

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



FY 2010 WORK PLAN
D.C. HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

June 30, 2009

The State Historic Preservation Office for the District of Columbia is responsible for administering the District's certified historic preservation program under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Among these duties is the preparation of an annual work plan for the preservation programs supported by the federal government. The annual work plan further implements the program goals described in *Preserving Communities and Character: The Historic Preservation Plan for the District of Columbia (2008-2012)*, the multi-year planning guide approved by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior in 2008.

The FY 2010 work plan will guide the SHPO in meeting its goals and objectives for historic preservation, discharging its federal program responsibilities, awarding community grants, and preparing its annual application for financial support from the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service. In Fiscal Year 2010, the SHPO expects to receive approximately \$523,000 in federal funds to carry out preservation programs and operations.

The major goals identified in the D.C. Historic Preservation Plan are:

- Identify and Recognize Historic Resources
- Protect Historic Resources, and
- Capitalize on Historic Resources.

The plan is posted on the HPO website at www.planning.dc.gov, and copies are available from the office upon request, by calling (202) 442-8800.

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**FY 2010 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
D.C. Historic Preservation Office**

MISSION

The Historic Preservation Office (HPO) promotes stewardship of the District of Columbia's historic and cultural resources through planning, protection, and public education. This is achieved through the identification and designation of historic properties, review of their treatment, and engagement with the public using a variety of tools to promote awareness, understanding, and enjoyment of the city's historic environment.

HPO administers the District's local preservation program under the DC Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act, as well as the certified state historic preservation program under the National Historic Preservation Act. In FY 2010, the SHPO will receive approximately \$523,000 in federal funds under its annual grant from the National Park Service.

OBJECTIVE 1: Identify and recognize historic resources.

INITIATIVE 1.1: Define historic significance broadly.

Community Heritage: Use federal grant funds to engage an outreach coordinator for the ongoing HPO community heritage program to identify historic resources representing the broad diversity of the District's social history and neighborhoods, particularly African-American history and East of the River neighborhoods. Identify six properties for designation.

Modernism: Seek owner support for designation of significant examples of mid-century modernism worthy of recognition and protection. Identify six properties for designation.

Archaeology: Routinely evaluate proposed historic landmarks and districts for potential archaeological significance.

INITIATIVE 1.2: Identify potential historic properties.

Survey: Support the ongoing Hill East survey with federal funds. Award community survey grants to any successful applicants in November 2009, and advertise the availability of community grant funds in July 2010 for survey proposals due in September 2010.

Thematic Studies: Continue thematic studies on key themes like African-American heritage, historic cemeteries, early settlement in Brightwood, automobile era commercial architecture, neighborhood commercial corridors, the work of concrete pioneer John Joseph Earley, D.C. government properties, and affordable dwelling types.

Research Tools: Complete implementation and testing of the new HPS survey database. Continue the Building Permit Historical Data Maintenance Project (1877-1958) by adding data on pre-1877 buildings and continuing the cross-referencing of data to current conditions. Maintain current GIS data on designated historic properties, and add data on eligible properties (DC Index of Places of Historic Interest).

INITIATIVE 1.3: Designate historic landmarks and districts.

Historic Landmarks: Work directly with property owners and community groups to seek support before designation. Reduce the number of pending historic landmark applications. Nominate key unprotected eligible properties.

Historic Districts: Forward the proposed Meridian Hill Historic District to HPRB after completion of design guidelines and public outreach. Consider historic districts or expansions in other areas like Barney Circle, Shaw, and Anacostia giving priority where there is strong community support.

National Register: Forward all new DC designations to the National Register of Historic Places and continue to nominate DC Inventory properties not already listed in the Register.

OBJECTIVE 2: Protect historic resources.

INITIATIVE 2.1: Improve and integrate preservation planning.

Preservation Planning: Support the update of the Comprehensive Plan, OP neighborhood planning initiatives, and new zoning regulations with in-house historic preservation expertise. Solicit public input on the 2011 HPO work plan in June 2010.

Standards and Guidelines: Develop a standardized graphic format for general and neighborhood guidelines. Complete three sets of guidelines on technical preservation issues, two on general design principles, and two for neighborhoods.

INITIATIVE 2.2: Protect the unique historic plan of Washington.

Coordinate with the National Park Service to complete and forward the nomination of the L'Enfant Plan as a National Historic Landmark. Evaluate the results of the FY 2009 study of the District of Columbia's 19th-century Highway Plan, and develop cultural resource management recommendations.

INITIATIVE 2.3: Ensure compatibility between new and old.

Project Reviews: Review an estimated 100 federal government, 200 District government, and 4,000 private construction projects for compatibility under DC and federal preservation laws. Major projects in FY 2010 are expected to include St. Elizabeths Hospital, National Museum of African-American History and Culture, and multiple federal building rehabilitation projects.

Easements: Improve management of easements through improved data access coordinated with permit processing functions and available on the HPO website.

INITIATIVE 2.4: Protect historic landscapes and open space.

Develop long-range protections for the National Mall through continued Section 106 consultation. Publish and distribute copies of an informational brochure on DC cemeteries. Evaluate the results of the FY 2009 study of DC cemeteries to identify significant properties eligible for historic designation. Prepare design guidelines for construction in public space. Research and evaluate historic landscapes on the St. Elizabeths East Campus.

INITIATIVE 2.5: Protect and improve understanding of District archaeological resources.

Continue the FY09 project to update and record data on the District's historic and archaeological resources and collections in a comprehensive GIS format. Continue the Archaeological Collections Initiative to pursue establishment of a federally-compliant curation facility for the District's artifact collections. Develop a scope for modernizing and updating guidelines for archaeological investigations in DC.

INITIATIVE 2.6: Improve enforcement efforts.

Maintain an effective enforcement program to ensure compliance with the provisions of the DC preservation law. Undertake building inspections and pursue enforcement action including stop work orders, violation notices, and notices of infraction as appropriate. Finalize a comprehensive HPO enforcement manual.

OBJECTIVE 3: Capitalize on historic resources.

INITIATIVE 3.1: Improve government leadership in preservation.

DC Government Projects: Fully implement the new procedures for historic preservation review of DC government projects. Strengthen working relationships with DC agencies, identify eligible historic properties under DC ownership, and review all submitted DC agency projects for compatibility. Promote advance planning by coordinating with OP capital planning efforts. Emphasize coordination on key DC projects like public school and library upgrades, recreational facilities, and transportation projects.

INITIATIVE 3.2: Create preservation incentives.

Historic Homeowner Grants: Award \$750,000 in grants to homeowners for approved historic preservation work in 12 eligible historic districts.

DC Preservation Incentives: Continue working with OP staff and other experts to develop recommendations for a DC financial incentive supporting both preservation and sustainable development practices.

INITIATIVE 3.3: Integrate preservation with economic development and sustainability goals.

Stimulus Projects: Complete preservation review for \$1.277 billion in GSA and NPS stimulus projects for DC (all affecting historic properties). Major projects include DHS Headquarters at St. Elizabeths, Commerce Department modernization (Phases II and III), and National Mall repairs including restoration of the DC World War I Memorial.

Leveraging Federal Dollars: Help owners to obtain federal rehabilitation tax incentives, and support applicants for *Save America's Treasures* funding. Apply for *Preserve America* funding if available. Use SAFETEA:LU funding to help DDOT with completion of the Barney Circle archaeological project.

Streamlining Procedures: Improve HPO counter operations at DCRA in conjunction with agency co-location in 2010.

Sustainability: Develop a web-based guide to sustainability issues in preservation, in conjunction with OP planning staff and aligned with the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Sustainability Initiative.

INITIATIVE 3.4: Encourage and support preservation advocacy and partnerships.

Community Support: Promote preservation awareness and foster community preservation efforts by providing routine notice of pending actions, preservation training opportunities, web-based information, workshops, and individualized consultation.

Partnership Projects: Continue to provide expertise and research for the DC Department of Small and Local Business Development (Office of Commercial Revitalization/DC Main Streets). Co-sponsor the DC Community Heritage Program with the Humanities Council of Washington, DC. Join with Cultural Tourism DC to add another 20 sites to the African American Heritage Trail. Explore and evaluate alternatives for an informational signage program for DC historic landmarks. Coordinate with the DC Preservation League to present the 7th annual preservation awards program in November 2009 and the 2nd annual preservation conference in September 2010. Continue internal and external youth training programs.