



PORTLAND MUSEUM

Where Art & Heritage  
Celebrate Community

PRESS RELEASE  
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LOUISVILLE, KY—In a ceremony held on Capitol Hill, Mrs. Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States and Honorary Chair of Preserve America, announced that the Historic Portland Neighborhood of Louisville is designated a Preserve America Community Neighborhood. Mrs. Bush also announced the award of a \$150,000 Preserve America grant to the Portland Museum.

Historic Portland is one five neighborhoods in America to be awarded the Preserve America designation , and the Museum is one of the first 45 grantees nationwide. The Museum, in partnership with Louisville Metro Parks Department will create a set of master plans to interpret the Portland Wharf Park and link it with key neighborhood historic sites along three heritage trails. The proposed project, because it incorporates citizen involvement throughout the planning process, will result in a local citizenry more prepared for the challenges of heritage development. The plan will result in a more cohesive interpretive strategy that ensures a strong authentic visitor experience.

The Preserve America grant will allow the neighborhood to move forward in realizing its potential as a destination for tourists and visitors. Portland NOW, a community organization, the Portland Planning Task Force, and the Portland Museum, along with representative of Louisville Metro Government, are working with residents to promote heritage tourism through the preservation and interpretation of historic buildings and sites such as the Portland Wharf Park, an important archaeology site; U. S. Marine Hospital, a National Landmark; and the Squire Earick House, an American Treasure. Portland, once an independent town located below the Falls of the Ohio River, became a neighborhood of Louisville, Kentucky in 1852.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation describes the new federal program as: "... a White House initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy our priceless cultural and natural heritage. The goals of the initiative include a greater shared knowledge about the nation's past, strengthened regional identities and local pride, increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets, and support for the economic vitality of our communities."

*The Portland Museum is an educational resource that collects, preserves, exhibits, interprets and enhances the culture and heritage of Portland, a neighborhood of Louisville, KY. The Museum, an independent not for profit, is supported in part by funds from the Kentucky Arts Council, a state agency in the Commerce Cabinet, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.*