



National Main Street Center
a subsidiary of the
National Trust for Historic Preservation



National Trust for Historic Preservation
Save the past. Enrich the future.



National Trust Community Investment Corporation
a subsidiary of the
National Trust for Historic Preservation



April 30, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the 379 undersigned preservation organizations and businesses thank you for your extraordinary efforts in acting to address so many of our nation's needs in our current health and economic emergency. The enactment of the \$2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and other response legislation provided essential funding and programs to begin our nation's recovery. The CARES Act provided much needed funding for the nonprofit sector, including the arts and humanities, and we thank you for those provisions, including:

- The Paycheck Protection Program and its forgivable loans to benefit small businesses and nonprofit organizations;
- Providing a universal above-the-line deduction for taxpayers making charitable contributions; and
- Creating additional funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (\$75 million), National Endowment for the Humanities (\$75 million), and the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) (\$50 million).

We are also extraordinarily thankful for last week's Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act that will provide an additional \$321 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program. This program is essential to ensuring economic vitality and meeting the

needs of nonprofit organizations and the small business community, especially Main Street businesses.

A recent study by the National Main Street Center documents the profound threats faced by small Main Street businesses. Approximately 3.5 million small businesses are in danger of permanent closure over the next two months, and nearly 7.5 million are in danger of closing over the next five months as a result of the crisis. Importantly, approximately 35.7 million Americans employed by these small businesses may face unemployment. The extension of the Paycheck Protection Program is crucial to protecting small businesses and their staff in the coming months.

Despite these provisions, nonprofit organizations continue to operate in a state of economic crisis due to the loss of revenue from closures, event cancellations, and a decline of charitable contributions. As we respond aggressively to our national health emergency, at the appropriate time in a future coronavirus-related stimulus package, we respectfully request additional investments in the following programs to catalyze the economic recovery of nonprofit organizations, small businesses, and the arts and culture sector, while also protecting historic and cultural resources.

Historic Tax Credit

The federal historic tax credit (HTC) has been the nation's most significant investment in historic preservation and has been an essential tool to rehabilitate downtowns and catalyze economic development. Historic rehabilitation incentives have shown time and again their ability to stimulate economic activity and promote job creation.

We urge you to include the bipartisan and bicameral policy recommendations included in the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act (S.2615 / H.R. 2825) (HTC-GO). The HTC-GO legislation would enhance the HTC by encouraging more building reuse and further incentivizing redevelopment in all communities, including our smaller and rural Main Street communities. These provisions would not only make HTCs easier to use and more historic properties eligible, but they would also enhance the value of these credits for real estate investors.

We are also seeking a temporary increase in the credit percentage for all HTC projects and other provisions designed to keep current rehabilitation projects on track. Past federal disaster recovery legislation included increases to the HTC to help speed economic recovery. For example, the HTC was increased from 20 to 26 percent after Hurricane Katrina in the GO-ZONE Act of 2005 to help rebuild disaster-affected areas. The HTC was similarly increased in the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to address flooding, tornado, and severe weather damage in several mid-Western states. Data shows these temporary increases to the HTC exponentially increase rehabilitation activity, stimulate job creation, and catalyze additional community investment that would not otherwise occur.

Historic Preservation Fund and Rehabilitation Grants

The National Trust recommends supplemental funding of \$420 million for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). This includes a proposal of \$120 million outlined by the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers for these purposes:

- \$30 million for State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) for survey, digitization, mapping, and technology tools;
- \$15 million for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) to utilize as they choose; and
- \$75 million for SHPOs to allocate among the nation's 2,000 Certified Local Governments (CLGs) to support bricks and mortar rehabilitation projects, survey, education, and planning.

The National Trust supports this proposal, and we believe there is also a need for a much larger investment of \$300 million to catalyze the economic benefits of historic rehabilitation and related historic resource programs. We support increases of \$75 million each in these existing and successful HPF programs:

- Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants program;
- Save America's Treasures;
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities Grant Program; and
- African American Civil Rights Grants, including its expansion to Civil Rights for All Americans.

We will also work with the Congress and the National Park Service (NPS) to ensure the effective administration of these programs.

Great American Outdoors Act (S. 3422)

This historic legislation was introduced in the Senate on March 9 by Senators Gardner (R-CO), Manchin (D-WV), Daines (R-MT), and Warner (D-VA). It would provide up to \$9.5 billion in dedicated funding over five years (\$1.9 billion per year) for much needed repairs of the National Park Service and other federal agencies. The NPS deferred maintenance backlog alone has ballooned to \$12 billion, of which 47 percent is for historic assets. The bill would also guarantee full funding of \$900 million annually for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), one of the nation's most popular and effective programs for adding to our public lands. The LWCF has invested more than \$570 million to acquire land in our nation's historic and cultural parks managed by the NPS, and many millions more to add other public lands that tell diverse stories of our nation's history.

A total of 58 Senators have cosponsored this legislation, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has also adopted a resolution supporting it.

If enacted, this legislation would be the single largest federal investment in preservation of historic and cultural resources for public lands in our generation.

Charitable Giving Incentives

The National Trust supports the enhancement of charitable giving incentive provisions included in the CARES Act that would enable charitable nonprofit organizations—the third largest employer in our nation’s economy—to continue serving their communities. We request that the \$300 per person cap on the above-the-line charitable deduction provision in the CARES Act be increased and the effective date extended to strengthen this giving incentive and encourage Americans to support their communities with charitable donations.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

The National Trust supports additional relief funding through the National Endowment for the Arts to preserve jobs in the arts sector and help support organizations facing closure due to the spread of COVID-19. Initial funding of \$75 million should be supplemented with substantial additional funding to help sustain the arts sector and ensure continuation of its important contributions to our culture and economy.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

Similarly, the National Trust supports an additional emergency supplemental funding of at least \$425 million to the NEH. This funding would build upon the initial \$75 million provided for grants to state and jurisdictional humanities councils and to support at-risk positions and projects at museums, historic sites, libraries and archives, colleges and universities, and other cultural nonprofits. Museums and historic sites are reporting losses of \$1 billion a month from closures and cancelled events. Accordingly, substantial investment will be necessary to ensure the \$878 billion arts and cultural economic sector can continue to serve and enrich communities nationwide throughout and following the current crisis.

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

We support supplemental funding specifically for museums to cover needs not filled by the Paycheck Protection Program. As the primary source of federal support for the nation’s museums and libraries, the IMLS should receive substantial additional funding to support these critical community resources. Our museums and libraries are both national assets and local community anchors that promote lifelong learning and community wellbeing.

National Historic Preservation Act and National Environmental Policy Act

We also urge you to oppose any legislative exemptions from provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act, including Section 106, or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The regulations that implement Section 106 and NEPA provide a variety of tools, including administrative exemptions, that allow federal agencies to adapt their compliance processes to respond to emergency situations. Federal agencies are already using these existing mechanisms, and they are working effectively to meet the need.

Thank you again for your leadership on these issues and your commitment to recognizing the importance of directing federal investment to preserving our nation's historic and cultural resources. We look forward to working with Congress and our partners to provide the funding and programs that can catalyze our national recovery.

Sincerely,

National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Main Street Center
National Trust Community Investment Corporation
Coalition for American Heritage
National Preservation Partners Network
Preservation Action

American Alliance of Museums
American Association for State and Local History
Lawyers' Committee for Cultural Heritage Preservation
National Council on Public History
US/ICOMOS

Alabama

Historic Tabernacle Baptist Church-Selma, AL Legacy Foundation, Inc.
McNair Historic Preservation, Inc.

Alaska

Alaska Association for Historic Preservation

Arizona

Archaeology Southwest
Arizona Downtown Alliance
Arizona Heritage Alliance
Arizona Preservation Foundation
Arizona Vintage Sign Coalition
Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation
Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation

Arkansas

Preserve Arkansas
Quapaw Quarter Association

California

Alexander Tenants Association, Inc.
Arcata Historical Sites Society
California Preservation Foundation
District 6 Community Planners
Donna Sharee Design
Fort Mason Center for Arts and Culture
Gilroy Growing Smarter
Ginger Weatherford | Historic Preservation Consulting
Grace Hudson Museum & Sun House
Grass Valley Downtown Association
Heyden Ty LLC
Hollywood Heritage
IS Architecture
Lockeford Historical Society
Los Angeles Conservancy
Michael Howard RE Appraiser
Preservation Action Council of San José
Preservation Sacramento
San Francisco Heritage
Save Our Heritage Organisation
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Colorado

Historic Denver, Inc.
History Colorado
NuovoRE
Pikes Peak History Coalition
Tabor Opera House Preservation Foundation
Territorial Daughters of Colorado, Southern Chapter

Connecticut

Connecticut Main Street Center, Inc.

Florence Griswold Museum
New London Landmarks
Preservation Connecticut
Shipman, Shaiken & Schwefel, LLC
Stonington Land Trust

District of Columbia

Association for Preservation Technology
DC Preservation League
Dentons US LLP
Georgetown Heritage
Landmines Blow
Lifting Rocks, LLC
The L'Enfant Trust

Delaware

Aparium Hotel Group, LLC
CL Real Estate, LLC
Preservation Delaware, Inc.

Florida

City of Lakeland Historic Preservation
Board
Dade Heritage Trust, Inc.
Florida Trust for Historic Preservation
Parker Associates
Stevenson Architects, Inc.
The Blanche

Georgia

Gene Kansas | Commercial Real Estate
Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation
Historic Columbus Foundation
Historic Savannah Foundation
IDP Housing, LP
IDP Properties, LP
The APEX Museum

Hawaii

Historic Hawaii Foundation

Idaho

Boise Department of Arts & History
Preservation Idaho

Illinois

American Institute of Architects (AIA),
Illinois
Aparium Hotel Group, LLC
CL Enterprises
CL Real Estate Development
Dubin Consulting, Inc.
Economic and Community Development
Agency for the City of Kankakee
Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy
Landmarks Illinois
MacRostie Historic Advisors, LLC
Midland States Bank
Roger Brown Study Collection

Indiana

Crombie Hardwood Dimension
Indiana Landmarks
Restoric Enterprises, LLC

Iowa

Heidt Ventures
Heritage Works, Inc.
Jennifer James Communications, LC
MAD TIM Enterprises, Inc.
Main Street Fort Dodge
Preservation Iowa
Vision Financial Group

Kansas

1913 Apartments
Arch Photo KC, LLC
Douglas County Heritage Conservation
Council
Entrepreneurs Enterprises, LLC
Flint Hills Holdings Group
Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area
GLMV Architecture
Hagen and Partners
Heartland Business Capital
Historic Preservation Partners, Inc.
Marketplace Properties
Marksnelson, LLC
Narhex Properties, LLC
Pioneer Group, Inc.

Sabatini Architects
TreanorHL

Kentucky

Carrollton Main Street Program
Friends of Kentucky Main Street
Historic Bell House
Kentucky Heritage Council & State
Historic Preservation Officer
Pamela C. Bratcher, Attorney at Law
Preservation Kentucky

Louisiana

Hammond Historic District
Louisiana Landmarks Society
Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation
Preservation Resource Center of New
Orleans
Rolf Preservation Works, LLC
Shadows-on-the-Teche
SLS Historic Consulting
Stonehenge Capital Company, LLC
Vieux Carre Commission Foundation

Maine

Eagle Point Development
Frances Perkins Center
Maine Downtown Center, MDF
Maine Preservation

Maryland

Atelier Giguere, LLC
Baltimore Heritage
Maryland Association of Historic District
Commissions
Maryland Historical Trust
Preservation Maryland
Smart Growth Maryland
The Peale Center for Baltimore History and
Architecture

Massachusetts

Architectural Heritage Foundation
Boston Preservation Alliance
Clocktower Tax Credits, LLC
Cultural Alliance of Medfield

Historic Artists' Homes and Studios
Program

Historic Boston Incorporated
Marla Glanzer Curtis, AIA
Preservation Massachusetts
Protect Our Past
The Trustees of Reservations

Michigan

Charlevoix Main Street DDA
City of Detroit, Historic Designation
Advisory Board
Conference on Michigan Archaeology
Cultural Advocacy Network of Michigan
F-stop.com
Historical Society of Michigan
Lake Orion DDA
Logan Architects Atelier
Macomb County Historical Society &
Crocker House Museum
Michigan Downtown Association
Michigan Festivals & Event Foundation
Michigan Historic Preservation Network
Michigan Library Association
Michigan Presenters Nonprofit Network
Michigan School Vocal Music Association
MotorCities National Heritage Area
Paper City Development, LLC
Preservation Detroit
Preservation Lansing
Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts
The Detroit Area Art Deco Society

Minnesota

Hess, Roise and Company, Historical
Consultants
New History
Rethos: Places Reimagined

Mississippi

Mississippi Heritage Trust

Missouri

B + A Architecture
Building Preservation, LLC
CDD

Clockwork
Dowcon
Foutch Brothers
Green Street St. Louis
Helix Architecture + Design
Historic Kansas City
Love Funding
M R Capital Advisors
Martinez Tobin & Redman, LLC
Mercier Street, LLC
Old Town Development, Inc.
Prairie Fire Development Group, LLC
Rosin Preservation
SBD Housing Solutions
SWD Architects, Inc.
The Missouri Alliance for Historic
Preservation
West Grand, LLC

Montana

American Covenant Senior Housing
Foundation, Inc.
CM Russell Museum
Montana Preservation Alliance

Nebraska

Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, Inc.
Blue Jay Investments, LLC
History Nebraska
MDX, LLC
Nebraska Main Street Network
RMD Real Estate Group, LLC

Nevada

Historic Preservation Officer for the City of
Las Vegas
Nevada Preservation Foundation
StonewallNV

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Preservation Alliance

New Jersey

The Meadows Foundation, Inc.

New Mexico

Georgia O'Keeffe Museum

New York

Alice Austen House
Armand LeGardeur Architect
Bard College, Montgomery Place Campus
Binghamton Figure Skating Club's Learn to
Skate USA Program
Clinton Brown Company Architecture
Cobblestone Society and Museum
Docomomo US
Edward Hopper House
Historic Districts Council
Historic Ithaca
Jack's Foundation
Judd Foundation
Kanaka Partners
Manitoga / The Russel Wright Design
Center
North Main Street 111, LLC
Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center
Preservation League of New York State
Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation
Roycroft Campus Corporation
Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art
Seward House Museum
The New York Landmarks Conservancy
The Olana Partnership
Thomas Cole National Historic Site
Warner's Way Real Property Services, LLC

North Carolina

Beaufort County Pantego Community
Center, A Rosenwald Building
Hanbury Preservation Consulting
Historic Salisbury Foundation
Preservation Durham
Preservation North Carolina
Triad Cultural Arts

North Dakota

Hippocampus Holdings, LLC
Mosaic Wellness Center

Ohio

American Institute of Architects, Akron Chapter
Arcanum Preservation Society
Columbus Landmarks
Concerned Citizens to Save Harbor View Mansion
Crow Home Inspection, LLC
Heritage Ohio
Historic Preservation Group, LLC
MCM Company, Inc.
National Aviation Heritage Area
Perspectus Architecture
PlaceMark Collaborative, LLC
Sandvick Architects, Inc.
Sugar Grove Fire Tower Restoration
The Tradesmen Group, Inc.

Oklahoma

Arzon Development
Baloru Enterprises, LLC
BAM, LLC
Bartlesville Redevelopment Trust Authority
Birchwood Land Holdings
Case & Associates Properties, Inc.
Central Urban Development, Inc.
Cornerstone Development
Corporate Realty Advisors, LLC
CS Management
George Thomas Co., Inc.
Lap 7 Development, LLC
LDKerns Contractors
MPACT Land Planning, LLC
NAIOP Oklahoma
National Trust for Historic Places Advisory Board
New Leaf Development, LLC
Newmark Grubb LSB
OKCCIM
Pearl District Association
R.E.M., LLC
Railroad District Development Group, LLC
Red Brick Capital Management, LLC
Rose Rock Development Partners
TYTO Realty Advisors

Uptown Development Group
Wiggin Properties, LLC
Zilm Realty

Oregon

Restore Oregon

Pennsylvania

10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania
BCCC Historic Preservation Program
Building A Better Boyertown
Carpenters' Hall
Castle Shannon Borough
Chestnut Hill Conservancy
Delta Downtown Alliance
Downtown Chambersburg, Inc.
Downtown, Inc.
Easton Main Street Initiative
Erie Downtown Partnership
Fort Ligonier Association
General Carl Spaatz Regional AAF Museum
Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance
Heritage Consulting, Inc.
Historic Rescue Photography
Hoyt Center for the Arts
Johnstown Area Heritage Association
Lackawanna Historical Society
Lewisburg Downtown Partnership
Mercersburg Vibrancy Steering Committee
Pennsylvania Downtown Center
Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia
Preservation Pennsylvania
Scranton Public Library
Scranton Tomorrow
Walnut Capital
Wharton Esherick Museum
Whitman Requardt & Associates, LLP
York County Economic Alliance

Rhode Island

A4 Architecture & Planning
Newport Restoration Foundation
Preserve Rhode Island
Providence Preservation Society

Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

South Carolina

Drayton Hall
Historic Charleston Foundation
Historic Columbia
Tnovsa Global Commons

Tennessee

Ferguson Property Group
Historic Nashville, Inc.
Memphis Heritage
Plymouth Soundings, LLC
Preservation Strategies
Revive Preservation
Vintage South Development, Inc.

Texas

Bike Houston
Conservation Society of San Antonio
Firestone Apartments
Freedom Colonies Project LLC
Galveston Historical Foundation
Historic Tyler, Inc.
Post Oak Preservation Solutions
Preservation Austin
Preservation Dallas
Preservation Houston
Preservation Texas
Quimby Preservation Studio
Webb County Heritage Foundation

Utah

Kirk Huffaker Preservation Strategies
Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area
Preservation Utah
Silver Reef Museum

Vermont

Preservation Trust of Vermont
Vermont State Historic Preservation Office

Virginia

Belmead on the James
Hill Studio, PC
Historic Richmond
Linden Capital, L.L.C.
Octagon Finance
Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation
Preservation Virginia
Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation
Saunders + Crouse Architects, LLC
Stone House Foundation
Taylor Hollow Construction
The Branch Museum of Architecture &
Design

Washington

Burlington Historical Society
Gig Harbor Peninsula Historical Society
Historic Seattle
Washington State Historic Preservation
Officer
Washington Trust for Historic Preservation

West Virginia

Clio Foundation
Preservation Alliance of West Virginia, Inc.
The Ramsdell House Museum
Wheeling National Heritage Area
Corporation

Wisconsin

MartinRiley Architects Engineers
Milwaukee Preservation Alliance

Wyoming

Alliance for Historic Wyoming