



For Immediate Release
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City of Oak Ridge Receives Grant to Preserve, Promote City's History

Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett, along with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Chairman John L. Nau announced today that the City of Oak Ridge will receive a \$150,000 *Preserve America* Grant for its project *Birth of a City: The History of Oak Ridge, Tennessee*. The Howard Baker Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee, the Oak Ridge Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Oak Ridge Heritage and Preservation Association will collaborate with the City on the project.

The City of Oak Ridge, a government town built under a cloak of secrecy during World War II as part of the Manhattan Project, is approaching its 50th Anniversary as an incorporated city. Grant funds will be used to inventory and preserve historical records and artifacts pertaining to the city's founding, and to develop educational materials for curricular and scholarly use. Funds will also assist with conducting oral history interviews of key city officials and community leaders. An exhibit about the project will be developed for the City's annual Secret City Festival.

Mayor Tom Beehan expressed enthusiasm about the initiative. "Much has been written about Oak Ridge's role in the Manhattan Project, but little has been said about how a community of young scientists, educators and other civic-minded individuals came together *after* the war to create the public, civic, and cultural institutions that remain strong today. This is a unique chapter in American history that needs to be told."

The *Preserve America* program was established in 2003 to support community efforts to preserve and promote America's historical and cultural assets. First Lady Laura Bush is the honorary chair. The City of Oak Ridge was designated a *Preserve America Community* in 2006. Additional information can be found on the website www.preserveamerica.gov.

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