

## **HERITAGE**

Monthly news update from the Office of History and Archaeology  
State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources  
November/December 2023

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### **Office of History and Archaeology news**

#### **Alaska Historic Preservation Program grants**

Office of History and Archaeology announces it is now soliciting Historic Preservation grants, due January 22, 2024. Check our website for information on pre-development, development, and historic preservation program grants.

The Office of History & Archaeology (OHA) is accepting applications for historic preservation projects for 50-50 matching grant assistance for projects in Alaska. **This grant program also includes Development and Pre-development projects.** All projects would need to be completed by August 31, 2025.

Historic preservation grants provide 50 percent financial assistance with a 50 percent match for the cost of a project in one of the following categories:

- Survey
- Inventory
- National Register Nomination

- Historic Preservation Planning
- Public Preservation Education
- Predevelopment
- Development

The application deadline is 3:00 p.m. on Monday, January 22, 2024. The application package is available online at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/designations/grants.htm>.

OHA estimates approximately \$300,000 will be available to award to eligible projects. The maximum federal share for any one project is \$50,000. The following lists the minimum and maximum amounts for each grant project:

- Development grant requests: \$10,000 minimum and \$50,000 maximum in grant/match share.
- Pre-development grant requests: \$3,500 minimum and \$15,000 maximum in grant/match share.
- All other grant requests have a minimum of \$3,500 and \$50,000 maximum in grant/match share.

### **CLG grants**

Alaska's fifteen Certified Local Governments received notification that there is a second round of CLG historic preservation grant program solicitation for grant proposals. The Office of History & Archaeology anticipates about \$100,000 will be available to award to eligible projects. The maximum federal share is \$50,000, with a 60/40 match. The application deadline is 3:00 pm on January 22, 2024.

### **AHRSPortal**

OHA/SHPO has completed the database transition from the legacy AHR-IBS to the AHRSPortal. User access to the AHRSPortal was not available for an automatic transfer. Alaska Heritage Resource Survey users who have not already done so will need to create accounts in the AHRSPortal. All AHR Users, including state employees, need log-in with a myAlaska account (all non-state employees) or your state id and password (state employees only).

#### **myAlaska Account**

All non-state employees will access the AHRSPortal through myAlaska accounts. myAlaska is an independent state program that serves as a gateway to several online state services. The AHRSPortal will essentially be one of those services. You can review the various links and sign up for a myAlaska account at <https://my.alaska.gov/>.

While creating a myAlaska account, please familiarize yourself with the myAlaska privacy policies, user agreements, and create/ identify a myAlaska account for use. New myAlaska accounts with your "business" email are recommended but not required. Note that signing up for a myAlaska account and creating an AHRSPortal account are two different steps. However, you must have a myAlaska account (for non-state employees) before creating an AHRSPortal account.

#### **AHRSPortal Sign-Up**

AHRSPortal Access at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/ahrsportal>.

### **Historic Preservation Training**

OHA's 2023 Virtual Education Series, *Preserving Our Places: DOE vs National Register Nomination: What's the Difference?* December 14, 2023, 1 pm – 3 pm

Determinations of Eligibility are regulations that provide guidance to Federal agencies in identifying and evaluating if a property located on lands under their jurisdiction or on lands to be affected by proposed actions is eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. So, what's the difference, and, more importantly, what's the point of getting a property determined eligible "listed" in the National Register?

Presented by Sarah Meitl, Section 106 Coordinator, and Katie Ringsmuth, State Historian and Deputy SHPO. Register for training or request additional information at [dnr.oha@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.oha@alaska.gov)

**Save the Date** – OHA/SHPO will be hosting an **in-person workshop April 5, 2024**, at the BP Energy Center, Anchorage. Content and schedule are under development. Be on the lookout for more information in future newsletters.

### **Staff News**

The Office of History and Archaeology is excited to announce it will be restarting the Survey Unit. In the past, this unit worked with local, state, and federal partners to conduct cultural resource survey projects throughout Alaska. It was shut down during the COVID 19 pandemic, but it is being reformed during the winter and will be ready to survey in the spring and summer of 2024!

The Survey Unit will be managed by the Office of History and Archaeology's newest staff member, Adam Brinkman. He has an M.A. in Historical Archaeology from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Adam is thrilled at the opportunity to explore the state with a new team!

While the Office of History and Archaeology staff are working a hybrid schedule, we recommend people contact staff by email. **If you have a general inquiry, a project for review, or state cultural resources investigation permit application please use one of the following email addresses:**

General inquiry, geographic names, Alaska Historical Commission, register for education sessions, etc.: [dnr.oha@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.oha@alaska.gov)

Review/compliance, Section 106, project review: [oha.revcomp@alaska.gov](mailto:oha.revcomp@alaska.gov)

State Cultural Resource Investigation Permits (SCRIP): [oha.permits@alaska.gov](mailto:oha.permits@alaska.gov)

Alaska Heritage Resource Survey access, renewals, or submissions: [oha.ibs@alaska.gov](mailto:oha.ibs@alaska.gov)

### **Federal Legislation news**

The current Continuing Resolution takes a ladder approach to funding, where it funds some programs through **Jan. 19th** and others through **Feb. 2nd**. The Department of Interior, which

includes the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) and other preservation priorities, would be funded through Feb. 2nd.

In November, the House passed their [FY24 Interior Appropriations bill](#), which included funding for the HPF. The bill includes \$175.4 million for the HPF, a nearly \$30 million cut below current enacted levels. This includes level funding for SHPOs, THPOs and grant programs, but eliminates congressionally directed spending in the HPF.

HPF program authorization expired September 30, 2023. Congress can extend a program by continuing to appropriate funds as an “unauthorized appropriation.” Efforts continue to support and promote legislation which would reinstate authorization and improve upon the former authorization – to include an increase in the authorized amount and number of years the authorization runs for. The bipartisan House bill H.R. 3350 remains in place. The provisions of that legislation call for an increase to \$250 million for 10 years. Currently, this bill does not have a Senate companion.

### **Department of the Interior news**

The Department of the Interior announced on December 6<sup>th</sup> a [final rule](#) to revise regulations that implement the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). These regulations provide systematic processes for returning Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony to lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs). The revised regulations streamline requirements for museums and federal agencies to inventory and identify Native American human remains and cultural items in their collections.

Enacted in 1990, NAGPRA, which is administered by the National Park Service, requires museums and federal agencies to identify Native American human remains, funerary items, and objects of cultural significance in their collections and collaborate with Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations to repatriate them.

The final rule makes a number of changes, including:

- Strengthening the authority and role of Tribes and NHOs in the repatriation process by requiring deference to the Indigenous Knowledge of lineal descendants, Tribes and NHOs.
- Requiring museums and federal agencies to obtain free, prior and informed consent from lineal descendants, Tribes or NHOs before allowing any exhibition of, access to, or research on human remains or cultural items.
- Eliminating the category “culturally unidentifiable human remains” and resetting the requirements for cultural affiliation to better align the regulations with congressional intent.
- Increasing transparency and reporting of holdings or collections and shedding light on collections currently unreported under the existing regulation.
- Requiring museums and federal agencies to consult and update inventories of human remains and associated funerary objects within five years of this final rule.

The final rule will publish in the *Federal Register* in the coming days. Visit the [National NAGPRA website](#) for more information.

### **National Park Service news**

The NPS initiated consultation on the development of a Program Comment (one of the ACHP's allowed Section 106 program alternatives) for "Regular Maintenance, Capital Projects, and Leasing at Mission-66 Era (1945-1972) Facilities. A copy of the initiation letter is attached, and they have established a website for the effort at [ParkPlanning - Mission 66 Program Comment \(nps.gov\)](#). They have also prepared a "conceptual overview" which is attached.

They are inviting the public and SHPOs to two virtual consultation meetings on December 1st and December 8th. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED and the details are in the attached consultation letter. They are seeking comments on the concept by January 8, 2023.

### **NPS Grant opportunities:**

The National Park Service is now accepting applications for the [Save America's Treasures](#) (SAT) grant program. The SAT program provides preservation and conservation assistance to nationally significant historic sites and collections. \$26.5 million will be competitively awarded. A dollar-for-dollar, non-Federal match, is required, this can be either cash or documented in-kind services. SAT is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) in partnership with the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) (NEA), the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) (NEH), and the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS). Preservation projects fund physical preservation of historic buildings, sites, structures, and objects. Collection projects include conservation of artifacts, museum collections, documents, sculptures, and works of art.

**Applications are due December 19, 2023.** To apply for funding for preservation projects go to opportunity number P23AS00499. To apply for funding for collections projects go to opportunity number is P23AS00500. For more information about the SAT grant program: <http://go.nps.gov/sat>

### **Advisory Council on Historic Preservation news**

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) announced its new Assistant Director for the Federal Permitting, Licensing and Assistance Section (FPLAS) in the Office of Federal Agency Programs (OFAP). Rachael Mangum steps into this role, having been with the ACHP since 2020, serving first as Army Liaison and then as a Program Analyst. With a background in archeology and cultural resource management, Rachel will oversee FPLAS activities within OFAP, working with federal agencies, states, Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations and other stakeholders on individual Section 106 reviews and program and policy development relating to federal assistance agencies and historic preservation.

Nominations for [2024 ACHP/HUD Secretary's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation](#) now being accepted. **Submissions due by 11:59 p.m. PST on December 18, 2023.**

### **Training:**

The ACHP has compiled news, background information, examples, and other program resources on its website, in order to help agencies, federal applicants, SHPOs, Indian tribes, and other Section 106 participants carry out reviews of infrastructure projects on federal

property or those involving federal assistance. Resources include: [HTTPS://WWW.ACHP.GOV/106\\_TOOLKIT\\_FOR\\_INFRASTRUCTURE](https://www.achp.gov/106_toolkit_for_infrastructure) AND [HTTPS://WWW.ACHP.GOV/BROADBAND AND 106](https://www.achp.gov/broadband_and_106)

**National Trust for Historic Preservation news**  
[Grants@savingplaces.org](mailto:Grants@savingplaces.org).

**Peter H. Brink Leadership Fund grants** (up to \$2,500) for travel costs and mentor honoraria are available for Organization Level Forum or Main Street America members of the National Trust. The purpose of these grants is to support the leadership and effectiveness of staff and board members of preservation organizations through individualized mentoring and the sharing of expertise. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. For more information go to [forum@savingplaces.org](mailto:forum@savingplaces.org)

**National Preservation Awards** Honor an incredible person, project, organization, or historic site open to the public that has transformed your community through historic preservation by nominating them for a National Preservation Awards. Submissions are due January 12. **LEARN MORE >>**

**National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers news**

NATHPO invites tribes and native organizations to stay current on important happenings using their [Calendar of Events](#). They have job listings, [Community Job Board](#), and listing of relevant [Grant Opportunities](#).

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**PUBLIC PROJECT ALERTS:**

Section 106/AHPA large project consultation in progress:

- Bureau of Land Management
  - National Programmatic Agreement
  - Public Land Order Programmatic Agreement
- Alaska Highway WWII Bridges
  - Programmatic Agreement
- Forest Service
  - AK Region Programmatic Agreement Amendment
- West Susitna Access Road
- Safer Seward Highway
- Mendenhall Glacier Visitors Center Rehabilitation
  - Programmatic Agreement
- Glenn Highway Corridor
  - Programmatic Agreement
- NPS Climate Change at Dyea
  - Programmatic Agreement

For information on how to participate in the process, or on how to review and comment on the above projects, contact Sarah Meitl, [sarah.meitl@alaska.gov](mailto:sarah.meitl@alaska.gov).

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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 [dnr.oha@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.oha@alaska.gov), mail to 550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565, or telephone 907.269.8700.

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## **PRESERVATION CALENDAR:**

### **2024**

**April 5** – OHA/SHPO in-person workshop. BP Energy Center, Anchorage, AK. Save the date. Content and schedule are under development. Be on the lookout for more information in future newsletters.

**July 31- August 4** - National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC), NAPC FORUM 2024, West Palm Beach, FL., Save the date. National conference focused on issues facing local historic preservation commissions. [NAPC FORUM](#)

**September 25-28** - Museums Alaska Conference, theme *Building Community*, Fairbanks, AK. For more information email [director@museumsalaska.org](mailto:director@museumsalaska.org)

**October 28-30** - *PastForward*, National Trust for Historic Preservation annual conference, New Orleans. Conference programing proposals and nominations for National Preservation Awards due January 12, 2024.  
[SavingPlaces.org](http://SavingPlaces.org)

National Preservation Institute provides continuing education and professional training in historic preservation and cultural resource management throughout the year. For training options, go to: [www.npi.org](http://www.npi.org) For information contact Jere Gibber, Executive Director, [info@npi.org](mailto:info@npi.org)