In 2001 the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) worked with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to adapt the Trust’s Preservation Leadership Training program to address issues of importance to Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. The 30 THPOs and other tribal representatives who participated in the model 2001 program gave it outstanding reviews.

Now designed to address the issues that Native preservationists confront in 2015, up to 30 individuals will have the opportunity to be part of this intensive five-day program featuring nationally known trainers, a varied and sophisticated instructional format, and the chance to forge relationships with a national network of peers.

Goals of the Power of Preservation

- To identify and train current and potential leaders who have the ability to dramatically increase their effectiveness in their communities in their role as tribal preservationists.
- To empower tribal representatives to achieve preservation successes in their tribal communities.
- To support a national network of leaders in the tribal historic preservation movement and to provide these leaders with an arsenal of techniques and strategies to engage Native communities and community partners in making thoughtful decisions about what aspects of the past to carry forward into the future.

Two decades ago I was appointed the THPO for the Yurok Tribe. While trained in anthropology, versed in aspects of the Yurok culture, and armed with a Ph.D. from one of the best universities in the nation, I was ill-equipped to implement the various historic preservation responsibilities in the NPS-Yurok Tribe THPO agreement and no one training venue existed at the time to provide a road map. Decades later and after countless trainings and conferences, I can say that the leadership training program offered to THPOs for the first time in 2001 remains a pivotal and defining moment in my understanding and ongoing career commitment to historic preservation.

- Tom Gates Cultural Resources Consultant, former Yurok Tribe THPO

NATHPO is a not-for-profit membership association of tribal governments that are committed to preserving, rejuvenating, and improving the status of tribal cultures and cultural practices by supporting Native languages, arts, dances, music, oral traditions, cultural properties, tribal museums, tribal cultural centers, and tribal libraries.
Who are the Trainers?
Members of the faculty are national, tribal, state and local experts in preservation and community leadership who are familiar with the concerns of tribal communities. They offer a balanced national perspective and a network of regional and local resources for the future. Faculty members will be available after each session to meet informally with participants to discuss individual concerns.

What are the Instructional Methods?
The program emphasizes a highly participatory and varied learning environment, including lectures and interactive classroom activities based on real life preservation leadership issues and encourages informal networking among participants. Each participant will receive a comprehensive training manual containing material that will be useful long after the program is completed.

Who, What, Where, and How Much?
Enrollment is open to Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and their staff, tribal museum directors and staff, elected tribal officials, and other tribal employees. Space is limited to only 30 participants and a selection committee will confirm participation on a rolling basis and thus early application is encouraged. Selected participants will be responsible for paying a reduced, non-refundable registration fee of $200 for NATHPO members and $300 for non-members.

The Power of Preservation will take place at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), a unique retreat center located in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The NCTC, which is operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and works closely with the National Park Service, is offering NATHPO the retreat center’s excellent space for our meeting, lodging and meals.

I first attended Preservation Leadership Training in 1993 with Georgia Smith, the newly appointed deputy THPO, who was an experienced administration, but a preservation novice. Georgia found it an invaluable experience that helped her understand why the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department existed, where it fit into the national preservation program, as well as the work being done by the staff. A decade later as General Chairman of NATHPO I was pleased that we were able to present the program tailored specifically to the needs of THPOs, some new to the role and others with some degree of experience. All of the participants obtained critical knowledge and all reported that it was extremely valuable to them.

• Alan Downer, former Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Officer and General Chair of NATHPO
Selected participants will be responsible for their own travel, lodging and meal expenses. The all-inclusive cost for lodging and meals is $152 per day/night. A limited number of scholarships are available to assist with lodging and meal expenses. NCTC offers a discounted shuttle service from Dulles International Airport to the retreat center in West Virginia at a total round-trip cost of $100. Rental vehicles will not be needed and are discouraged. The Power of Preservation will begin on the evening of Sunday, May 30, and conclude by 1 pm on Thursday, June 4. All participants must attend the full program.

What Will I Learn at the Power of Preservation?

*Diversity Today - Being a More Inclusive Leader Tomorrow* offers insight into what it means to be an inclusive leader who is a positive change agent. Build a diverse and inclusive tool kit and learn to apply those skills - the lynchpin of the workshop is the nexus between respect for all differences in the workplace and trust. Learn to increase employee engagement and spur a higher level of productivity. This highly interactive session will include a self-assessment and creation of an individual action plan to use when you return to your home.

*Financial Resources* will cover how and when to begin fund-raising, identifying and cultivating appropriate funding prospects, the basic of writing proposals and grants management, using the budget as a management tool, and how to know when you need professional fundraising help and where to find it.

*Politics of Preservation* introduces strategies for effective relationships at all levels of government as well as in the private and nonprofit sectors. Learn to work with elected and appointed officials and local, state and federal agency representatives. Be able to make an effective case for preservation in controversial situations.

*Preservation at the Federal, State and Local Levels* will outline the structure of the public and private entities involved in historic preservation. Understand the role each plays, the assistance they can offer, and how to engage them in support your work as a tribal preservationist.
Working with the National Park Service answers your questions about the role of the NPS and “who does what.” Learn about the players and their responsibilities and how it all can work best to support you and your preservation activities. Understand the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Historic Preservation and effectively managing your NPS grant funding are just two of the highlights.

Federal-Tribal Collaboration in Historic Preservation: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Indian tribes have created an innovative system that encourages tribal participation for cell and train communication towers. The Tower Construction Notification System (TCNS) was instituted more than 10 years ago as a tool to assist in complying with Federal laws and regulations. Learn from FCC staff who will explain their goals and experiences with TCNS and adapting it for use with Positive Train Control.

This program is made possible by the generous support of American Express, the National Park Service, and individual Indian tribes.

I joined the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Historic Preservation Office in 2000 with no experience in Historic Preservation. In 2001, I attended the Preservation Leadership Training and it was the experience that solidified my desire to establish my career in historic preservation. The training provided me with tools to use in my career, such as grant writing, fundraising, strategic planning, and many other concepts that have been valuable to my growth within the program. I strongly recommend the Preservation Leadership Training.

• Melinda Young, Lac du Flambeau THPO

Application Process and Schedule

Application forms should be submitted to:

The Power of Preservation in Indian Country
National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
P.O. Box 19189 • Washington, DC 20036-9189

Katherine Adams is assisting NATHPO in coordinating this seminar. Kathy’s experience includes more than 20 years experience in senior leadership at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, including the primary role in the development of Preservation Leadership Training and its various adaptations for a wide variety of preservation audiences.

NATHPO will convene a conference call by the end of March to answer questions posed by tribal representatives about The Power of Preservation in Indian Country.

Application deadline: A completed application form must be received by NATHPO by close of business on Thursday, April 30, 2015.