



SUPPORT THE HBCU HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



University in Columbia, South Carolina, designed by an African American architect and constructed by the university students themselves in 1891. Before being restored, Arnett Hall had been boarded up for nearly 40 years. Today, Arnett Hall serves as the university’s central hub and houses administrative offices, including the President’s Office, and the offices for Student Life, Academic Affairs, Admissions, and Financial Aid.

RECOMMENDATION

Support **\$50 million** for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Historic Preservation Program administered by the National Park Service (NPS) **with no matching requirement.**

NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

HBCUs are historic national treasures that hold a significant place in American history. They comprise a network of more than 100 historic institutions, established as early as 1837 for former slaves and freedmen. During the civil rights struggles of the 1900s HBCUs served as the epicenter of activism and today contain repositories of important books, papers and memorabilia of Black history.

BACKGROUND

In 1987, the Department of Interior’s Office of Historically Black College and University Programs and Job Corps launched the HBCU Historic Preservation Initiative. The purpose of the initiative was to identify and preserve historically significant and critically threatened structures at our nation’s HBCUs. After surveying 106 HBCUs, the Department awarded \$10 million to 11 HBCUs with historic buildings with the greatest need of repairs. To date, there are 61 HBCUs with historic properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. And the HBCU Historic Preservation initiative has become a vital grant program administered by the National Park Service.

These historic preservation grants have had transformative effects on HBCU campuses across the country. One example is Arnett Hall at Allen

THE NEED

While the HBCU Historic Preservation Program has been successful, the threat to the legacy of HBCUs persists. In 1998, the National Trust for Historic Preservation designated HBCUs nationwide as one of the nation’s eleven most endangered historic sites. In 2016, Azikiwe-Nkrumah Hall was added to the list; it is the oldest building at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, the site of the first degree-granting institution in the world to educate former slaves. Azikiwe-Nkrumah Hall was in use for nearly a century and a half but recently closed.

According to a 1998 study by the Government Accountability Office, the historic preservation needs at HBCUs at that time were estimated to be \$755 million, with 712 historic properties in need of repairs or structural renovations. That amount would be over \$1 billion in today’s dollars.

Since 1996, only \$64 million in federal funding has been appropriated through the HBCU Historic Preservation Program. Prior to the FY 2017 appropriation, the last time Congress approved funding was in FY 2009.

HBCU Historic Preservation Program Funding History	
FY 2009	\$15 million (match requirement waived)
FY 2017	\$4 million (match requirement waived)
HBCU Coalition FY 2018 Request	\$50 million (waive match requirement)