

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



FY 2011 WORK PLAN
D.C. HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

June 30, 2010

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 Fiscal Year 2011 work plan will guide the SHPO in 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, U.S. Department of the Interior. In FY 2011, beginning October 1, 2010, the SHPO expects to receive approximately \$522,000 in federal funds to carry out preservation programs and operations.

The annual work plan further implements the preservation goals and objectives described in *Preserving Communities and Character: The Historic Preservation Plan for the District of Columbia (2008-2012)*, the multi-year planning guide approved in 2009 by the National Park Service. 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 2011 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 certified state historic preservation program under the National Historic Preservation Act, as well as the District's local preservation program under the DC Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act.

During FY 2011, HPO proposes to move forward with implementation of the Historic Preservation Plan for the District of Columbia as follows:

GOAL 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 DC's ongoing community heritage program. Identify historic resources representing the broad diversity of the District's social history and neighborhoods, including African-American history and East of the River neighborhoods. Review six identified properties for designation.

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

Archaeology: Routinely evaluate proposed historic landmarks and districts for potential archaeological significance, and address eligible archaeological resources in designation actions.

INITIATIVE 1.2: Identify potential historic properties.

Survey: Advertise the availability of grant funds in July 2011 for community survey proposals due in September 2011. Consider community survey awards in November 2010. Give priority to ongoing surveys or new efforts supported by policies in the Historic Preservation Plan and DC Comprehensive Plan.

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

Research Tools: Complete the conversion of data to the new HPS survey database. Build upon the database of historic building permits (1877-1958) by adding data on pre-1877 buildings, continuing the cross-referencing of data to current conditions, and integrating the data with GIS applications. Maintain and expand GIS data on designated and eligible historic properties.

INITIATIVE 1.3: Designate historic landmarks and districts.

Historic Landmarks: Work directly with property owners and community groups to seek support for designation applications submitted to HPRB. Reduce the number of pending historic

landmark applications by considering at least 10 for designation. 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 where there is strong community support.

National Register: Consistently 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: Use in-house historic preservation expertise to support OP neighborhood planning initiatives like the streetcar land use study, small area plans, and new zoning regulations. Prepare draft cultural resources plans for three wards. Solicit public input on the 2012 HPO work plan in June 2011.

Standards and Guidelines: Continue preparation of updated general and neighborhood guidelines. Complete at least three sets of guidelines.

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.

INITIATIVE 2.3: Ensure compatibility between new and old.

Project Reviews: Review an estimated 100 federal government, 200 District government, and 3,500 to 4,000 private construction projects for compatibility under DC and federal preservation laws. Major projects in FY 2011 are expected to include St. Elizabeths Hospital, Union Station redevelopment, public schools, streetcar planning, McMillan Reservoir, Walter Reed, monument improvements, and federal building rehabilitations.

Easements: Improve access to easement data in GIS and website formats.

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 ongoing 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. Establish a curation database using the professional collections management software program PastPerfect for archaeological collections owned by the District. 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.

OBJECTIVE 3: Capitalize on historic resources.

INITIATIVE 3.1: Improve government leadership in preservation.

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 \$250,000-\$350,000 (depending on funding availability) 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: Continue to give priority to preservation review of government projects using stimulus funding.

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: Co-sponsor the DC Community Heritage Program with the Humanities Council of Washington, DC. Join with Cultural Tourism DC to complete the African American Heritage Trail at 100 sites. Explore and evaluate alternatives for an informational signage program for DC historic landmarks. Coordinate with the DC Preservation League to present the 8th annual preservation awards program in November 2010 and the 3rd annual preservation conference in September 2011. Continue internal and external youth training programs.