

The Agency

Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission

Agency Operations

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission is the state office for historic preservation and for sponsorship of state heritage activities. It is Rhode Island's only statewide preservation program to identify and protect historic buildings, districts, and archeological sites. The commission is responsible for developing a state historical preservation plan, and for survey and planning activities which provide for in-depth studies of each city and town to identify, evaluate, and record sites, structures, districts, and objects of historical, architectural, cultural, or archeological significance to the State.

The commission has sponsored and/or coordinated: heritage festivals, heritage seminars, conferences, and symposia, and publishes scholarly and popular works relating to the social, political, and cultural development of the State. It also coordinates programs with other private or public groups or agencies that will meet the cultural needs of all Rhode Island citizens. The commission also organizes the operation of the Eisenhower House at Fort Adams State Park in Newport.

The commission develops and implements programs for the preservation of historic resources. The commission reviews federal and state projects to assess their effect on specific cultural resources. The commission administers programs of financial assistance, which include grants, loans, and tax credits for restoration projects. A wide range of information and technical assistance is provided to citizens who own historic properties or are interested in preserving the heritage of their neighborhood and community. The commission certifies municipal historic district zoning programs, which meet minimum standards, and annually administers federal funds to these "certified local governments."

Agency Objectives

Identify and protect historic and prehistoric sites, buildings, and districts throughout the State of Rhode Island and commemorate the history and culture of the State; promote and preserve the State's ethnic and cultural traditions; and provide a better understanding of the various ethnic cultures, which comprise the population.

Statutory History

Title 42, Chapter 45 of the Rhode Island General Laws established the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission and defined the duties of the Executive Director and commission members. Executive Order Number 10, issued July 1, 1977, initially created the Heritage Commission. In 1981, the General Assembly enacted Title 42, Chapter 79 of the Rhode Island establishing the commission as a permanent state agency. In the 1994 legislative session the General Assembly repealed Title 42, Chapter 79 and amended Title 42, Chapter 45 to add Heritage Commission responsibilities creating the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission.

The Budget

Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	1,157,604	1,192,806	1,286,371	1,352,620
Other State Operations	170,314	113,164	296,591	296,646
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	291,746	304,999	411,979	306,979
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$1,619,664	\$1,610,969	\$1,994,941	\$1,956,245
Capital Improvements	-	-	46,548	30,900
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$1,619,664	\$1,610,969	\$2,041,489	\$1,987,145
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	1,023,624	1,021,643	1,218,829	1,166,602
Federal Funds	545,283	511,399	603,760	583,881
Restricted Receipts	50,757	77,927	218,900	236,662
Total Expenditures	\$1,619,664	\$1,610,969	\$2,041,489	\$1,987,145
FTE Authorization	17.6	17.6	17.6	17.6
Agency Measures				
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	11.4%	11.4%	11.4%	11.4%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	71.6%	71.6%	71.6%	71.6%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	-	-	-	-
Program Measures				
Cumulative Percentage of the Estimated 2,500 Historic Properties Nominated to the National Registry Annually	61.6%	82.4%	141.2%	150.0%
Public Attendance at Heritage Program Assisted Events Stated as a Percentage of the Base Year	131.2%	131.1%	130.0%	130.0%
Percentage of Projects Reviewed Within Fifteen Business Days of Review Request	78.0%	86.7%	85.0%	85.0%
Percentage of Completed Tax Credit Applications Reviewed within Thirty Business Days from Time of Submission	81.0%	70.8%	80.0%	80.0%