

March 2011 Edition

A Message from the Historic Preservation Officer



On March 7th and 8th, I joined preservationists from around the United States in Washington, D.C. for Historic Preservation Advocacy Day. During the event, I attended board meetings for both the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions and Preservation Action (Vice Chair/Chair-elect). In my role as Chair of the Preservation Action Foundation, I welcomed attendees to a reception in the Cannon House Office Building Caucus Room, which was a lot of fun. The Advocacy Luncheon keynote speaker was Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT), Chair of the National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee. Bishop was frank in his message that there would be little new money this year given the climate on the Hill but expressed a great deal of admiration and support for the existing Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit and the proposal for its expanded application to historic residential properties.

With many states still in economic crisis, federal funding facing enormous cuts, and preservation programs under attack, it has never been more important to make the case that historic preservation not only saves our heritage, but it helps local economies, creates jobs and is the ultimate form of recycling. This year over 250 individuals from 47 states and several territories came to Washington to convey the message that **“Preservation Makes ¢ents!”**

For more information about the event and to read the “one-pagers” prepared for the Congress or the briefing packet given to each attendee please visit <http://www.preservationaction.org/lobbyday.htm>. Please check out the information and consider contacting your members of Congress about the value of preservation in San Antonio.

On the local front, I am pleased to report that our 2011 programs and initiatives are off to a great start. To be successful, many of those important efforts rely on community volunteers. I encourage anyone with an interest in preserving San Antonio’s unique cultural identity to join the Westside Cultural Resource Survey effort and help the City identify significant cultural and historical resources on the Westside. Last month, City Council representatives David Medina and Mary Alice Cisneros helped launch this important initiative at the survey kick-off event. OHP staff member Elizabeth Porterfield did a great job organizing the well-attended event, which brought together a diverse group of organizations and individuals interested in preserving and promoting the cultural identity of San Antonio’s Westside. Contact Elizabeth at 207-3327 to learn how you can help.

Volunteers with building trade experience are still needed to assist UTSA architecture students participating in the S.T.A.R. program over the next two weekends. The OHP will once again partner with the UTSA College of Architecture to revitalize homes in the Dignowity Hill Historic District. Not handy with a hammer? There are many other ways you can help. Contact Trisha Logan at 207-7244.

In next month’s newsletter, we’ll preview the exciting plans for this year’s Preservation Month in May. We are currently seeking sponsors for this year’s events. Contact Anna Glover at 207-7925 for more information on how you can participate.

—Shanon Peterson Wasielewski



District 5 City Councilman David Medina speaks at the Westside Cultural Resource Survey Kick-Off Event

March 2011

Update on Proposed Texas Historical Commission Budget Cuts



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

The [Texas Historical Commission](#) (THC), which oversees statewide historic preservation programs, continues to be threatened with deep budget cuts and perhaps suspension. Lobbying efforts led by groups such as Preservation Texas and the Texas Archaeological Society have increased awareness of this important issue, but a 77% cut in funding for the THC continues to remain part of the budget proposed by the state legislature.

Both groups are asking the legislature to:

- *Please be equitable with cut* —the Historical Commission is taking a 77% cut versus an average of 28% for other Article I, General Government agencies;
- *Allow the Texas Historical Commission as much flexibility as possible* in deciding where to cut within the agency's budget;
- *Restore the “on the ground” programs* that are largely zeroed out in the bill as filed. Texas Courthouse Restorations, the Heritage Trails program, and Main Street all create jobs, boost tourism and generate state and local taxes.

This is a critical moment for historic preservation in Texas. Contact your local legislator today and voice your opinion on this important issue. For more specifics on how you can help, visit the [Preservation Texas](#) website. Find your [representative](#). Find your [senator](#).

Learn more about the proposed budget cuts by following the links below:

[“Texas history is under assault.”](#) *Star-Telegram*

[“Lawmakers spare historical, arts agencies – for now”](#) *Texas Tribune*

[“End of the trail?”](#) *The Facts*

[Arts, historical leaders fear Texas budget cuts](#) – Associated Press

[Texas Historical Commission would see huge cut](#) – *Austin American Statesman*

Lambermont Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Networking Event

The enthusiastic crowd cheered as City Councilwoman Ivy Taylor, Erica Vasquez, owner Dona Liston, and Historic Preservation Officer Shanon Wasielewski cut the ribbon during the opening ceremony at Lambermont, the newly restored event center in the Government Hill Historic District. Visitors enjoyed hors d’oeuvres and wine while touring the newly restored rooms of the former Terrell mansion. The Liston’s worked with local contractor Guy Chipman to painstakingly restore the home’s fine period details including the striking central staircase, cozy inglenook and impressive decorative woodwork. Don’t miss the April episode of HPTV to see video footage from the event and learn more about the restoration of this historic gem.





2011 OHP/CVB NIOSA Medals

The Office of Historic Preservation is partnering with the City's Convention & Visitors Bureau to offer this year's must-have Fiesta medal featuring the historic Tower Life Building. Designed by architects Atlee B. Ayres & Robert M. Ayres in 1927, the Tower Life building is one of San Antonio's best-known historic structures. Only 400 medals will be available for purchase, so make plans to stop by the Visitors Information Center in early April to get your official OHP/CVB medal for \$5. The Center is located on Alamo Plaza across from the Alamo.

Proposed River Improvement Overlay (RIO) Amendments to City Council

The Office of Historic Preservation, at the request of City Council, has spent the past several months assessing the need for amendments to the River Improvement Overlay (RIO) standards adopted in 2002. RIO standards affect commercial properties and multi-unit residential properties of eight or more units. Single-family properties are not affected by the RIO overlay. The purpose of the initiative was to assess the effectiveness of the current RIO regulations and recommend enhancements to ensure protection of the significant public investment that has been made to the San Antonio River. The OHP assembled the RIO Task Force to work with local business leaders, preservationists, public officials, and other interested parties to prepare recommended amendments to the RIO sections of the Unified Development Code (UDC) for City Council. The Task Force endorsed the proposed changes at their final meeting on February 22nd. On March 1st, The City's Zoning Commission recommended approval of the amendments prepared by the Task Force. The Historic and Design Review Commission followed suit on March 2nd. The proposed changes will now be considered by City Council on March 31st. View the proposed amendments here.



For more information, please contact Anna Glover in the Office of Historic Preservation at 207-7925 or anna.glover@sanantonio.gov.

Westside Cultural Resource Survey Now Underway



On February 26th, the Office of Historic Preservation partnered with the Westside Development Corporation (WDC), the San Antonio Conservation Society, the National Trust for Historic Preservation Partners in the Field Program, the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, the Westside Historic Preservation Group, and other members of the Westside Community to launch the **Westside Cultural Resource Survey**. City Council members David Medina and Mary Alice Cisneros joined Historic Preservation Officer Shanon Peterson Wasielewski in welcoming citizens to the event and highlighting the importance of community participation in the effort to identify places of cultural, historical, and architectural significance on the Westside of San Antonio.

Representatives from the San Antonio Public Library Texana/Genealogy Department, the

City's Office of Cultural Affairs, UTSA Archives, and the Old Spanish Trail were on hand distribute information about their programs and answered questions. Members of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center collected photographs and stories about places of cultural importance on the Westside.

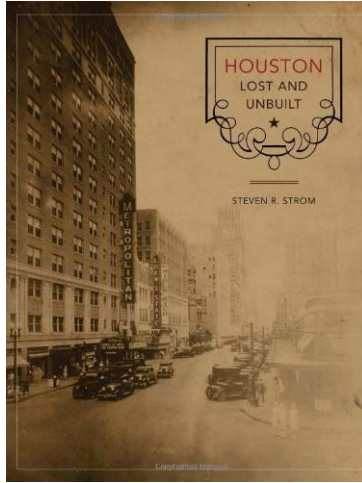


Additional sessions will be held to help identify significant areas and places on the Westside. Stay tuned for details about our follow-up event scheduled on May 7th during Historic Preservation Month. For additional information, please contact [Elizabeth Porterfield](mailto:Elizabeth.Porterfield).

Conservation Society's 2011 Publication Awards - March 25th

The San Antonio Conservation Society's 2011 Publication Awards, held every other year, publicly recognize authors of the best recently published works on Texas history. Winning authors will be honored at a luncheon and award presentation ceremony held on Friday, March 25th, 2011, at the German English School banquet facility at the Marriott Plaza San Antonio Hotel.

2011 San Antonio Conservation Society Publications Award Winners



Beyond the Alamo: Forging Mexican Ethnicity in San Antonio, 1821-1861 by Raúl A. Ramos.

Capturing Nature: The Cement Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez by Patsy Pittman Light.

Colors on Clay: The San Jose Tile Workshops of San Antonio by Susan Toomey Frost.

History Ahead: Stories beyond the Texas Roadside Markers by Cynthia J. Beeman and Dan Utley.

Houston Lost and Unbuilt by Steven R. Strom.

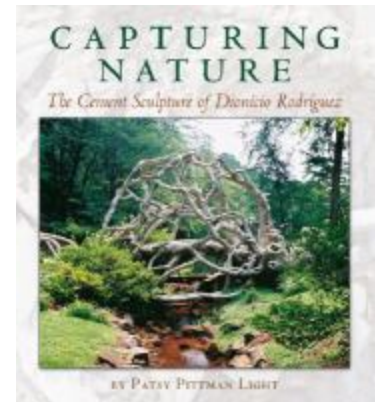
Houston's Silent Garden: Glenwood Cemetery, 1871-2009 by Suzanne Turner and Joanne Wilson.

Plants of Central Texas Wetlands by Scott B. Fleenor and Stephen Welton Taber.

Spanish Water, Anglo Water: Early Development in San Antonio by Charles R. Porter, Jr.

The Master Showmen of King Ranch: The Story of Beto and Librado Maldonado by Betty Bailey Colley and Jane Clements Monday, with Beto Maldonado.

The Paper Republic: The Struggle for Money, Credit and Independence in the Republic of Texas by Jim Bevill.



2011 Annual Historic Preservation Conference - March 31st - April 2nd



The 2011 Annual Historic Preservation Conference will be held in Austin this year. The conference is hosted by the [Texas Historical Commission \(THC\)](#) in association with [Preservation Texas](#). Sessions, workshops and panels on important preservation issues are conducted by experts in architecture, archeology, economic development, heritage tourism and marketing. The conference also offers opportunities to explore local community preservation efforts and sites and network with preservationists from across the state.

When: Thursday, March 31st - Saturday, April 2nd

Where: The Sheraton Austin at the Capitol
701 East 11th St., Austin, TX 78701

For more information click [here](#):

[**2011 Annual Historic Preservation Conference Brochure**](#)

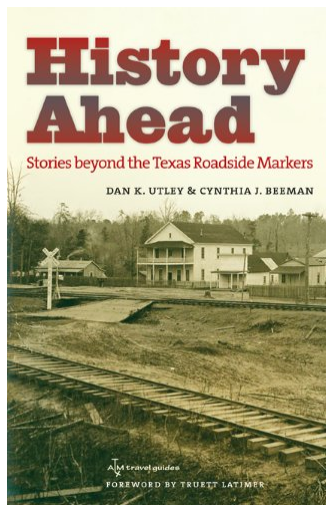
Descendents Celebrate Blas Herrera Day at the Texas State Capitol



On February 22nd, State Representative John V. Garza and the Texas House of Representatives honored Blas Maria Herrera, known as the “Paul Revere” of the Texas Revolution. Descendents of Herrera were on hand to witness the special recognition of Herrera and the important role he played in Texas history. An event sponsored by Los Bexarenos Genealogical Society followed at the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum.

Top: Descendents of Blas Herrera watch as their ancestor Blas Herrera is honored by the state legislator at the Texas State Capitol.

Right: Von Ormy Mayor Art Martinez de Vara, San Antonio City Archaeologist Kay Hinds ((far right), and members of the Herrera family pose in front of the “Gate to the Alamo” at the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum. Hinds and fellow archaeologist Al McGraw discovered this gate in 1984 on property owned by the Herrera family. The gate may have come from the Alamo



Preservation Bookshelf

Welcome to Preservation Bookshelf, a new feature of Preservation Newslink. In this space we will highlight recent and classic books on Texas history, architecture, and historic preservation issues. Our first featured book is *History Ahead: Stories beyond the Texas Roadside Markers*, written by Cynthia J. Beeman and Dan Utley and published by Texas A&M University Press. Utley, former chief historian of the Texas Historical Commission, and Beeman, former director of the Texas Historical Commission’s History Programs Division, teamed up to reveal the little-known and surprising stories behind the text inscribed on 19 Texas roadside historical markers.

Traveling to cotton gins, abandoned airfields, forgotten cemeteries, and former World War II alien detention camps, the authors provide a fresh and engaging look at the stories of the famous (Charles Lindbergh, Will Rogers, The Big Bopper) and the not-so-famous (Elmer “Lumpy” Kleb, Don Pedro Jaramillo, and Carl Morene, the “music man of Schulenburg”) who left their mark on Texas history.

Accessible and entraining, the book features dozens of complementary sidebars, and many never-before-published historical and contemporary photographs along with maps and directions to the marker sites. A great book to have on hand for your next Texas road trip.

Preservation
Texas' *Annual*
**HONOR
AWARDS**
2011



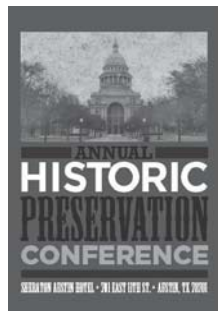
For more than 20 years, Preservation Texas has highlighted successful preservation projects through its Preservation Honor Awards.

Please join us for a reception
Thursday, March 31, 2011
5:30 - 7:30 pm in Austin

PT is celebrating the best and brightest in historic preservation as we honor the 2011 Preservation Honor Awardees.

At the event, attendees are able to network with the top preservationists as well as with board members of local historical groups, county commissioners and preservation industry professionals.

The cost to attend is \$25.
RSVP: 512.472.0102 or [e-mail](mailto:info@preservationtexas.org)



The honor awards reception is the opening event of the *Texas Historical Commission's Annual Historic Preservation Conference*.

Sheraton Austin, 701 East 11th St., Austin



Thank you to our 2011 Sponsors and Host Committee!

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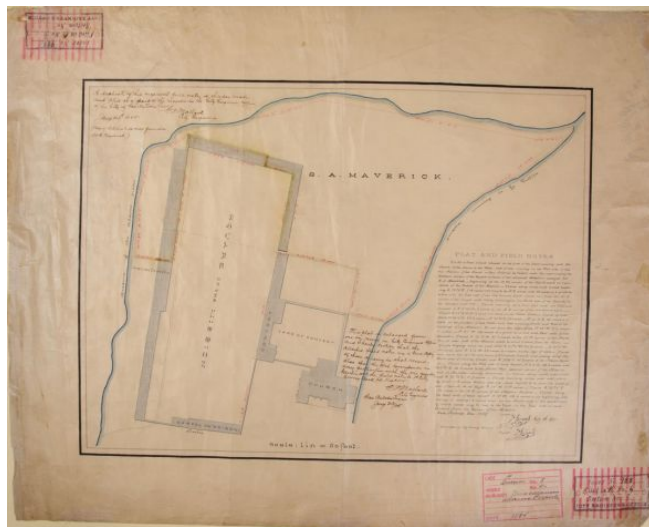
Preservation Texas is the advocate for preserving the historic resources of Texas.

Preservation Texas, Inc., www.preservationtexas.org P: 512.472.0102 F: 512.472.0740 info@preservationtexas.org



Join Us for the Spring 2011 S.T.A.R. Project!

The next S.T.A.R. (Students Together Achieving Revitalization) service project will take place March 26th & 27th and April 2nd & 3rd. **The OHP is seeking sponsors and volunteer contractors and building professionals interested in lending their support to this important program.** Donations of building materials and supplies are especially needed, as well as professionals with expertise in home repair who are willing to assist the students during the event. To learn more about the many ways you can help support this program, contact Trisha Logan at 207-7244 or trisha.logan@sanantonio.gov.



Long-Lost Nineteenth-Century City Surveyor Book Found

City Surveyor Book One, missing for over 20 years, was rediscovered by Assistant City Clerk Tina Flores in February. The book contains priceless historical documents from 1847-1882 that could shed light on San Antonio's early development. Historians, urban planners and preservationists will be able to use the documents to gain a clearer picture of how San Antonio evolved after Texas became part of the United States in 1846. The highlight of the find is a 1849 plat map with field notes drawn by Francois Giraud, San Antonio's first city surveyor. The map describes the Alamo buildings and its surroundings in great detail.

City Clerk Leticia Vacek hopes to have the book digitized and posted on the City's website by March 31. Read more about the find:

["Early Alamo map found"](#) - *San Antonio Express-News*

The Office of the City Clerk Archives Program offers access to an array of historical documents through its website as well as online exhibits on the history of San Antonio's bridges, Fiesta, and the Spanish Governors Palace. Click [here](#) to visit this great resource available to the public free of charge.

Tour Villa Finale during San Antonio's French Cultures Festival

Ville Finale is hosting a number of French-themed events in conjunction with the San Antonio French Cultures Festival in March. Enjoy a special tour of the collections conducted by Curator, Meg Nowack followed by dinner at La Frite Belgian Bistro. This event is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Walter Mathis and his extensive collections of Napoleon memorabilia, furniture, and decorative arts.

A Francophile's Delight!

Thursday, March 24th 5:00pm - 8:00pm

A tour highlighting Mathis's extensive furniture and decorative arts collections followed by a prix fixe dinner at La Frite Belgian Bistro. Admission includes tour and dinner (beverages not included).

\$45 for members of Villa Finale or the National Trust for Historic Preservation. \$55 for non-members.

Call (210) 223-9800 x34328 for reservations or further details.



HemisFair on HPTV

HPTV, the OHP half hour cable show, is now airing on the City's **TVSA Channel 21**. Our **March** show takes an in-depth look at HemisFair Park, its history and its future. Shanon talks with historian Dr. Jennifer Speed and UTSA architecture graduate student Jordan Morgan about the development of HemisFair in the mid 1960s and the site's unique mix of historic and mid-century modern buildings. In the second half of the show, Bill Shown, vice chairman of the HemisFair Park Area Redevelopment Corporation (HPARC) board, joins Shanon to discuss the efforts currently underway to revitalize HemisFair Park.

See the show on:

Tuesdays @ 9:00am

Wednesdays @ 1:00pm

Fridays @ 7:00pm

View past episodes of HPTV [online](#) (sorry, PC only)

We're on the web:



facebook

The Office of Historic Preservation is on Facebook! Click the Facebook icon to add us as your friend. Facebook is a great resource for promoting preservation events and networking with other people in the community interested in preservation topics. If you are unable to open the link, simply login to www.facebook.com and search for "City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation."



mySAblogs

Check out the historic preservation blog on the San Antonio Express-News website at

<http://voices.mysanantonio.com/swasielewski/>

The Economic Impact of Historic Preservation

Under an interagency agreement between the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP) and the Economic Development Administration (EDA) the ACHP has been working with Donovan Rypkema of PlaceEconomics to prepare a report on the economic impact of Historic Preservation. The report is scheduled to be released in May. In the meantime, PlaceEconomics have put together a compilation of facts and figures from various studies they have reviewed. This material will eventually be gathered in a popular report that will accompany the analytical study prepared for the ACHP. Here are a few highlights from the summary of findings assembled by PlaceEconomics, Donovan Rypkema, Principal, and Caroline Cheong, Director of Research. www.PlaceEconomics.com.

Heritage Tourism

- Heritage tourism in the Philadelphia 5-county area contributes over \$3 billion in total output, supporting over 45,000 jobs and \$975 million in earnings, within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania each year¹
- In Arkansas, while heritage visitors are only 16% of all tourists, they spend on average 30% more than other tourists and are more likely to be from out of state²
- In Arkansas, heritage tourism generates \$891 million per year, provides 21,552 jobs, adds \$391 million in income to Arkansas households and generates \$74 million in tax revenues³
- Heritage tourists to Florida in 2007 spent an estimated \$4.13 billion, and 46.7% of all U.S. visitors to Florida reported visiting an historical site during their stay⁴
- Heritage tourism in Georgia totals \$6,147,282,000, \$5,633,180,000 from domestic tourists and \$514,102,000 from international tourists.⁵
- Georgia heritage tourism supports 117,000 jobs and \$203,850,000 in salary and wages.⁶
- Georgia heritage tourism generates \$252,496,000 in state taxes and another \$209,993,000 in local taxes.⁷
- Among international visitors to the United States arriving by air, cultural tourists (a large majority of whom are heritage visitors) spend 8.5 more nights in hotels, than do other types of tourists. Nearly half of international cultural tourists visit two or more states, as compared with less than 20% of other tourists.⁸
- The international cultural tourist spends over \$300 more while in the US than other tourists.⁹
- 470,000 more international cultural tourists visit historic sites than visit amusement parks and 785,000 more cultural tourists visit historic sites than visit the beach.¹⁰
- Three times as many international cultural tourists visit historic sites than visit a casino and four times as many visit historic sites than play golf



¹ The Economic Impact of Historic Preservation in Philadelphia (2010)

² Economic Impacts of Historic Preservation in Arkansas (2006)

³ Ibid

⁴ Contributions of Historic Preservation to the Quality of Life of Floridians (2010)

⁵ Good News in Tough Times: Historic Preservation and the Georgia Economy (2011)

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

⁸ US Department of Commerce

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Ibid

Federal Historic Preservation Issues

Provided by Erik Hein, President, Preservation Action

Note from OHP: The mission of Preservation Action is to make historic preservation a national priority by advocating to all branches of the federal government for sound preservation policy and programs through a grassroots constituency empowered with information and training and through direct contact with elected representatives. What happens in Washington directly impacts the work we do at the local level: grant funding to Certified Local Governments, Preserve America and Save Americas Treasures programs, federal rehabilitation tax credit policy, etc. This feature is intended to provide information to those who are interested about the status of current national legislative priorities within the preservation movement.

For more information about Preservation Action or current issues on the national legislative agenda or for information about becoming a member, visit www.preservationaction.org or contact Shanon Peterson Wasielewski at shanon.wasielewski@sanantonio.gov.

FY 2011: Two-Week CR Passes; FY 2012 Process Begins

Avoiding a government shutdown, earlier this week Congress passed a two-week Continuing Resolution extending federal funding until March 18th. Addressing many lawmakers' calls for spending cuts, the CR eliminates \$4 billion in funding. Historic preservation programs were spared the "axe." Unfortunately lawmakers must still decide what to do about spending for the balance of FY 2011 and there is still widespread disagreement between legislators who want to see substantial cuts (such as the \$61 billion proposed in House-passed [H.R. 1](#)), and those who want few or no additional cuts for the balance of the year - instead focusing on FY 2012.

As we have been reporting, the House CR (which the Senate immediately rejected), would have eliminated funding for the Save America's Treasures (SAT) and Preserve America programs but spared funding for National Heritage Areas. It would also have made [sweeping cuts](#) to the Community Development Block Grant program, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. It would also have made cuts to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

At the same time lawmakers are trying to find a compromise to wrap-up FY 2011, hearings began this week on the President's proposed FY 2012 budget - which recommends increasing funding for State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and eliminating funding for SAT and Preserve America and cutting funding for Heritage Areas in half. Yesterday, the House Committee on Natural Resources conducted a hearing on the President's proposed budget with Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. In his [testimony](#), Salazar mentioned the proposed cuts:

Examples of the tough decisions made in 2012 include terminating the \$7.0 million Rural Fire Assistance program which is duplicative of other fire assistance grant programs managed by the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Agriculture. The National Park Service's Save America's Treasures and Preserve America programs are eliminated in 2012 to focus NPS resources on the highest priority park requirements. The NPS Heritage Partnership Programs are reduced by half to encourage self-sufficiency among well-established National Heritage Areas while continuing support for newer areas.

A central theme to his testimony was the [America's Great Outdoors](#) initiative which he said "...can support a renewed and refreshed conservation vision by working in collaboration with [those] ... who are working to protect the places that matter to them and by engaging people across the country in conservation and recreation." The centerpiece of the AGO initiative is a call for full-funding (\$900 million) for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Preservation Action opposes the proposed cuts in the President's Budget as submitted, but supports the modest increases to State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. At Lobby Day, Preservation Action and its partners advocated for: **\$50 million for State Historic Preservation Officers; \$11 million for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers; and \$9 million for Save America's Treasures and Preserve America.** Recognizing the current budget climate, collectively this \$70 million budget request is actually ten percent less than total program funding for FY 2008.

For a complete update on the status of preservation-related legislation currently before congress, visit <http://www.preservationaction.org/states/archive.htm>