

HISTORIC PRESERVATION 2025

NATIONAL POLICY PERSPECTIVE



About Me

About NCSHPO

What SHPOs do

What's Going On

What You Can Do



ERIK HEIN

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30 YEARS IN PRESERVATION

16 YEARS LEADERSHIP IN NATIONAL PRESERVATION
POLICY

BOARD MEMBER – PRESERVATION ACTION, NATIONAL
PRESERVATION PARTNERS NETWORK, NATIONAL
PRESERVATION INSTITUTE, PRESERVATION DELAWARE,
LEWES HISTORICAL SOCIETY, COMMITTEE OF 100 ON
THE FEDERAL CITY

NATIONAL/STATE/LOCAL NONPROFITS, CITY HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE, PRESERVATION CONSULTANT



NCSHPO

National Conference of
State Historic Preservation Officers

FOUNDED IN 1969, INCORPORATED IN 1976, THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS IS A NON-PROFIT 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION THAT REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS IN 59 STATES, U.S. TERRITORIES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.





WHAT IS A SHPO?

- Chapter 3023 of the National Historic Preservation Act —State Historic Preservation Programs
- § 302301. Regulations
- The Secretary, in consultation with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and the National Trust, shall promulgate regulations for State Historic Preservation Programs. The regulations shall provide that a State program submitted to the Secretary under this chapter shall be approved by the Secretary if the Secretary determines that the program provides or—
 - the designation and appointment by the chief elected official of the State of a State Historic Preservation Officer to administer the program in accordance with section 302303 of this title and for the employment or appointment by the officer of such professionally qualified staff as may be necessary for those purposes;
 - an adequate and qualified State historic preservation review board designated by the State Historic Preservation Officer unless otherwise provided for by State law; and
 - adequate public participation in the State Historic Preservation Program, including the process of recommending properties for nomination to the National Register.

WHAT SHPOS DO

- Maintain inventories and conduct surveys of historic properties
- Coordinate listings on National Register of Historic Places
- Consult with federal agency on effects to historic properties (Section 106)
- Manage grant programs
- Maintain State Historic Preservation Plans
- Manage Certified Local Government programs
- Review Historic Tax Credit projects
- Manage state preservation Programs
- Balance political, governmental, business, economic, public and tribal interests





WHO ARE SHPOS?

- Appointed by Governors; Most from preservation, but not always
- Some political; Most professional
- Many ran by a Deputy SHPO
- Staff size ranges from 7 to 200
- Can be independent agency, a division of DNR, Economic Development, etc.
- Budgets/Resources Vary Greatly
- Some manage state properties/other responsibilities
- Varying degrees of autonomy

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

- Provides funding for SHPOs and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
- Used to fund other grant programs (Underrepresented Community, Paul Bruhn, Save America's Treasures, etc.)
- Source: Lease Revenue from Outer Continental Shelf
- \$150 million/year Deposited
- Subject to Congressional Appropriation – which can be more or less
- FY 2025: \$188.7 million; \$62 million for SHPOs
- SHPO funding awarded by formula, matched 40% minimum



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Attempted Impoundment

President's Executive Order 14156: National Energy Emergency

Federal Employee Firings/Reductions in Force

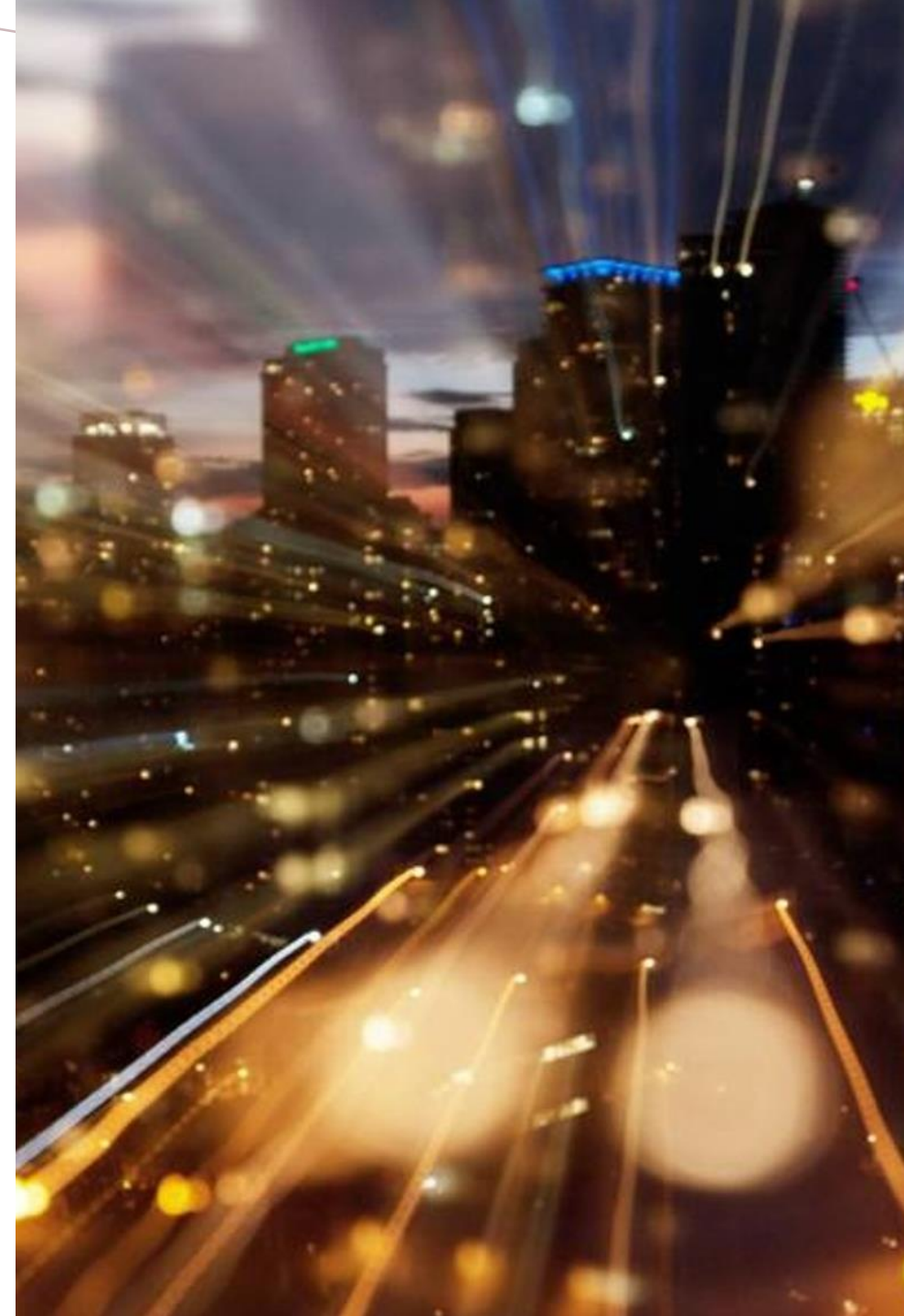
NEPA Regulations Revoked

Section 106 Hearing

Grant Conditions and/or Cancellations

Board/Commission Changes

White House East Wing Demolition





ATTEMPTED IMPOUNDMENT

- OMB Director Vought believes President has broader authority to block spending
- Congress appropriated \$62 million for SHPOs
- OMB Refused to release funding
- White House proposed eliminating all HPF funding for 2026
- States starting running out of funds; staff layoffs
- National advocacy campaign
- July 2026, OMB relented - states could finally apply
- August 2026, states started receiving funds one month before end of federal fiscal year



⌵ PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

DECLARING A NATIONAL ENERGY EMERGENCY

The White House

January 20, 2025

Declares an emergency need for energy production

Covers identification, leasing, development, production, transportation, refining, and generation capacity

Triggers underlying laws and provisions that provide shortcuts for “emergencies,” including Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s Emergency Procedures

- 7-day comment period for SHPOs and THPOs
- No “consultation” required; No minimum submittal standard
- Agencies given broad discretion to invoke/apply
- Used 554 times

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE FIRINGS/RIF'S

Agency	Percentage	Previous	Current
ACHP	Percentage (%)	40	15
GSA	Percentage (%)	40	8
National Park Service	25%	16000	12000
NPS Cultural Resource Directorate	30% (approx.)	250	175
More to come	More to come	More to come	More to come



NEPA REGULATIONS RESCINDED

- *Marin Audubon Soc'y v. Fed. Aviation Admin.*, No. 23-1067, 2024 WL 4745044, at *5 (D.C. Cir. Nov. 12, 2024) – Council on Environmental Quality, after 50 years of doing so, has no authority to issue regulations
- CEQ rescinded regulations
- Each Federal Agency must develop their own procedures for NEPA compliance
- Timelines and public participation reduced
- NEPA is frequently coordinated with Section 106
- Inconsistency puts pressure on 106

SENATE COMMITTEE HEARING: SECTION 106

- *Senators complained about project delays due to 106 – specifically, energy projects*
- “Streamline 106”
- Provide clarity on “linear resources,” Area of Potential Effect, and what aspects need consideration
- Greater Agency Coordination
- More SHPO/THPO Resources
- Traditional Cultural Properties are abstract
- Preservation can’t “block our future.”





GRANT CANCELLATIONS AND CONDITIONS

Federal Grants are being subjected to political review to assure alignment with Administration's priorities

- Grants involving "DEI" or "Climate Change" have been frequently frozen or cancelled
 - Example, Womens' History project funded via Mellon Foundation was terminated
- SHPO grant agreements include terms requiring adherence to all Executive and Secretarial Orders
 - Orders cover DEI
 - Immigration Enforcement

BOARD/COMMISSION CHANGES

- ACHP Chairman, 9 additional members “fired”
 - Responsible for advising President and Congress on matters of historic preservation and for overseeing Section 106 process
- CFA – Entire Commission fired 10/28
 - Responsible for giving expert advice to the President, the Congress and the federal and District of Columbia governments on matters of design and aesthetics, as they affect the federal interest and preserve the dignity of the nation’s capital.
- NCPC – Chairman fired, replaced by White House Chief of Staff; Three members replaced
 - Coordinates the planning efforts of federal agencies that construct and renovate facilities within the National Capital Region; represents the federal government on a number of local and regional planning boards; and encourages public participation in all aspects of the agency's work





WHAT YOU CAN DO



Sen. Chris A. Coons

Appropriations

Support HPF Funding
for SHPOs



Sen. Lisa Blunt-
Rochester

Environment/Public
Works

Protect Section 106



Rep. Sara McBride

Join the Historic
Preservation Caucus



Gov. Matthew Meyer

Support Funding/Staff
for SHPO



DE General Assembly

Appropriators

Support Funding for
SHPO, Historic
Preservation; Require
agency training in 106

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Advocacy is not a dirty word
- Advocacy is like dating – give and take
- Partner with others
- Be persistent and consistent
- Stay specific and focused
- Learn more!!!
 - Preservation Action
 - NCSHPO
 - National Trust for Historic Preservation
 - National Preservation Partners Network
 - American Cultural Resources Association
 - National Alliance of Preservation Commissions



National Trust *for*
Historic Preservation®





QUESTIONS?



NCSHPO

National Conference
of State Historic
Preservation Officers

THANK YOU

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