



*Preserving America's Heritage*

## **Working Together to Build a More Inclusive Preservation Program Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage**

The changing demographics of America pose opportunities and challenges for the national historic preservation program. The diversity of cultures in our country shape and enrich the American experience, and the federal government should continue to encourage wider involvement and representation in determining what historic sites are worthy of recognition and preservation; how history and cultural heritage should be interpreted and preserved; and how we can ensure the American public as a whole can take advantage of the programs and tools created under the National Historic Preservation Act.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is working toward the goal of building a more inclusive national historic preservation program. The ACHP is an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources, and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. In 2015, the ACHP hosted two listening sessions with representatives of organizations and individuals of Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) ancestry.

The first listening session took place in Boston and the second at Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco Bay, the "Ellis Island of the West."

These discussions centered on how the national historic preservation program can better address the needs of AAPI

communities to preserve and enhance AAPI historic places, history, and culture at the local, state, and national levels. Recommendations are now being drafted from these sessions for ACHP members to consider and act upon, and these recommendations will be posted on the ACHP Web site when complete.



*ACHP listening session at Angel Island Immigration Station*

ACHP members are aware of the need to make historic preservation relevant for future generations of Americans in our constantly changing, dynamic society. The ACHP and its partners in the national historic preservation movement have recommended measures to address this, with expansion of recognition of historic places in the national inventory key among them. As we approach the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act in 2016 this is all the more important to ensure a vibrant future for the preservation program that is relevant to all Americans.

Two recent winners of the ACHP Chairman's Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation feature AAPI resources. The award is designed to highlight efforts that the ACHP believes are worthy of

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emulation as models by other organizations. In November 2013, the award was presented to the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian American Experience for their joint Asian Pacific American Heritage program. In March 2015, the award went to San Francisco Heritage and the National Park Service for an after-school program to acquaint youth with Filipino heritage.



*Preserve America Community Honolulu, Hawaii, Chinatown Special Historic District dragon dancers*

Colorado. Preserve America Grants have supported several heritage tourism projects in AAPI communities as well.

The ACHP has featured preservation of a historic site in Hawaii in one of its published “Section 106 Success Stories.” Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider the impacts of their projects on historic properties and to try to avoid adverse impacts. When the Navy closed Naval Air Station Barbers Point, consultation under Section 106 led to protective covenants being placed on affected Native Hawaiian archaeological and cultural sites, and creation of the Kalaeloa Heritage Park.

For more information on the ACHP’s AAPI initiative and the broader effort to build a more inclusive preservation program please visit:

**ACHP:** Working Together to Build a More Inclusive Preservation Program

<http://www.achp.gov/inclusiveness.html>

**AAPI page:** <http://www.achp.gov/AAPIHeritage.html>

**Preserve America:** [www.preserveamerica.gov](http://www.preserveamerica.gov)

**Section 106 Success Stories:** [www.achp.gov/sec106\\_successes.html](http://www.achp.gov/sec106_successes.html)

The ACHP’s Preserve America program provides federal recognition for communities and volunteer organizations which preserve, protect, and celebrate their heritage. Preserve America Communities interpreting AAPI heritage include neighborhoods in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Honolulu; several counties in Colorado and Hawaii; cities in Oregon and California; and the territory of American Samoa.

Preserve America Stewards include the Friends of the ‘Iolani Palace in Hawaii and the Amache Preservation Society in