



# Newsletter

## July 2024

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### DC Preservation League Awarded Funds to Update Existing Multiple Property Document Focused on DC Schools



Students at Anacostia High School, 1957. Photo courtesy of Library of Congress.

The DC Preservation League (DCPL) is pleased to announce it was recently awarded a \$75,000 grant from the National Park Service to amend [Public School Buildings of Washington, DC 1862-1960](#)—a National Register Multiple Property Document.

DCPL's amendment will extend the period of significance endpoint from 1960 to 1974, allowing for deeper investigation into the DC school system in the years that followed *Bolling v. Sharpe* and *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), through the height of the Civil Rights Era (1960s-early '70s), and to the enactment of Home Rule (1974). This project will add schools to the existing list of properties and allow for existing documentation to be amended. Necessary amendments will include important social history related to the impact of court-ordered desegregation and the Civil Rights Movement on the DC School System through 1974.

This project is funded in part by the African American Civil Rights grant program, through the Historic Preservation Fund, as administered by the National Park Service, Department

of Interior. This grant program focuses on the preservation of sites and stories directly associated with the struggle of African Americans to gain equal rights.

A request for proposals from qualified consultants will be issued in August 2024.

If you have any questions about the grant, please contact [kelli@dcpreservation.org](mailto:kelli@dcpreservation.org).

## Request for Proposals - Study Focused on Sites Designed by Black Architects in DC



Left: Image of Founders Library at Howard University. Right: Image of Anthony Bowen (12th Street) YMCA. Photos courtesy of Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Library of Congress.

In April 2024, the DC Preservation League (DCPL) announced it was awarded a \$75,000 grant from the National Park Service to develop a National Register Multiple Property Document focused on sites in the District of Columbia that were designed by Black Architects.

A request for proposals from qualified consultants interested in the project is now live and [can be found here](#). The deadline to submit is August 9, 2024.

Funding for this project comes from the National Park Services' Underrepresented Community Grants Fund, from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The fund supports efforts to identify historic and cultural resources related to communities that have often been overlooked in traditional planning and preservation efforts. The program also encourages nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to increase representation for traditionally underrepresented communities of color.

If you have any questions about the grant or RFP, please contact [kelli@dcpreservation.org](mailto:kelli@dcpreservation.org).

[View RFP](#)

### Landmarks Update

### Youth Pride, Inc.



Youth Pride, Inc. headquarters, 1536 U Street NW, 1968.  
Photo courtesy of Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University.

On June 27, 2024, the Historic Preservation Review Board designated the former headquarters of [Youth Pride, Inc.](#) (1536 U Street NW) as a historic landmark. The nomination is related to the [20th Century African American Civil Rights Sites in Washington, DC, 1912 - 1974](#) multiple property document, which was adopted by the Board in October 2021. The property is also featured in *The Black Power Movement in Washington, DC, 1966 - 1978* historic context statement, which is being finalized and will soon be available to the public. The landmark nomination was submitted to the Historic Preservation Office earlier this year by the DC Preservation League (DCPL) and the [Center for Community Change Action](#), the property owner.

Youth Pride, Inc. was an important organization within the Black Power Movement and was funded through the War on Poverty. The organization was established in 1967 by several Black Power activists, including Rufus “Catfish” Mayfield and future DC Mayor Marion Barry. Pride was initially funded in August 1967 through a \$300,000 grant from Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz. With these funds, “street dudes” in green denim uniforms were hired to clean alleyways, empty lots, and streets, as well as address the city’s rat infestation. Due to Pride’s success over this one month period, Secretary Wirtz awarded another grant – this time for \$2 million – to extend Pride’s programming for one-year.

In early 1968, Pride, Inc. moved to the now landmarked building at 1536 U Street NW. In its new headquarters and following the April 1968 uprising, Pride began to focus on Black capitalism in which the organization would train young men and then help them find employment. In 1981, Pride’s federal funding was completely cut off and the organization permanently shutdown.

The building was designed by Frederick B. Pyle in the Renaissance Revival style and completed in 1920 for the Washington-Virginia Motor Company as an automobile showroom – hence the large round-arched windows along both U and 16th streets. At the time of construction, the building was only two-stories tall. The third story, which sits above the building’s classical cornice and dentils, was added in 1930 by the National Radio Institute, which moved a teaching facility into the building in 1927. The National Radio Institute moved out in 1957. Pride, Inc. was located here from 1968 to 1981.

[Learn More About Youth Pride,  
Inc.](#)



## DCPL Awarded National Park Service Funds to Help Preserve the Historic Howard Theatre



Howard Theatre. Photo courtesy of DCPL Archives.

The DC Preservation League (DCPL) has been awarded a \$750,000 grant from the National Park Service (NPS) to help underwrite costs associated with repairing/replacing the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system at the historic [Howard Theatre](#) in Washington, DC. A temporary chiller is in place to mitigate the negative effects of the compromised system.

The HVAC replacement will enhance the building's energy efficiency, supporting DC's status as a LEED Platinum City. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the most widely used green building rating system in the world and is designed to help buildings achieve high performance in key areas of human and environmental health.

"The Howard Theatre is an important historic resource in Washington, DC, and DCPL is committed to supporting efforts to preserve and enhance this irreplaceable property. This project is critical to ensuring the long-term viability of the landmark's remaining historic interiors as we experience extreme temperatures," said Rebecca Miller, Executive Director of the DC Preservation League. "This project will also expand the documentation and the community's understanding of the Theatre as more than just a music venue—but as a meeting place for 20th Century Civil Rights leaders and activists."

Built in 1910, the Howard Theatre is one of the oldest theaters in the country that not only served Black audiences but provided a space for Black performers. For more than five decades it stood at the forefront of Black entertainment, providing talent and opportunities on a local and national level. The building was listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites in 1973 and in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. However, its documentation does not explore the Theatre's role in the Black community's fight for civil rights. As part of the project, the Howard Theatre's current National Register documentation will be amended to detail the Theatre's role in African Americans' struggle for Civil Rights.

"The Historic Howard Theatre is thrilled to be working with DCPL on this project, and we are grateful to the National Park Service for their financial support," said Roy "Chip" Ellis, of Ellis Development Group/Historic Howard Theatre, Inc.

This project is funded in part by the African American Civil Rights grant program, through the Historic Preservation Fund, as administered by the National Park Service, Department

of Interior. This grant program focuses on the preservation of sites and stories directly associated with the struggle of African Americans to gain equal rights.

A request for bids from qualified contractors will be published in August 2024.

If you have any questions about the grant, please contact [rebecca@dcpreservation.org](mailto:rebecca@dcpreservation.org).

## GSA Restarts Tours of St. Elizabeths, West Campus



Photo of the Center Building at the St. Elizabeths, West Campus, which underwent an award-winning rehabilitation and restoration. It is now the headquarters of the Department of Homeland Security. Photo by Zachary Burt.

The General Services Administration (GSA) has restarted tours of St. Elizabeths, West Campus. The 90-minute walking tours take place on the second Friday of each month, with upcoming tours on August 9th, September 13th, October 11th, and November 8th. **Attendees must register in advance. Please click the below link for more information about registration.**

To read more about the history of St. Elizabeths, [click here](#).

[Tour Information and Registration](#)



With summer here, it is a good time to scroll through the **60 digital tours** available on DC Historic Sites. Browse them from the comfort of your home, or download the app and hit

the streets!

Here's a list of the most popular tours to get you started:

- [Historically Designated Interiors](#)
- [Exploring DC's Go-Go and Punk Music Scenes](#)
- [Lingering on the Palate: The Ghosts of the DC Food Scene](#)
- [Latinx Heritage Tour](#)
- [Finding Asian American History in Washington, DC](#)
- [Finding Style in DC: Navigating DC's Shopping Scene](#)
- [Food and Drink in the District](#)
- [Postwar Modernism in Washington, DC](#)
- [Gone, But Not Forgotten](#)

[More DC Historic Sites Tours](#)

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