



City of Rockwall honored as *Preserve America Community*

The City of Rockwall was recently honored with the designation as one of the nation's newest **Preserve America Communities**.

Preserve America is a federal initiative to encourage and support community efforts to preserve and enjoy America's priceless cultural and natural heritage. The City of Rockwall was honored for celebrating its heritage, using its historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encouraging residents to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs.

Benefits of the designation include:

- eligibility to apply for Preserve America grants when they are funded by Congress;
- use of the Preserve America logo on educational and promotional materials and signage;
- listing in a Web-based directory that showcases Rockwall's preservation efforts and heritage tourism destinations.
- recognition as a Preserve America Community by the White House

Many Preserve America Communities are featured in "Discover Our Shared Heritage" National Register Travel Itineraries, as well as in the "Teaching with Historic Places" curricular materials created by the National Park Service.

Planning Director, Ryan Miller, and Senior Planner, David Gonzales, presented the idea of applying for the Preserve America designation to the city's Historic Preservation Advisory Board, which agreed to the recommendation. "We really felt that the city met the program's goals because of its thriving historical district and downtown," said Mr. Miller.

The Preserve America program became an authorized part of the National Historic Preservation Program in 2009. With this group of designations, 900 Preserve America Communities have received the distinction in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and two U.S. territories, including historic neighborhoods within large cities and tribal communities.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation administers the Preserve America program with the Department of the Interior, in cooperation with the White House and 10 other federal agencies. For more information visit www.achp.gov and www.preserveamerica.gov.