



# U.S. AMBASSADORS FUND FOR CULTURAL PRESERVATION



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), Cultural Heritage Center (“the Center”), is accepting project proposals for the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) 2021 Competition.

ECA’s Cultural Heritage Center (“the Center”) requests proposals for funding in FY 2021 for projects to preserve cultural heritage in the host countries through the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP).

**FUNDING AREAS:** Through the AFCP Program, the Department of State supports projects to preserve cultural heritage in the following three areas:

- A. Anastylis (reassembling a site from its original parts);
- B. Conservation (addressing damage or deterioration to an object or site);
- C. Consolidation (connecting or reconnecting elements of an object or site);
- D. Documentation (recording in analog or digital format the condition and salient features of an object, site, or tradition);
- E. Inventory (listing of objects, sites, or traditions by location, feature, age, or other unifying characteristic or state);
- F. Preventive Conservation (addressing conditions that threaten or damage a site, object, collection, or tradition);
- G. Restoration (replacing missing elements to recreate the original appearance of an object or site, usually appropriate only with fine arts, decorative arts, and historic buildings);
- H. Stabilization (reducing the physical disturbance of an object or site)

**FUNDING PRIORITIES—SPECIFIC TO THE AFCP 2020 ANNUAL COMPETITION:** Proposals for projects that meet one or more of the following criteria will receive consideration:

- A. Support conflict resolution and help communities bridge differences;

- B. Support disaster risk reduction for cultural heritage in disaster-prone areas or post disaster cultural heritage recovery;
- C. Partner, connect with, or feed into other ECA or public diplomacy programs.

**SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING SITES AND OBJECTS THAT HAVE A RELIGIOUS CONNECTION:** The establishment clause of the U.S. Constitution permits the government to include religious objects and sites within an aid program under certain conditions. For example, an item with a religious connection (including a place of worship) may be the subject of a cultural preservation grant if the item derives its primary significance and is nominated solely on the basis of architectural, artistic, historical, or other cultural (not religious) criteria.

**ELIGIBLE PROJECT APPLICANTS:** The Center defines eligible project applicants as reputable and accountable non-commercial entities, such as non-governmental organizations, museums, ministries of culture, or similar institutions and organizations that are able to demonstrate that they have the requisite experience and capacity to manage projects to preserve cultural heritage. The AFCP will not award grants to individuals, commercial entities, or past award recipients that have not fulfilled the objectives or reporting requirements of previous awards.

**INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AND UNALLOWABLE COSTS:** AFCP will NOT support the following activities or costs, and applications involving any of the activities or costs below will be deemed ineligible:

- A. Preservation or purchase of privately or commercially owned cultural objects, collections, or real property, including those whose transfer from private or commercial to public ownership is envisioned, planned, or in process but not complete at the time of application;
- B. Preservation of natural heritage (physical, biological, and geological formations, paleontological collections, habitats of threatened species of animals and plants, fossils, etc.);
- C. Preservation of hominid or human remains;
- D. Preservation of news media (newspapers, newsreels, radio and TV programs, etc.);
- E. Preservation of published materials available elsewhere (books, periodicals, etc.);
- F. Development of curricula or educational materials for classroom use;
- G. Archaeological excavations or exploratory surveys for research purposes;
- H. Historical research, except in cases where the research is justifiable and integral to the success of the proposed project;
- I. Acquisition or creation of new exhibits, objects, or collections for new or existing museums;
- J. Construction of new buildings, building additions, or permanent coverings (over archaeological sites, for example);
- K. Commissions of new works of art or architecture for commemorative or economic development purposes;
- L. Creation of new or the modern adaptation of existing traditional dances, songs, chants, musical compositions, plays, or other performances;
- M. Creation of replicas or conjectural reconstructions of cultural objects or sites that no longer exist;
- N. Relocation of cultural sites from one physical location to another;
- O. Removal of cultural objects or elements of cultural sites from the country for any reason;
- P. Digitization of cultural objects or collections, unless part of a larger, clearly defined conservation, documentation, or public diplomacy effort;
- Q. Conservation plans or other studies, unless they are one component of a larger project to implement the results of those studies;

- R. Cash reserves, endowments, or revolving funds (funds must be expended within the award period [up to five years] and may not be used to create an endowment or revolving fund);
- S. Costs of fund-raising campaigns;
- T. Contingency, unforeseen, or miscellaneous costs or fees;
- U. Costs of work performed prior to announcement of the award unless allowable per 2 CFR 200.458 and approved by the Grants Officer;
- V. International travel, except in cases where travel is justifiable and integral to the success of the proposed project or to provide project leaders with learning and exchange opportunities with cultural heritage experts;
- W. Individual projects costing less than US \$10,000 or more than \$500,000;
- X. Independent U.S. projects overseas.

**COST SHARING AND OTHER FORMS OF COST PARTICIPATION:** There is no minimum or maximum percentage of cost participation required. When an implementing partner offers cost sharing, it is understood and agreed that the partner must provide the amount of cost sharing as stipulated in the budget of the application and later included in an approved agreement. The implementing partner will be responsible for tracking and reporting on any cost share or outside funding. Cost sharing may be in the form of allowable direct or indirect costs.

**AWARD INFORMATION:**

- A. Funding Instrument Type: Grant
- B. Floor on Amount of Individual Awards: US \$10,000 per project
- C. Ceiling on Amount of Individual Awards: US \$500,000 per project
- D. Anticipated Number of Awards: 30-40

**PERFORMANCE AND DELIVERABLES:** AFCP 2021 award recipients must submit performance progress reports, federal financial status reports, and final reports on time as specified in the Notice of Award. Upon completion of an AFCP project, the Center will also ask implementers to respond to an online survey about their project and experience with the AFCP program. In cases where the proposed public diplomacy or other expected impacts may not be fully realized at the immediate conclusion of the project, the Center may request continued voluntary reporting on specific topics.

**ROUND 1 CONCEPT NOTE REQUIREMENTS (Deadline: November 18, 2020):** Eligible embassies, in collaboration with their prospective implementers, will submit completed concept notes electronically using the AFCP application website (<http://www.afcp.us>). The Center cannot accept concept notes or applications submitted via cable, fax, e-mail, or pouch. Concept Notes in English must be submitted to the Embassy by Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 11:59 p.m. Colombian Time. Embassies may submit more than one Concept Note. Template attached.

**ROUND 2 FULL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS (Deadline: March 01, 2021):** The Center will invite embassies selected in Round 1 to submit full applications. Implementers should submit full applications to the Embassy no later than Monday, March 01, 2021, 11:59 p.m. (Colombian Time). The applications must fully satisfy the program objectives, funding areas and priorities, and eligibility requirements. Furthermore, to be considered complete, they must include:

- A. Project dates;

- B. Project activities description and timeframe that present the project tasks in chronological order and list the major milestones with target dates for achieving them (Note: Applicants may propose project periods of up to 60 months [five years]);
- C. Theory of change that describes how the project activities and outputs will help achieve any broader host country or community aims or objectives (For example, if a broader goal is economic development, how will the activities and outputs directly contribute towards achieving that goal?);
- D. Statement of importance highlighting the historical, architectural, artistic, or cultural (non-religious) values of the cultural heritage;
- E. Proof of official permission to undertake the project from the office, agency, or organization that either owns or is otherwise responsible for the preservation and protection of the site or collection;
- F. Implementer public awareness plan describing how the applicant intends to highlight and amplify AFCP-supported activities through print, electronic, and social media platforms;
- G. Maintenance plan outlining the steps or measures that will be taken to maintain the site, object, or collection in good condition after the AFCP-supported project is complete; or, in the case of forms of traditional cultural expression, to preserve and disseminate the documentation, knowledge, or skills gained from the project;
- H. Résumés or CVs of the proposed project director and key project participants;
- I. Detailed project budget, demarcated in one-year budget periods (2021, 2022, 2023, etc.), that lists all costs in separate categories (Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Travel [including Per Diem], Equipment, Supplies, Contractual, Other Direct Costs, Indirect Costs); indicates funds from other sources; and gives a justification for any anticipated international travel costs;
- J. Budget narrative explaining how the costs were estimated (quantity x unit cost, annual salary x percentage of time spent on project, etc.) and any large budget line items;
- K. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424), including Budget Information for NonConstruction Programs (SF-424A), Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF424B), and, if applicable, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL);
- L. Relevant supporting documentation, such as historic structure reports, restoration plans and studies, conservation needs assessments and recommendations, architectural and engineering records, etc., compiled in preparation for the proposed project;
- M. As requested by the Center or as appropriate, additional high-quality digital images (JPEGs) or audiovisual files that convey the nature and condition of the site or museum collection and show the urgency or need for the proposed project (collapsing walls, extensive water damage, etc.).

DISCLAIMER: Issuance of this funding opportunity does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the AFCP program or the U.S. government. The Center reserves the right to waive program formalities and to reduce, revise, or increase project scopes and budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds.