viable Alternatives for a More Sensitive White House Ballroom

At 4:30 pm ET today the National Trust will host a webinar featuring two of its trustees and fellows of The American Institute of Architects, David Scott Parker and Bill Bates, who will share design modifications to protect the carefully balanced classical design of the White House. Their insights will help inform your public comments and demonstrate that viable alternatives exist for the East Wing Modernization Project currently under consideration by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC).

SavingPlaces.org/upcoming-webinars



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation
**Preservation
Leadership Forum**

QUESTION AND ANSWER SEGMENT

Use the Q&A function to
ask questions of the speakers.

Thank You!

Questions? Please contact:

FORUM@SAVINGPLACES.ORG



National Trust *for*
Historic Preservation®