

## *Principle Five: Preserve and Protect Resources*



### **HANDOUT: 8 Creative Ideas**

#### **1. Saving Our Documentary Heritage, Tennessee**

Many Tennessee communities were interested in saving their historical documents as part of their bicentennial projects. The state bicentennial office partnered with the Tennessee State Library and Archives to create a series of workshops on how to preserve historical records. Archivists conducted the workshops, and the bicentennial office publicized the series, recruited participants and handled logistics. A traveling exhibit was created and loaned to communities highlighting the many ways that archival records are important to preserving history.

#### **2. Volunteer 200 Day, Tennessee**

To kick off the bicentennial, Tennesseans were asked to participate in Volunteer 200 Day. The theme of the day was “A Heritage of Service,” and the event was organized through the local celebration committees. Everyone was asked to select projects related to the community’s heritage. Projects ranged from painting historic buildings to cataloging cemeteries.

#### **3. Century Citizens, Idaho**

For its centennial celebration, the state of Idaho sought to identify all citizens who were 100 or more years old. A Century Citizens project could include preserving their memories of the previous century by conducting oral histories, putting together an exhibit and producing a publication which would document their stories.

#### **4. Downtown Honors Its Roots, Chicago**

The Canal Corridor Association of Chicago, Illinois initiated a program to honor the men and women who built the I&M Canal Passage. Individuals with ancestors who lived in the Corridor 100 years ago or more were encouraged to submit a family tree and short narrative family history. All applicants received an I&M Canal Pioneer Certificate and special recognition at sesquicentennial events. The Association also collected oral histories and, with funding provided by the Illinois Humanities Council, offered public programs on the importance of knowing your family’s history.

## **5. Site Stewards Program, New Mexico**

The New Mexico office of the Bureau of Land Management and the San Juan County Museum Association launched a Site Stewards Program to monitor and protect the fragile archaeological and historic sites in northwest New Mexico. Local volunteers complete a training course including field trips, and then are assigned to serve as site stewards for different locations in the state.

## **6. Storytelling Festival, Tennessee**

The National Storytelling Festival began in Jonesborough, Tennessee as an effort to preserve and celebrate the age-old tradition of storytelling. The annual event began with a few storytellers sharing their stories to a small gathering of listeners sitting on hay bales. Three decades later, the event draws thousands of people to this tiny town which serves year-round as the International Storytelling Center.

## **7. Preserving Jewish History, Mississippi**

Although the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience in Jackson, Mississippi was effectively preserving artifacts, they also wanted to help preserve Jewish heritage in southern communities. The museum staff, in conjunction with local and regional historians, created a booklet called *Cultural Corridors: Discovering Jewish Heritage Along the Mississippi River*. As a result of the initiative, the Beaux Arts B'nai Israel synagogue in Natchez, Mississippi now has a preservation agreement with the museum to assure the building's future. In Donaldsonville, the 1877 Lehman Store, the longest continuously operating department store at the time of its close, was converted into a museum featuring an exhibit on the community's Jewish heritage.

## **8. Kennicott Mines, Alaska**

In the early 1900s, the Kennicott Mines were the largest copper mines anywhere. The site became a time capsule of its era when the mines closed in 1938, leaving the setting just as it had appeared for the previous four decades. The site became part of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and in 1986 was declared a National Historic Landmark. In recent years, the Kennicott Copper Corporation has invested in a clean up of the site, and the Friends of Kennicott Mines have funded stabilization of the buildings. In 1998, the site became publicly owned. Since that time, the National Park Service, Friends of Kennicott Mines and the Kennicott Copper Corporation have been working together to develop a preservation, management and interpretation plan so that the site can welcome visitors who come to learn about its past.

