

# REAUTHORIZE THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND!

2023

AN INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE

## BACKGROUND

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is the principal way that the federal government helps states and Tribes fulfill their federally-mandated obligations to protect and preserve historic and archeological sites of importance in the U.S.

The 1966 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) to support preservation activities in each state, including fulfilling federally mandated preservation reviews. Congress established the HPF in 1976 to provide financial assistance to SHPOs to carry out these duties. Later, the HPF expanded to also fund Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) and several diverse competitive grant programs in support of preservation efforts.

Since its inception, the HPF has facilitated more than 98,000 listings on the National Register, enabled the survey of millions of acres for cultural resources, and leveraged over \$199 billion in private investment through the Historic Tax Credit.

## HPF AUTHORIZATION HISTORY

Since its inception, the HPF has been reauthorized six times, sometimes as a stand-alone bill and other times as part of a larger legislative package. **Originally authorized at \$150 million per year, the HPF authorization has not been increased in more than forty years!**

## HPF APPROPRIATION HISTORY

HPF is subject to the annual Congressional Appropriations process, where Congress sets specific program spending levels for the upcoming fiscal year. **Over the last 20 years, Congress significantly expanded the HPF to fund grant programs that support job-creating, brick-and-mortar preservation projects across the country.**

## HPF FUNDING SOURCE

**HPF funds do not come from taxpayer dollars.** HPF funds are generated through offshore oil and gas leasing and production revenues - and are envisioned as a way for non-renewable energy resources to support the preservation of another non-renewable resource, our nation's historic and cultural assets.

## WHAT DOES THE HPF FUND?

### SHPOs

SHPOs handle, among other things:

- Locating and documenting America's historic places
- Making nominations to the National Register
- Reviewing impacts of federal projects (Section 106)
- Administering and facilitating Federal Historic Tax Credit (HTC) projects

### THPOs

THPOs are responsible for the same activities as SHPOs, but on Tribal lands (with the exception of HTC projects). The number of THPOs continues to grow as more federally-recognized tribes designate a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. **In FY23, 212 THPOs recieved an average award of only \$103,000.**

### GRANTS

Competitive Grant Programs, including:

- Save America's Treasures
- Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants
- African American Civil Rights Grants
- Historically Black Colleges/Universities Grants
- Semiquincentennial Celebration Grants
- History of Equal Rights Grants
- Underrepresented Community Grants

## HISTORIC TAX CREDIT PROJECTS

The Federal Historic Tax Credit (HTC) is a 20% credit for rehabilitation expenditures of certified historic structures. Since inception, the HTC has:

-  Rehabilitated over 47,000 historic buildings
-  Created nearly 3 million jobs
-  Attracted approximately \$199 billion in private investment
-  Produced over 185,000 low- and moderate-income affordable housing units
-  Generated \$42.9 billion in federal tax revenue from the \$32.6 billion in federal tax credits

THE HISTORIC TAX CREDIT RETURNS MORE TO THE TREASURY THAN IT COSTS.

Did you know?

LAST YEAR, SHPO OFFICES PROCESSED A MEDIAN OF **2,100 SECTION 106 CONSULTATIONS** (FEDERAL PROJECT REVIEW), A MEDIAN OF **534 NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS**, AND AN AVERAGE OF **92 FEDERAL HISTORIC TAX CREDIT REVIEWS**

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## WE NEED YOUR HELP: HERE'S HOW

The HPF's authorization will expire on September 30, 2023 without congressional action. We need your help!

### SHORT-TERM AUTHORIZATION

**1** Identify ways to include HPF reauthorization as part of future legislative vehicles, like a forthcoming continuing resolution (CR).

**The Senate Interior Appropriations bill and the President's budget request included a one-year extension of the HPF authorization.**

While a longer authorization is needed, including a short-term authorization as part of a CR or other legislative vehicle would provide a temporary bridge and avoid a lapse in funds deposited into the HPF.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DON'T REAUTHORIZE?

 The longstanding commitment of Congress to the preservation of our nation's historic resources would be jeopardized. Revitalization projects across the country would be stymied.

 It would create an unfunded mandate for states and Tribes who are federally obligated to carry out specific duties as required by the National Historic Preservation Act.

 Payments from offshore oil and gas lease revenues to the HPF will be jeopardized, creating uncertainty for states and localities that contribute to the administration of the HPF.

### CO-SPONSOR H.R. 3350!

**2** The bipartisan **Historic Preservation Fund Reauthorization Act** (H.R. 3350) is led by the Historic Preservation Caucus co-chairs, Reps. Turner (R-OH) and Blumenauer (D-OR).

It would reauthorize the HPF for 10 years and increase the authorization from \$150 million to \$250 million annually.

This provides important, long-term stability for the programs this funding makes possible.

### CO-SPONSOR H.R. 3350 TODAY!

### WHY INCREASE THE AUTHORIZATION AMOUNT?

 Congress has recognized the need for an increased HPF authorization; the FY 2022 and 2023 appropriations cycles exceeded the HPF's current \$150 million authorized level.

 Funding has not kept pace with the needs of SHPOs and THPOs. The number of federally recognized THPOs and the capacity needs of SHPOs continues to grow. Increased funding will expedite project reviews & permitting.

 Congressionally Directed Spending under the HPF supports high priority, locally-driven historic preservation projects across the country.

**IN 1976, CONGRESS AUTHORIZED THE HPF AT \$150M. ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION, THAT AMOUNT EQUALS THE PURCHASING POWER OF \$759,287,505 IN 2023 DOLLARS.**

**FLAT DEPOSITS TO FUND OVER PAST 43 YEARS = DRASTIC DECREASE IN VALUE.**

Did you know?

