

# RESOURCES

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## State and Local Organizations Dedicated to African American Historic Preservation

Here are some projects and organizations in Texas as well as other states focused on strengthening African American historic preservation in their communities.

- **Texas projects and organizations:**
  - [Texas African American Heritage Council](#): Statewide organization with a mission of promoting the protection of African American cultural and historical resources in Texas.
  - Local African American heritage councils: Texas has a growing number of county- and city-sponsored councils dedicated to identifying, documenting, and protecting African American heritage.
    - [Prairie View African American Cultural Heritage Commission](#)
    - [Travis County African American Heritage Council](#)
    - [San Jacinto County African American Heritage Council](#)
    - [Harris County African American Cultural Heritage Council](#)
  - [Texas Freedom Colonies Project](#): Educational and social justice initiative dedicated to supporting the preservation of Black settlement landscapes, heritage, and grassroots preservation practices through research.
  - [Texas Freedom Colonies Project Atlas](#): Interactive mapping project that documents the location and stories of freedom colonies in Texas. Contributions to the Atlas are encouraged.
- **Other state organizations:**
  - [Black Heritage Council, Alabama](#): The Black Heritage Council was created in 1984 by the Alabama Historical Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office to advocate for the preservation of African American historic places in Alabama. The Council runs a historical plaque program and assists groups and individuals with the documentation and preservation of historic African American sites and districts.
  - [Georgia African American Preservation Network \(GAAPN\)](#): The GAAPN is overseen by an all-volunteer steering committee that focuses on preserving African American sites across the state. The Network receives staffing support from the African American Programs Coordinator in the state's historical commission office.
  - [Kentucky African American Heritage Commission \(KAAHC\)](#): The KAAHC is a state-created entity with 19 members appointed by the Governor and includes representatives from the state's major universities, state agencies, community preservation organizations, and interested citizens. The Commission identifies and promotes awareness of significant African American influences on the history and culture of Kentucky and encourages the preservation of African American heritage and historic sites in the state. The commission is administratively attached to the state's Kentucky Heritage Council, with the Council providing staff assistance and program oversight.

- [Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture \(MCAAHC\)](#): The MCAAHC originated as the Maryland Commission on Negro History and Culture, which was created by the Maryland Legislature in 1969. The MCAAHC has a number of objectives relations to preserving and promoting the history and culture of African Americans in Maryland, including serving as an information clearinghouse about African Americans and disseminating African American historical and cultural materials into the mainstream of Maryland life and education.
- [North Carolina African American Heritage Commission \(AAHC\)](#): The North Carolina General Assembly created the AAHC in 2008, which in 2017 became a division within the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The AAHC is focused on the preservation, interpretation, and promotion of African American history, arts, and culture in North Carolina by supporting two primary groups: (1) practitioners such as docents and museum educators who are African American or center their work on African American culture—through an array of resources including technical assistance; and (2) the broader community—through activities such as public programs, exhibits, digital resources, and workshops.
- [South Carolina African American Heritage Commission \(AAHC\)](#): The South Carolina General Assembly established the South Carolina African American Heritage Council in 1993, which transformed into a commission in 2001 by executive order of the governor. The mission of the AAHC is “to identify and promote the preservation of historic sites, structures, buildings, and culture of the African American experience in South Carolina, and to assist and enhance the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.” The Commission partners closely with the WeGOJA Foundation, a private nonprofit entity that works to document and promote African American heritage sites in South Carolina.
- [Indiana’s African American Landmarks Committee](#): The African American Landmarks Committee, a committee of the nonprofit organization Indiana Landmarks, awards grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 to assist nonprofit organizations in the preservation and promotion of historic African American properties in Indiana. The grants are used for a variety of purposes including organizational development, architectural and engineering studies, and programs promoting the preservation, interpretation, or visitation of a historic African American place.

## General Resources

- National Park Service: [Historic Preservation Website](#)
- Texas Historical Commission: [Website](#)
- Texas Bar Foundation and Historic Fort Worth: [Historic Preservation Handbook for Texans: Laws and Incentives at the Local, State and Federal Levels](#) (2017)
- Brent Leggs, et al, [Preserving African American Historic Places](#) (National Trust for Historic Preservation): A comprehensive brochure on national and statewide efforts to preserve African American historical sites.
- [African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund](#): National fund created by the National Trust of Historic Preservation that provides grants to local preservation organizations to support the preservation of sites and stories of Black history.
- Black Past: [Website of National African American Historic Landmarks by State](#)
- UT Law Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic: [Protecting And Preserving African-American Cemeteries In Texas](#)

## Public Historic Designations and Markers

- National Register of Historic Places
  - National Park Service: [Information about the National Register](#)
  - [National Register Database](#)
  - Texas Historical Commission: [Links to publications and forms for qualifying for the National Register](#)
- Texas Historical Commission designations and marker programs
  - Texas Historic Sites Atlas: [Search for properties](#) in Texas with state designations, National Register listings, and subject markers.
  - [State Historical Markers](#): Information for new and current marker holders and the application for a marker.
  - [Recorded Historic Landmarks](#): Information on how to apply for a Texas Recorded Historic Landmark, with a link to the application.

## Historic Preservation Easements

- National Park Service: [Easements to Protect Historic Properties Brochure](#)
- National Preservation Institute: [Model Covenant Language](#)
- National Trust for Historic Places: [Preservation Easements website page](#)

## Cultural Districts

- Texas Commission for the Arts, Cultural Districts Program: [Website](#) with information on the program, application form, training videos, and other resources.

## Tax Benefits

- Comparison of federal and state historic tax credit programs: [Chart by the Texas Historical Commission](#)
- Texas Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program
  - [Overview of the program and application materials](#)
  - [Application guide](#)
- Federal Historic Preservation Tax
  - [Overview of the program](#)
  - [Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation](#)