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Oak Park named a Preserve America Community

The Village of Oak Park has been designated as one of the nation's newest *Preserve America Communities*, a federal program that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve the nation's cultural and natural heritage.

In addition to national recognition for preservation efforts, communities designated through the program can apply for grants, be listed in an online directory that showcases preservation efforts and heritage tourism destinations, and use the *Preserve America* logo on signs and promotional materials. *Preserve America Communities* also are featured in National Register travel itineraries and in *Teaching with Historic Places* curricular materials created by the National Park Service.

"We are pleased to be among the select list of communities that have been recognized for their historic preservation efforts through the *Preserve America Communities* program," said Village President David Pope. "Oak Park's historic heritage is an integral part of what makes our community such a great place to live, work and do business. This designation confirms and amplifies what we have long known about our citizens' commitment to respecting our past."

The program includes grants of \$20,000 to \$250,000 that are awarded annually on a competitive, matching-fund basis. The grants support research, planning, marketing, interpretation and training efforts that help communities develop sustainable management strategies and sound business practices for the continued preservation and use of their heritage assets. Some \$7.5 million will be awarded this year, up from the \$4.9 million awarded to 72 projects last year and \$5 million awarded to 68 projects in 2006.

Preserve America is a White House initiative in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; the U.S. Departments of Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation and Education; the National Endowment for the Humanities; the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities; and the President's Council on Environmental Quality.

For more information on the Preserve American initiative and its programs, visit www.preserveamerica.gov. For more information on local preservation programs, visit www.oak-park.us.

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