

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES COAST-TO-COAST IN HERITAGE AREA DEVELOPMENT

With ten new National Heritage Areas designated by Congress in 2006, the need for education and collaboration is greater than ever. In line with the recommendations outlined in the recent NPS Advisory Board Report *Charting a Future for National Heritage Areas*, the **Alliance of National Heritage Areas** and the National Park Service are partnering to provide educational workshops to the newly established NHAs and emerging areas around the country. Established NHAs are also providing examples of best practice (through such publications as the biannual *Heritage Development Partnership Magazine*) and evaluation (including studies by the Blackstone, Delaware & Lehigh, and Cane River National Heritage Areas to evaluate their progress and impacts) which help all of us better understand how NHAs “work” and how they succeed. Navigating the complex funding and implementation challenges and managing for success is an ongoing learning process for emerging and maturing areas alike.

In 2007, the Alliance’s *Heritage Development Institute*, in cooperation with the NPS, is providing numerous opportunities to learn from more about National Heritage Area development and implementation and to foster the sharing of information, expertise, and feedback:

February 27, 2006: Orientation for new National Heritage Areas, Washington, DC. The morning will focus on the basics and the roles of the NPS and Alliance; the afternoon will focus on advocacy, evaluation and partnership opportunities. Contact John Cosgrove at anha.cosgrove@comcast.net for an agenda and to reserve your space.

April 24, 2007: New and emerging National Heritage Areas, especially those in the West, are encouraged to attend a day-long workshop to learn more about **management planning** and getting a heritage area up and running, in Yuma, AZ. For those interested, the workshop will be followed by an optional all-day tour of Yuma Crossing NHA, evening events, and the Alliance’ business meeting.

May 2007 (exact date TBD): An advanced workshop on using the planning approach to foster partnership, consensus, and focus heritage area activities and investments. This day-long event will be held in the mid-Atlantic region.

June 18, 2007: An all-day workshop on **partnership best practices and building advocacy** will be held in Detroit, MI, followed by the *International Heritage Development Conference*. The conference will include educational sessions, day-long “regional labs” in MotorCities NHA, and evening and lunch events that provide numerous networking opportunities. More information at www.IHDC2007.org

October 3, 2007: An all-day workshop on **using heritage interpretation and tourism to connect communities** will be held as part of the annual National Preservation Conference in St. Paul, MN. For more information, visit <http://www.nthpconference.org/>

October 9, 2007: ANHA will again host a one-day workshop for new and emerging NHAs on **resource planning and implementation**, to be held in Biloxi, MS prior to the Alliance’s Fall Board meeting.

If you are interested in having an educational session in your region, please visit <http://nationalheritageareas.com/hdi.php> and fill out an inquiry form. If you have general questions, please feel free to contact John Cosgrove, Executive Director of the Alliance at anha.cosgrove@comcast.net