

ENERGY COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

THE MANHATTAN PROJECT AND COLD WAR SITES: BUILDING A FUTURE WITH HERITAGE TOURISM PEER EXCHANGE SUMMARY

January 30, 2003
Washington, DC

I. INTRODUCTION

On January 30, 2003, Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) held a Peer Exchange Meeting (the "Meeting") entitled *The Manhattan Project and Cold War Sites: Building a Future with Heritage Tourism*. The meeting was co-hosted by the Atomic Heritage Foundation, a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the history of the Manhattan Project on the Atomic Age.

The goal of the Meeting was to explore historic preservation ideas and current models for local governments. Participants included representatives from eight local governments, the Department of Energy (DOE), and other federal agencies and organizations interested in historic preservation (see Appendix A).

The Meeting schedule was comprised of presentations from individuals and organizations knowledgeable about historic preservation and information management. Presenters during the Meeting included: Cindy Kelly, President, Atomic Heritage Foundation; John Fowler, Executive Director, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; Marilyn Tolbert-Smith and Cory Flowers, DOE Office of Long-Term Stewardship; Randy Cohen, Vice President of Research and Information, Americans for the Arts; Kimber Craine, Communications Manager, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies; Skip Gosling, DOE Chief Historian and Preservation Officer; Warren Brown and Don Hellman, the National Park Service and Arthur Molella, director of the Lemelson Center at the National Museum of American History.

II. PARTICIPANT DISCUSSION

Participant discussion throughout the Meeting focused on the following key issues:

1. Integration of Historic Preservation and Environmental Cleanup

- Utilization of museums and historic facilities for long-term stewardship.
- Historic preservation must recognize the environmental cleanup and stewardship mission.

2. Funding for Historic Preservation

- Local governments need to attain community support for the use of local funds to support historic preservation activities.
- Local governments need to identify outside funding and be aware of the various resources available for historic preservation activities.

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- Local governments need to be able to coordinate the various historic preservation efforts ongoing in their communities.

3. Elements of Heritage Tourism

- Utilization of all historic assets within a community (i.e. DOE, Department of Defense, Tribal)
- Guided Tours
- Interpretive centers
- Museums as information repositories
- Manhattan Project and Cold War specific tourism
- Utilization of hiking/biking/walking trails
- Development of marketing plans

4. Access to and Maintenance of Heritage Sites

- The task of keeping heritage sites preserved is complicated by DOE's process of divesting itself of its properties. Communities must be in contact with historic preservation officers of other federal agencies that will be managing the property after it is transferred out of DOE.
- Local government access "inside the fence" is limited. Also, since September 11, 2001, access has decreased significantly.

5. Strategy and Partnership Development

- Federal, state and local government must coordinate on historic preservation efforts for Manhattan Project and Cold War sites.
- Local governments must define all potential partners and stakeholders in a historic preservation effort.

III. NEXT STEPS

1. Coalition Building

One participant advised that local governments interested in historic preservation activities need to build regional coalitions of support in order to fund and market the concept. The participant also suggested that national organizations such as ECA and the Atomic Heritage Foundation work together to promote historic preservation within Manhattan Project and Cold War communities.

2. Linking Long-Term Stewardship to Historic Preservation

A local government participant highlighted the need to ensure that information management—as part of long-term stewardship—is linked to historic preservation. One example would be to create interpretive centers as information repositories.

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3. ECA Task Force Development

ECA members participating in the Peer Exchange expressed the need for ECA to form a Task Force to work specifically on historic preservation issues. ECA staff agreed to review the development of a Task Force with the ECA Executive Board.

4. Understanding and Marketing the Economic Stimulus Concept

Local government participants stressed the importance of understanding the economic development benefits of historic preservation and the tax base that a successful "atomic heritage" tourism campaign can create. Local governments must work to market their individual communities and the atomic history present in their communities. This concept includes the development and use of various information materials (such as web sites and brochures) targeted for heritage tourism, and the sharing and linking of these materials with other atomic energy communities.

5. Development of Web Portal

Peer Exchange participants suggested that ECA staff look into the development of a web portal that houses information and resources on historic preservation, tourism and the information management component of long-term stewardship. The web portal would provide links to governmental and organizational resources.

ECA staff agreed to review the development of a web portal with the ECA Executive Board.

6. Video Displays

The Atomic Heritage Foundation has a library of videos it developed to showcase historic preservation at Manhattan Project sites. Local government participants discussed the potential for development of similar videos displaying the atomic heritage of both Manhattan Project and Cold War communities.

**BUILDING A FUTURE WITH HERITAGE TOURISM
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