



**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