Federal Historic Preservation Fund FY 19 budget and legislation

As the administration did last year, the President’s FY 19 budget proposal for Historic Preservation Fund programs only supports the state and tribal preservation offices and not any of the special initiative grant programs.

The House of Representatives Interior Appropriations Subcommittee recommended HPF funding at the same amounts as FY 2018 for all but the Historic Revitalization grant program which it did not include. The Senate created that program last year to assist rural communities.

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Senator Brian Schatz (Hawaii) introduced the Explore America Act of 2018 (S. 2395) earlier this year. The Senate bill has six cosponsors, including Alaska’s Dan Sullivan. The bill authorizes the provision of technical assistance under the Preserve America program and directs the Secretary of the Interior to enter into partnerships with communities adjacent to national parks to leverage cultural heritage assets. The stated purposes of the act are to support cultural heritage tourism and historic preservation activities, and to leverage these assets to strengthen economic development in gateway communities. Alaska’s Representative Don Young introduced a companion bill in the House of Representatives (H.R. 5608) in April. The Senate has referred its bill to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and the House has referred its bill to the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands.

Grant funds available for historic preservation development / predevelopment projects

The Office of History and Archaeology is soliciting for development and predevelopment grant proposals to help with rehabilitation costs for historic properties. Owners of buildings and structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places individually or as contributing properties in a registered historic district are eligible to apply. The grants are for up to 50 percent of the total project costs. Predevelopment grants are limited to $3,500 minimum and $10,000 maximum in matching assistance, and development grants are limited to $10,000 minimum and $25,000 maximum in matching assistance. The application deadline is 4:00 p.m., Friday, August 24, 2018. The application package will be available online July 5, 2018 at http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/index.htm or by contacting Jean Ayers, Grants Administrator, 907.269.8694 / jean.ayers@alaska.gov.

Office of History and Archaeology and Alaska Historical Commission news

The terms for two members of the Alaska Historical Commission ended June 30, 2018. The seats are currently occupied by Alisha Drabek of Kodiak and Rebecca Poulson of Sitka. The commission advises the Governor on issues related to history and archaeology and serves as the state review board for the state historic preservation program and geographic names. The Lt. Governor serves as chair, the State Historic Preservation Officer is a member, and the commission has seven public members. Of the seven, there must be individuals with credentials in history, architecture, and archaeology. The commission meets at least two times a year. Terms on the commission are for three years. Members serve without compensation, although travel expenses to attend meetings are paid. Individuals interested in being considered for appointment need to apply through the Governor’s Boards and Commission Office, https://gov.alaska.gov/services/boards-and-commissions. For additional information about the commission contact Jo Antonson, 907.269.8714 / jo.antonson@alaska.gov.
National Park Service announces new Keeper of the National Register

Joy Beasley, Associate Director (acting), Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science at the National Park Service has been delegated as Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. This includes the National Historic Landmarks Program. Julie Ernststein is now Deputy Keeper and Acting Chief of the National Register and National Historic Landmarks programs.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

The Advisory Council has put the recently updated Tribal Directory Assistance Tool (TDAT) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development on its website. The database includes names and contact information for tribal leaders and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and links to tribal websites. TDAT can be accessed at https://egis.hud.gov/tdat/. The Advisory Council has an information paper about the database at http://www.achp.gov/tdat.html.

The Advisory Council has produced a set of Frequently Asked Questions on federal agency coordination when an undertaking subject to Section 106 review involves more than one federal agency. The FAQs detail the procedure for designating a lead for Section 106 purposes, the responsibilities of the lead agency, and the roles of non-lead agencies. The FAQs can be found at http://www.achp.gov/docs/FAQ-2018.pdf.

Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area seeks grant projects

The Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area annually makes grants for community projects that enhance cultural, scenic and recreational resources in the designated area. This includes the road, rail and trail corridors between Bird and Seward and the communities of Girdwood, Portage, Moose Pass, Cooper Landing, Sunrise, Hope, Portage, Whittier, and Indian. The application deadline is August 15, 2018. More information and the application instructions are at https://www.kmtacorridor.org/grants/ or by contacting Katherine Schake, 907.205.0235 / katherineschake@kmtacorridor.org.

Alaska Association of Environmental Professionals hosts talks on cultural resources

The Alaska Association of Environmental Professionals has scheduled two brown bag talks this fall on cultural resources topics. On September 19th Kristine Bunnell will discuss the Municipality of Anchorage’s historic preservation plan. On October 16th Morgan Blanchard will speak about the World War II Japanese Internment Camp at Fort Richardson. The programs are held at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information contact Lucy Flynn O’Quinn, 907.865.1209 / loquinn@dowl.com.

National Trust for Historic Preservation starts advocacy newsletter

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has started a monthly electronic newsletter to provide information on historic preservation issues in Congress and the federal administration. Subjects to be addressed include protecting and improving historic preservation tax credits,
funding for preservation through the Historic Preservation Fund, protecting cultural resources on federal public lands, and defending the Antiquities Act. To subscribe go to either https://forum.savingplaces.org/act/advocacy-resource-center or http://my.preservationnation.org/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=22882

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PUBLIC PROJECT ALERTS:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers / Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline (ASAP) Project, final supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS), www.asapeis.com
Comment deadline: July 22, 2018
Contact: Jason Berkner, 907.753.5778, 800.478.2712, Jason.R.Berkner@usace.army.mil

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HERITAGE SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

Heritage is produced by the Office of History and Archaeology, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Alaska Department of Natural Resources. Please send your comments, suggestions, and information by e-mail to jo.antonson@alaska.gov, mail to 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565, or telephone 907.269.8721.

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PRESERVATION CALENDAR:

July 18-22 National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, Forum 2018, www.napcommissions.org, Des Moines, IA (director@napcommissions.org)

August 15 Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area, grant application deadline, https://www.kmtacorridor.org/grants/ (Katherine Schake, 907.205.0235 / katherineschake@kmtacorridor.org)

August 20-24 National Center for Preservation Technology and Training: Advanced Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) workshop, Avoyelles Parish, LA (Tad Britt, tad_britt@nps.gov)
August 24  Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, development/predevelopment grant application deadline, http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/index.htm (Jean Ayers, 907.269.8694 / jean.ayers@alaska.gov)

September 12-15  Alaska Historical Society / Museums Alaska, annual meetings and conference: Tundra and Ice: History in Alaska’s Arctic / Reflections, Nome (Amy Phillips-Chan, 907.443.6630 / museum@nomealaska.org)

September 19  Alaska Association of Environmental Professionals, talk on Municipality of Anchorage’s Historic Preservation Plan, Kristine Bunnell, Anchorage (Lucy Flynn O’Quinn, 907.865.1209 / loquinn@dowl.com)


September 26-29  American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) annual meeting: Truth or Consequences, Kansas City, MO (AASLH, 615.320.3203 / info@AASLH.org)


October 16  Alaska Association of Environmental Professionals, talk on World War II Fort Richardson Japanese Internment Camp, Morgan Blanchard (Lucy Flynn O’Quinn, 907.865.1209 / loquinn@dowl.com)


November 12-15  Cultural Heritage and New Technologies, Visual Heritage 2018, Digitize: Research – Record – Reactivate – Reconstruct symposium (Boerner Wolfgang, +43 (0)1 4000 81176 / wolfgang.boerner@stadtarchaeologie.at)


2019
February 27-March 2  Alaska Anthropological Association annual meeting: Alaska Anthropology in the Age of Engagement: Communities, Collections and Collaboration, Nome (www.alaskaanthropology.org / alaskaanthro@gmail.com)

March 13-19  National Park Service, Historic Preservation Education Foundation, University of Southern California School of Architecture, Preserving the Recent Past 3 conference, https://www.prp3.org, Los Angeles, CA (info@prp3.org)

April 24  Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, Annual Workshop, Anchorage, AK (Sarah Meitl, 907.269.8720 / sarah.meitl@alaska.gov)

May 7-8  National Preservation Institute, Landscape Preservation: An Introduction, Anchorage, AK, www.npi.org (Jere Gibber, 703.765.0100 / jgibber@aol.com)

May 9  National Preservation Institute, Landscape Preservation: Advanced Tools for Managing Change, Anchorage, AK, www.npi.org (Jere Gibber, 703.765.0100 / jgibber@aol.com)