

## THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION'S STATEWIDE & LOCAL PARTNERS PROGRAM



### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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Created in 1993, the National Trust's Statewide & Local Partners program helps emerging and established state and local nonprofit preservation organizations become more effective. The program provides organizational development assistance, grant support, specialized workshops and training, information resources, and networking opportunities. Working through the Programs Department—in

close relationship with the Center for Preservation Leadership, National Trust Regional Offices, and other National Trust departments—the Partners program has facilitated the growth of professionally staffed nonprofit statewide preservation organizations from 17 in 1993 to 45 in 2007. Currently, 38 statewide and 58 local organizations meet the criteria to be a Statewide or Local Partner.

### PARTNER CRITERIA

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Organizations that demonstrate a high capacity to implement their preservation mission within their states and regions are invited to participate in the National Trust's Statewide & Local Partners program. Partners are considered to be the most effective and stable organizations in the preservation movement, representing the cutting edge of the preservation delivery system.

The eligibility criteria for becoming a Partner of the National Trust were established by a Partner task force. To be considered, an organization must:

- ▶ Be a §501(c)(3) organization;
- ▶ Have historic preservation as its primary mission;
- ▶ Be engaged in building a statewide (or local) constituency for preservation;
- ▶ Be committed to strengthening local preservation organizations (for statewides);
- ▶ Have at least one full-time professional staff person (including a full-time executive director);
- ▶ Have staff and/or board representation at a minimum of one Statewide & Local Partners meeting annually;
- ▶ For local organizations, be a member of the statewide preservation organization (the designated Statewide Partner, if there is one);
- ▶ Be a National Trust Forum member;
- ▶ Pay the annual Partners dues, which includes Forum membership.

## PARTNER BENEFITS

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Benefits of being a National Trust Partner include:

### Partner Meetings & Communication

- ▶ Two meetings of Statewide and Local Partners annually—in the fall and in the spring
- ▶ Annual Big Cities meeting
- ▶ Access to “Partners Only” web resources
- ▶ Access to Partners-L listserv
- ▶ Monthly Partners Update

### Educational Opportunities

- ▶ Executive Director Orientation
- ▶ Better Boards and other selected training workshops
- ▶ Priority for Preservation Leadership Training
- ▶ Access to on-site technical assistance and consultation from National Trust staff
- ▶ Grants that support peer mentoring
- ▶ Shared resources and model practices
- ▶ Executive Program for Nonprofit Leadership—Arts scholarship and priority for National Arts Strategies workshops

### Access to National Trust Programs & Resources

- ▶ Eligibility for Partners in the Field Challenge Grants for Field Services
- ▶ Eligibility for other initiatives, such as the Statewide Advocacy Pilot Program and the Rural Heritage Development Initiative
- ▶ Special discounts and promotions for Preservation Books
- ▶ Eligibility for the National Trust Community Investment Corporation referral fee
- ▶ Eligibility for Gifts of Heritage referral fees
- ▶ Special National Trust Tour partnerships
- ▶ Information on new programs and resources through the Partners Update
- ▶ Advance information on Preservation Funds and other grants
- ▶ More opportunities for communication with National Trust senior management
- ▶ Participation and influence in National Trust governance through the Partners seat on the National Trust Board of Trustees and other National Trust committees and task forces

In addition to the benefits listed above, much of the value of being a Statewide or Local Partner is intangible. On a Partner Benefits Survey conducted in early 2006, respondents cited “networking with Partner colleagues” and “credibility through association with a national organization” as two of the most valuable benefits of being a National Trust Partner.

## THE PARTNERS OFFICE

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Providing resources and assistance to National Trust Statewide and Local Partners is a team endeavor, with all departments of the Trust committed to supporting the Partners network. In particular, National Trust Regional Offices are the first, on-the-ground resource for technical assistance and capacity building.

At headquarters in Washington, D.C., the Statewide and Local Partnerships office is located in the Programs Department. There are now three full-time staff members. Primary responsibilities of the Partners office staff are to:

- ▶ Convene national Partners meetings, workshops, and other gatherings of the Statewide and Local Partner network;
- ▶ Provide information resources on organizational and programmatic development to Partner organizations;
- ▶ Compile and document model Partner practices and success stories, shared on the Partners web site;
- ▶ Promote the accomplishments of Partner organizations;
- ▶ Manage the Partners in the Field Challenge Grants and selected other initiatives;
- ▶ Help link Statewide and Local Partners with services and resources of the Programs Department, the Center for Preservation Leadership, and all departments of the National Trust;
- ▶ Represent the interests of Statewide and Local Partners within the National Trust;
- ▶ Identify and develop programs, incentives, special projects, and other resources for the benefit of Statewide and Local Partners;
- ▶ Provide technical assistance and training as appropriate, including facilitation of board retreats and presentations at statewide conferences;
- ▶ Facilitate communication among Partners and between Partners and the National Trust.

The FY08 operating budget for the Statewide and Local Partnerships office at headquarters is approximately \$315,000, which includes a small amount for mentoring and special purpose grants. The Partners office is supported by individual and foundation gifts (approximately 55%), grant and initiative management fees (30%) and by Partner dues (approximately 15%). The office does not receive core operating support from the National Trust budget.

## PARTNER INVESTMENT

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The annual Partner investment, which includes the \$115 Forum membership, is based on the organization's annual operating budget. Partnership dues levels are as follows:

- ▶ For operating budgets less than \$100,000: \$115 (Forum membership only)
- ▶ For operating budgets between \$100,000 and \$249,000: \$250
- ▶ For operating budgets between \$250,000 and \$499,000: \$500
- ▶ For operating budgets between \$500,000 and \$999,000: \$750
- ▶ For operating budgets more than \$1,000,000: \$1,000

## FUTURE DIRECTION

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Future program goals for the Statewide and Local Partnerships office include these priorities:

- ▶ Continued development of the “Partners Only” web site, with model policies, documents, best practices, and case studies available for Partner reference;
  - ▶ Increased visibility for Statewide and Local Partner accomplishments on the National Trust web site and in other promotional materials and publications;
  - ▶ Incorporation of a unified “messaging framework” with the National Trust and Partners, which reinforces the importance of preservation in the minds of the American public;
  - ▶ Identification of new programs and financial resources that give priority to Statewide and Local Partners.
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## NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION®

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