May 30, 2006

Dear SAA member:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) provides oversight and guidance to federal agencies in carrying out their responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act. The ACHP is planning to hold an historic preservation summit in New Orleans this fall, with representatives from 250 federal and private-sector stakeholders in attendance. The purpose of the conference, titled the “Preserve America Summit” is to review the federal government’s entire historic preservation program and to put forward suggestions and policy recommendations on improving its effectiveness.

The ACHP is organizing a set of eleven issue panels, each to be co-chaired by a federal agency and private-sector historic preservation organization. These panels are to consist of ten to twelve historic preservation experts, and in the months leading up to the Summit are to evaluate a general topic within historic preservation, and formulate a set of specific policy recommendations that would improve the effectiveness of the federal historic preservation program. The recommendations are to be presented to the full conference. A list of the eleven issue panels and their co-chairs follows:

**Building a Preservation Ethic and Public Appreciation for History**
*How can public understanding of America’s history and the importance of our historic and cultural patrimony be enhanced?*
- Co-Chairs: Department of Education; Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; Preservation Action; Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

**Coordinating the Stewardship and Use of Our Cultural Patrimony**
*How can communities benefit from an integrated program for preserving and using historic properties and conservation of documents, artifacts, collections, artistic works, and other cultural expressions?*
- Co-Chairs: National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities; Institute of Museum and Library Services; the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities; the Getty Foundation

**Determining What’s Important**
*What needs to be done to identify and recognize America’s historic places?*
- Co-Chairs: Department of the Interior; Society for Historical Archaeology
Protecting Places That Matter
How can historic preservation be better integrated into public planning and the effectiveness of Federal protective mechanisms for historic properties improved?
- Co-Chairs: General Services Administration; Department of Commerce (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration); National Trust for Historic Preservation

Improving the Preservation Program Infrastructure
What should be done to clarify the roles of key preservation entities and build their capacity to promote preservation?
- Co-Chairs: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

Dealing With the Unexpected
How can the national program more effectively promote the preservation of historic properties after natural and man-made disasters, and ensure that reuse of historic properties contributes to recovery efforts?
- Co-Chairs: Department of Homeland Security (Federal Emergency Management Agency) (pending); Heritage Preservation

Addressing Security
How can we more effectively balance security concerns with the preservation and interpretation of historic properties?
- Co-Chairs: Department of Defense; American Institute of Architects

Using Historic Properties as Economic Assets
How can communities be encouraged to use their historic properties as economic development assets?
- Co-Chairs: Department of Commerce (Economic Development Administration); National Housing and Rehabilitation Association

Involving All Cultures
How can the capacity of all cultures, notably Indian tribes and Native Hawaiians, to understand, protect and enjoy historic properties of concern to them be improved?
- Co-Chairs: Department of the Interior; National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers; National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

Fostering Innovation
How can the potential of technology be harnessed and nontraditional solutions to preservation challenges be encouraged?
- Co-Chairs: Department of Transportation; The History Channel

Participating in the Global Preservation Community
How can America share its preservation successes with the world and learn from the efforts of other nations?
- Co-Chairs: Department of Agriculture; U.S. National Committee of ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)
Several weeks ago, SAA expressed to the ACHP its desire to participate in three of the panels, including “Determining What’s Important”, “Protecting Places That Matter”, and “Building a National Preservation Ethic.” SAA feels that expert archaeological guidance on these three panels will be especially important in ensuring that the policy recommendations to be presented at the Summit recognize the importance of archaeology and archaeological research in the effort to improve historic preservation.

The ACHP is requesting that private-sector historic preservation groups put forward names of individuals who wish to serve on a specific panel. They must be experts in their respective fields and have worked on historic preservation issues. The candidates will be considered by the co-chairs of the panels, which will send their recommendations to the summit steering committee for a final decision.

The panels will confer throughout the summer, and deliver their recommendations to the ACHP by September 8, 2006. It is expected that each panel will meet in person at least once. Travel expenses will be deferred by the ACHP.

Attached is a formal candidate application form prepared by the ACHP.

SAA strongly encourages those who are interested in serving on any of the panels to complete the attached form and send it, along with a resume or curricula vita, to the SAA, attention David Lindsay at david_lindsay@saa.org (202-789-8200 phone) (202-789-0284 fax). SAA will forward the applications to the co-chairs.

Those who are interested should respond as soon as possible. The deadline for applications is June 7.

Yours truly,

Kenneth M. Ames
President
Society for American Archaeology
Preserve America Summit
Recommendation for Expert Panel Member

RECOMMENDED ISSUE AREA:

______________________________________________________________________________________________

NAME OF RECOMMENDED PANELIST: ____________________________________________________________

TITLE/POSITION: ___________________________________________________________________________

ORGANIZATION: ____________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

CONTACT INFO (IF KNOWN):

TEL.: __________________________ FAX: __________________________

E-MAIL: __________________________

WHY WOULD THIS PERSON BE A VALUABLE PANELIST?

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______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

RECOMMENDED BY: ___________________________________________________________________________

DATE: __________________________

May 22, 2006