



## Preserve America Communities, Grant Projects and Stewards Celebrating Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage

The Preserve America program recognizes and designates communities, including municipalities, counties, neighborhoods in large cities, and tribal communities, that protect and celebrate their heritage. Since the program began in 2003, nearly 900 communities have been designated as Preserve America Communities. Participants come from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. To read more about Preserve America communities, including capsule histories, heritage highlights, and additional Web links, visit <http://www.preserveamerica.gov/PACommunities.html>.

Preserve America communities interpreting Asian American/Pacific Islander heritage include the following:

### **Alaska**

Ketchikan

### **American Samoa**

### **California**

Chinatown (Los Angeles)

Fresno

Historic Filipinotown (Los Angeles)

Japantown (San Francisco)

Koreatown (Los Angeles)

Little Tokyo (Los Angeles)

San Francisco

Thai Town (Los Angeles)

Weaverville

### **Colorado**

Prowers County

### **District of Columbia**

### **Hawaii**

Chinatown Special Historic District (Honolulu)

Kaua'i County

Maui County

### **Massachusetts**

Lowell

### **Oregon**

Jacksonville

### **Washington**

King County



*Japantown (Nihonmachi) in San Francisco, California, the oldest and largest Japanese community in the country.*

The **Preserve America grant program** provided funding to designated Preserve America Communities, State Historic Preservation Offices, and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices to support preservation efforts through heritage tourism, education, and historic preservation planning. Administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, funded activities include interpretation and education, planning, promotion, training, and research and documentation of cultural and historic resources. Successful projects involve public-private partnerships and serve as models to communities nationwide for heritage tourism, historic preservation planning, history education, and economic development. For more information visit <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/preserveamerica/index.htm>.

Some related Preserve America grant projects:

### **Asian Pacific Islander Neighborhoods Cultural Heritage and Hospitality Education and Training**

*City of Los Angeles' Preserve America Neighborhoods: Chinatown, Little Tokyo, and Thai Town*

This project aims to build cultural identity and understanding within various Asian-Pacific Islander neighborhoods in Los Angeles and to reach out to the greater community through the provision of training materials and programs in historic preservation, cultural tourism, and hospitality services. The project includes a critical assessment of historic and cultural resources, development of hospitality training materials, training materials for communities to become self-sustaining heritage centers, and provides historic preservation professional development opportunities for community residents.

### **Weaverville Marketing and Wayfinding Project**

*Weaverville, California*

This heritage marketing project works to promote local heritage festivals, advertise local museum exhibits, and develop and implement wayfinding and identity-building elements specified in the Weaverville Revitalization Plan.

### **Regional Wayfinding and Interpretation for Southeast Colorado**

*Otero County, CO*

This project will link and promote a variety of historic assets found in the southeast region of Colorado. Materials to be developed will include a guidebook to heritage sites, maps, a regional heritage Web site, all of which will increase awareness of the assets ranging from a Japanese Internment Camp, the Santa Fe Trail, local museums, and state and national historic sites.

### **Developing the Visitor Infrastructure for Chinatown**

*Honolulu, Hawaii*

The City and County of Honolulu will develop a visitor infrastructure to showcase the historic nature of Honolulu's Chinatown through various exhibits, tours, and promotion of the area's businesses.

**Preserve America Stewards** is a designation program recognizing programs that have demonstrated a successful use of volunteer time and commitment in order to help care for our historic heritage. One related steward organization is the Friends of 'Iolani Palace in Hawaii. For more information, please visit <http://www.preserveamerica.gov/stewards.html>.