



Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation 2010

SUMMARY:

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, through the U.S. Embassy in Belize, is accepting project proposals for the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) 2010 Competition.

The deadline for submitting proposals is **December 11, 2009**. The projects selected to receive funding under this program will advance U.S. diplomatic goals and demonstrate the depth of U.S. respect for the cultural heritage of other countries.

BACKGROUND:

Since 2001, Congress has directed the Department of State to support and implement the AFCP program. Congress noted that cultural preservation offers an opportunity to show a different American face to other countries, one that is non-commercial, non-political, and non-military. By taking a leading role in efforts to preserve cultural heritage, we show our respect for other cultures. Fiscal Year 2010 marks the 10th anniversary of U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation program.

U.S. ambassadors in eligible countries may submit proposals for projects to preserve cultural heritage on the behalf of qualified entities. In FY 2009, awards ranged from US \$10,000 to US \$106,300, with an average award amount of US \$41,400.

PRIORITY AREAS: AFCP supports projects to preserve cultural heritage in the following three categories:

- A. **CULTURAL SITES** includes (but is not limited to) historic buildings and sites, sacred places, monuments, and archaeological sites;
- B. **CULTURAL OBJECTS AND COLLECTIONS** from a museum, site, or similar institution and includes archaeological and ethnographic objects, paintings, sculpture, manuscripts, photographic and film collections, and general museum conservation activities; and,
- C. **FORMS OF TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSION** includes traditional music, rituals, knowledge, languages, dance, drama, and crafts.

PRIORITY ACTIVITIES: AFCP gives top priority to project activities in keeping with international standards for the preservation of cultural heritage. These activities may involve:

- A. In the case of **CULTURAL SITES**, restoration of a historic building, an archaeological survey as a component of a preservation plan, preservation management planning for a site, or documentation of sites in a region for preservation purposes.

- B. In the case of CULTURAL OBJECTS AND COLLECTIONS, conservation treatment for an object or collection of objects; needs assessment of a collection with respect to its condition and strategies for improving its state of conservation; inventory of a collection for conservation purposes; the creation of safe environments for storage or display of collections; or specialized training in the care and preservation of collections.
- C. In the case of FORMS OF TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSION, documentation and audiovisual recording of traditional music and dance forms for preservation and eventual dissemination, or support for training in the preservation of traditional arts or crafts that are threatened by extinction.

An appropriate preservation activity is one that protects the values of the site, object or collection, or form of traditional cultural expression as they are understood by stakeholders. Stakeholders may include national, regional, or local cultural authorities, the local community, and others with vested interests in the site and the outcome of a project.

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.

COST SHARING: AFCP encourages cost sharing, contributions in kind, and other forms of cost participation.

HOW TO APPLY: Organizations wishing to apply may do so through U.S. Embassy Belmopan. The deadline for submitting project proposals is December 11, 2009.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS: As in previous years, project proposals must include or address the following:

- A. Purpose and summary;
- B. Description;
- C. Timeframe;
- D. Statement of significance;
- E. Statement of urgency;
- F. Rationale for U.S. support;
- G. Detailed project budget;
- H. Recipient information;
- I. Resumes of the project director and professional staff;
- J. Official permission to undertake the project;
- K. Other funding sources, if any; and,
- L. At least three digital images (JPEGs) or audiovisual files of the site, object, or form of expression to be addressed in the proposed project.

RESTRICTIONS: AFCP does not support the following:

- 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 proposal submission;

- 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, etc.);
- E. Preservation of published materials available elsewhere (books, periodicals, etc.);
- F. Archaeological excavations or surveys for research purposes;
- G. Historical research, except in cases where the research is justifiable and integral to the success of the proposed project;
- H. Acquisition or creation of new collections for new or existing museums;
- I. Construction of new buildings;
- J. Commissions of new works of art or architecture for commemorative or economic development purposes;
- K. Creation of replicas or re-creation of cultural objects or sites that no longer exist;
- L. Relocation of cultural sites from one physical location to another;
- M. Removal of cultural objects or elements of cultural sites from the country for any reason;
- N. Digitization of cultural objects or collections, unless part of a larger, clearly defined conservation effort;
- O. Conservation plans or other studies, unless they are one component of a larger project to implement the results of those studies;
- P. Cash reserves, endowments or revolving funds; funds must be expended within the grant period and may not be used to create an endowment or revolving fund or otherwise spent over many years;
- Q. Costs of fund-raising campaigns;
- R. Operating expenses, i.e. expenses incurred during the day-to-day operational activities of an organization, such as office rent, utilities, license fees, and other costs for administrative time, services, or materials not directly related to performing project work;
- S. Contingency, unforeseen, or miscellaneous fees;
- T. Costs of work performed prior to announcement of the award;
- U. International travel, except in cases where travel is justifiable and integral to the success of the proposed project;
- V. Individual projects costing less than \$10,000, or
- W. Awards to individuals or commercial entities.

DEADLINE: Proposals must be submitted to Kelly McCarthy, Political Officer, U.S. Embassy Belize no later than **December 11, 2009**.

REPORTING REQUIREMENT: Posts must submit an interim performance report and a final report at the conclusion of the project. If the project is still in progress by September 2008, then a status report must be submitted in order to be eligible for the next grant cycle. ECA will compile this information for a Report to Congress, as required, and for an annual published report of all completed projects. (ECA)