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Preserving America's Heritage

***Discover SF! Summer Youth Program* Receives Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Award**

SAN FRANCISCO—The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) presented its Chairman's Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation today to the *Discover SF! Summer Youth Program* which connects students to the historic and cultural treasures of the San Francisco area.

“The most important single factor in the future of historic preservation is involving more Americans, especially young ones, in direct personal experience of historic places so they understand the significance of their individual and collective heritages in the great story of the nation,” said Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, ACHP chairman and former California State Historic Preservation Officer. “This program is a worthy model for similar efforts across the nation.”

The Discover SF! Summer Youth Program was initiated three years ago by San Francisco Heritage and joined by the National Park Service's Pacific West Region in its second year. Other instrumental local partners are the Galing Bata After-School Program and the Filipino American Development Foundation. The program introduces middle school students to the rich history, landscapes, and architecture of San Francisco and exposes them to the field of heritage conservation through interactive field trips, learning activities, and presentations from preservation professionals. In 2013 and 2014, a group of approximately 25 students participated each summer. The program involves five days during a month in the summer that enable the energetic young explorers to traverse the city and learn about its rich, layered history. Exposing students to sites significant to local Filipino/Filipino American history is a critical part of the program to date.

A video explaining the effort is available at <http://vimeo.com/110309053>.

The award was made during a reception this evening at the Chinese Historical Society Museum. The ACHP is in San Francisco for its winter business meeting. During the three days of sessions culminating in the business meeting at the Presidio of San Francisco on March 19, the ACHP also hosted a session at Angel Island State Park to discuss ways to better identify and interpret places important to the nation's Asian American-Pacific Islander American history and bring them into the national historic preservation movement's consciousness.

Donaldson and ACHP Expert Member Robert Stanton, former Director of the National Park Service, presented the award on behalf of the ACHP. Receiving the award on behalf of their organizations were the following:

- San Francisco Heritage: Board President Chandler McCoy and Executive Director Mike Buhler
- National Park Service, Pacific West Region: Regional Director Christine Lehnertz, National Historic Landmarks Program Manager Elaine Jackson-Retondo

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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The ACHP also presented partnership commendations to two organizations that were key to making the program a success. Those commendations were accepted on behalf of their organizations by:

- Filipino American Development Foundation Executive Director Bernadette Sy
- Galing Bata After-School Program Coordinator Charm Consolacion

About the ACHP: 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. For more information visit www.achp.gov

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