

## ISSUE BRIEF

# Support a Long-Term and Increased Authorization for the Historic Preservation Fund

### ACRA Position

Congress should approve *H.R. 3418, the Historic Preservation Fund Reauthorization Act*, to help states, communities and tribes continue protecting the places that tell our nation's story.

### Background

Since its establishment in the 1970s, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) has supported the rescue and rehabilitation of historic sites, revitalized communities, and created opportunities for economic growth.

The Fund helps the National Park Service administer heritage programs such as the National Register of Historic Places and the Historic Tax Credit Program. It also partially supports State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (S/THPOs), which are tasked with the inventory of America's historic resources and facilitating Section 106 reviews of federally supported projects.

Over the last four decades, the HPF has made possible the survey of millions of acres and identification of numerous cultural resources, resulting in over 98,000 listings on the National Register of Historic Places, provided millions of dollars for the rehabilitation of historic buildings, and leveraged more than \$199 billion in private investment through the Historic Tax Credit. Not a single dollar of HPF funding comes from federal taxpayers; funding for the HPF comes from offshore oil leases.

Demand for HPF funds is constantly on the rise as SHPO responsibilities have increased, new THPO offices are established, and competitive grant programs are created and expanded. Yet the Fund's annual authorization of \$150 million has remained the same since the 1970s. If the Fund had kept up with inflation, it would be funded at *more than \$800 million* today.

With passage of the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure law and plans to increase energy production putting more projects in the pipeline, a lack of adequate funding for the HPF makes it difficult for preservation offices to support management of our cultural resources, heritage preservation, and community development.

*H.R. 3418, the Historic Preservation Fund Reauthorization Act*, is bipartisan legislation that reauthorizes the HPF for 10 years and increases its annual authorization to \$250 million. This will provide long-term stability for the Fund, and help ensure that SHPOs and THPOs have adequate resources.

### About the American Cultural Resources Association

ACRA is the national trade association supporting and promoting the common interests of cultural resource management (CRM) firms of all sizes, types and specialties. Member firms undertake much of the legally mandated CRM studies and investigations in the United States.

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