

We have just received the President's budget recommendations for FY2007.

We're going to have to work even harder this year to maintain our ground and play defense on basic preservation program funding.

\$71,858,000 is recommended for the Historic Preservation Fund. Of that, \$7,299,000 is designated for National Heritage Areas grants, \$14,800,000 for Save America's Treasures and \$10,000,000 for Preserve America. The recommendation for State Historic Preservation Offices and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices is less than \$40,000,000. This represents a decrease from last year's level for basic administration of federal preservation policy, a cut in half for Save America's Treasures, and a doubling of last year's level for Preserve America. The change of budgetary venue for National Heritage Areas -- previously located in the National Park Service's budget -- appears to be explained in the President's budget as a combining of related and complementary grant programs.

Historic preservation programs within the National Park Service, including the maintenance of the National Register of Historic Places, see a proposed cut from \$61 million to \$34 million in the President's budget. This will have a devastating impact on the federal government's stewardship of our historic resources -- we will investigate the specific impacts and report back soon. The short answer is: this isn't good.

Within the budget for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the President proposes a cut to the Community Development Block Grant from the \$3,748,400,000 allocated last year to \$2,974,580,000. The Brownfields Economic Development Initiative is zeroed out, as it was last year in the President's budget.

We will be providing you with a more detailed breakdown later in the week.

Heather MacIntosh
President
Preservation Action