

STATEMENT OF CONCERN SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES

The administration's FY 2012 budget proposes terminating the Save America's Treasures program, which was also proposed in its FY 2011 budget proposal.

Since 1999, Save America's Treasures has allocated more than \$300 million and has worked to restore almost 1,300 structures and collections in every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Because funding recipients are required to supply a one-to-one funding match, the program has generated almost \$400 million from other sources, making it a model federal program that successfully leverages private dollars from corporations, foundations, and individuals. At a time when supporting sustainable communities and creating jobs are top priorities for Congress and the administration, it is shortsighted to overlook the power and potential of historic preservation programs. These projects—many of which are administered via the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum & Library Services—are catalysts for other economic activity in communities, including cultural and heritage tourism, which is documented as a \$194 billion industry annually. We call on Congress to provide funding (\$25 million for Save America's Treasures, \$4.6 million for Preserve America, and \$17 million for National Heritage Areas) for these critical programs at the same level as their FY 2010 funding.

Examples from 2010 grants include:

California: Heye Foundation Collection, National Museum of the American Indian—\$29,905

This collection is the preeminent repository for primary source documentation of indigenous history, lifeways, and traditions. This Save America's Treasures grant will address the threats to 19th- and early 20th-century manuscripts, expedition fieldnotes, correspondence, and films.

New York: Dance Theater of Harlem Archives—\$58,853

Voted one of 100 of "America's Irreplaceable Dance Treasures," the Dance Theater of Harlem and its founder, Arthur Mitchell, have received more than 300 official citations for excellence including the National Medal of Arts and a Kennedy Center Honors Award. This Save America's Treasures grant will be used by the Dance Heritage Coalition to re-house threatened paper, photographs/negatives, original sound-score reels, and moving images.

Illinois: Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, Chicago—\$80,000

Home of Jane Addams Hull, a Nobel Peace Prize-winner, whose work with women and children and inner city neighborhoods redefined American democracy. The grant funds will be used to replace and repair roofs on several buildings.

Maine: Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle—\$125,000

The Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, designed by Edward Larrabee Barnes, influenced generations of American architects. Built from local materials with little impact on the natural landscape, the school features walkways and structures that float above the ground on concrete piers. Grant funds will be used to replace the rotted carrying timbers, supporting posts and piers, as well as repair roofs and windows.