



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

FY2020 Appropriations Goals to Protect Cultural Heritage

Historic Preservation Fund:

The Historic Preservation Fund provides crucial support to state and tribal historic preservation offices and matching grants to states to catalog and preserve their historic resources. Without the HPF, the preservation system established by the National Historic Preservation Act—particularly with regards to its Section 106 review process—simply would not function. We are therefore calling for an appropriation of \$60 million for the State Historic Preservation Offices (up from \$49.6 million); \$20 million for the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices in FY2020 (up from \$11.7 million); and \$15 million for Save America’s Treasures (up from \$13 million).

NPS Operations Cultural Resources Stewardship: \$120 million

NPS cultural resource stewardship activities within Base Operations provide the research, training, and management activities necessary to preserve and protect the nation’s most important archaeological, historic, and cultural resources, both on site and in museum collections. In FY2019 the administration proposed \$85 million for the program, a drastic and completely unacceptable slashing of the cultural resources budget that would have devastated the stewardship of these irreplaceable assets. It is likely the administration’s FY2020 budget request will contain a similar unrealistic amount. SAA respectfully requests a total of \$120 million for the Cultural Resource Stewardship component in FY2020.

NPS Cultural Programs: \$27 million

The NPS cultural programs, which include the National Register Programs, are vital for the technical assistance and support they provide for resource protection within parks, to other federal agencies, and to state, tribal, and private sector stakeholders. The archaeological component works to identify, document, and inventory archaeological resources in parks; produces archaeological technical and programmatic publications; implements regulations for protecting archaeological resources; and assists other agencies through program development and training. SAA supports an appropriation of \$27 million for this function, an increase of \$2 million.

NPS NAGPRA Grants: \$2 million

The NAGPRA Grants Program provides often the only funding available to Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and museums to facilitate repatriation of culturally affiliated human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony under the NAGPRA statute. Funding for the Grants Program continues to fall far short of demand. The current \$1.67 million for the program is simply inadequate. SAA urges that the National NAGPRA Grants Program receive \$2 million for FY2020.

BLM Cultural Programs: \$20 million

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers the nation’s largest public land area. Less than ten percent of the agency’s land, however, has been evaluated for archaeological and other heritage resources. BLM cultural heritage staff archaeologists face a huge backlog of inventories, collections management, and preservation projects. Without adequate expert staff and appropriate resources, progress with economic development will at best be delayed, and at worst be subject to litigation from stakeholders who believe that cultural resources were inadequately addressed. SAA strongly supports \$20 million for the program, an increase of \$3 million, to enable the agency to better inventory, protect, and stabilize sensitive sites on public lands from the negative effects brought about by natural events and human activity.