



Embassy of the United States of America Majuro

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Ambassador Karen B. Stewart is pleased to announce the 2020 call for proposals for the **U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) Large Grants Competition**. AFCP was established to help countries preserve cultural heritage and to demonstrate U.S. respect for other cultures. 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 developing countries. The deadline for submitting project abstracts to the Center is December 31, 2019. For abstracts that advance to Round 2, the submission deadline for full project applications is February 21, 2020.

Competition Format: This opportunity consists of two application rounds: Round 1 (Project Abstract) and Round 2 (Full Application). During Round 1, embassies shall submit project abstracts developed in conjunction with eligible applicants. If, after the technical review, rating, and ranking of abstracts, ECA invites an applicant to advance to Round 2, the embassy shall submit a full project application on the applicant's behalf. The AFCP Large Grants Program is an internal competition among embassies for funding, not an open competition. Prior to submitting project abstracts, the embassy should conduct its own in-country open competition via website or Grants.gov to solicit applications. If an open competition does not take place at the Post level, then the applications recommended for funding under this internal competition will require Grants Officer approval of an Open Competition Exemption for PD Awards form prior to issuance of the award. "Sole sourced" applications must meet one of the exceptions on the exemption form, available at <http://a.m.state.sbu/sites/OPE/FA/SitePages/Waivers.aspx>. Past AFCP award recipients may submit applications for continuation funds under this opportunity.

HOW TO APPLY:

The deadline for submitting applications (in English) to the U.S. Embassy in Majuro is by 3:00PM on Friday, December 13, 2019. All interested applicants must submit proposals via email citing "AMBASSADORS FUND FOR CULTURAL PRESERVATION" to MajuroPD@state.gov

FUNDING AREAS: The AFCP Large Grants Program supports the preservation of major ancient archaeological sites, historic buildings and monuments, and major museum collections that are accessible to the public and protected by law in the host country. Appropriate project activities may include:

- Preventive conservation (addressing conditions that damage or threaten)
- Stabilization (reducing the physical disturbance [settling, collapse, etc.] of a site)
- Conservation (addressing damage or deterioration to a collection or sites)
- Consolidation (connecting or reconnecting elements of a site)
- Anastylosis (reassembling a site from its original parts)
- Restoration (replacing missing elements to recreate the original appearance of a site, usually appropriate only with fine arts, decorative arts, and historic buildings)

FUNDING PRIORITIES: Applications for projects that directly support one or more of the following will receive additional consideration in FY 2020:

- U.S. treaty or bilateral agreement obligations, such as cultural property agreements
- U.S. Embassy Integrated Country Strategy (ICS) goals
- Disaster risk reduction for cultural heritage in seismically active and other disaster-prone areas
- Post-disaster cultural heritage recovery
- Preservation of inscribed World Heritage sites

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. If you have any questions regarding a preservation project with a religious connection, please contact MajuroPD@state.gov or +692-247-4011

ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES: The AFCP 2020 Large Grants Program is open to U.S. ambassadors serving in countries which have been determined to be eligible to participate in the program based on the country's rank in the 2016 U.N. Human Development Index. In the event there is no ambassador currently in the country, the chargé d'affaires or U.S. consul may apply. The eligible countries for the AFCP 2019 Large Grants Program are:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua & Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic of the), Congo (Republic of), Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica,

Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. NOTE: Embassy Antananarivo may apply for Comoros; Bridgetown for Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent & the Grenadines; Colombo for Maldives; Dakar for Guinea-Bissau; Libreville for Sao Tome & Principe; New Delhi for Bhutan; Port Louis for Seychelles; Port Moresby for Solomon Islands and Vanuatu; Suva for Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu; and Wellington for Samoa.

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, including U.S.-based organizations subject to Section 501(c)(3) of the tax code, that are registered and active in SAM.gov and able to demonstrate that they have the requisite experience and capacity to manage projects to preserve cultural heritage. Embassies must vet applicants for eligibility, suitability, and reputable performance in cultural preservation or similar activities. The Center requests that embassies determine whether any country-specific sanctions should be taken into consideration before submitting applications. Embassies must ensure the applicants are able to receive U.S. federal assistance.

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 or documentation 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
- W. Travel or study outside the host country for professional development
- X. Independent U.S. projects overseas

INELIGIBLE PROJECT APPLICANTS: AFCP does not award grants to individuals, commercial entities, or to embassies or past award recipients which have not fulfilled the objectives or reporting requirements of previous AFCP awards.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION: The application process for the AFCP Large Grants Program takes place in two rounds: Project Abstract (Round 1) and Full Application (Round 2). U.S. Embassy Majuro will submit the abstract on behalf of the applicant. Each abstract will be considered on its own merit. If invited to submit Full Applications to Round 2, U.S. Embassy Majuro will contact you regarding detailed instructions in the Round 2 invitations.

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE: Once the embassy has selected potential applicants and projects, preferably through an open competition process, it must work to obtain the Round 1 abstract items below. All submitted documents must be in English.

Project abstracts must include or address the following (Note: The list includes items required by 2 CFR 200 and State Department federal assistance regulations):

- A. Full and complete Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424), including Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A), Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B), and, if applicable, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)
- B. Project basics, including title, project dates, location, and site
- C. Project applicant information, including contact information, DUNS Number, and SAM registration status
- D. Special designations (national monument, World Heritage Site, etc.)
- E. Law(s) protecting the site or collection (citations only)
- F. Project purpose that summarizes the project objectives and desired results

G. Statement of importance highlighting the historic, architectural, artistic, or cultural (non-religious) values of the site or collection

H. Rationale for U.S. support, written by the Embassy, explaining: 1) why it is in the interest of the U.S. government to fund the project and; 2) how it relates to Integrated Country Strategy (ICS) goals, existing bilateral agreements, or other U.S. foreign policy objectives

I. Embassy Front Office (FO) clearance

Round 2 Full Application Requirements (Deadline: February 21, 2020): The Center may invite embassies to submit full project applications upon favorable review of their abstracts. The applications must fully satisfy the program objectives, funding areas and priorities, and the eligibility requirements specified above. Furthermore, to be considered complete, they must include:

A. Revised project abstract, if applicable

B. Revised SF-424, if applicable

C. Proof of official permission to undertake the project and the full endorsement and support of the national cultural authority in the host country

D. Project activities description that presents the project tasks in chronological order (NOTE: If the proposed project is part of a larger effort involving multiple projects supported by other entities, the plan must present the full scope of the preservation effort and the place of the proposed project within that larger effort)

E. Project time frame or schedule that lists the major project phases and milestones with target dates for achieving them (NOTE: Applicants may propose project periods of up to 60 months [five years])

F. Project participant information, including resumes or CVs of the proposed project director and key project participants

G. Statement of urgency indicating the severity of the situation and explaining why the project must take place now

H. Statement of sustainability outlining the steps or measures that will be taken to maintain the site or collection in good condition after the AFCP-supported project is complete.

I. Detailed project budget, demarcated in one-year budget periods (2018, 2019, 2020, etc.), that lists all costs in separate categories (Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Travel [including Per Diem], Equipment, Supplies, Contractual, Other Direct Costs, Indirect Costs, Cost Sharing); 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, for example) and any unique line items in the budget

K. Ten (10) or more 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.)

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.

18. Amplifying AFCP via Current and Emerging Technologies: ECA welcomes innovative ideas on how embassies and other missions plan to use mobile and online technologies strategically to amplify U.S. support for cultural heritage preservation locally and to share compelling project-related content with both targeted and broad audiences. ECA strongly encourages Public Affairs Offices to include one or more virtual components within the Media and Outreach Plan to complement the proposed project. Doing so can extend engagement beyond the project's duration, increase its long-term value, and

expand the audience for such work. Contact Martin Perschler, Ph.D., Program Director, Cultural Heritage Center, at (202) 632-6308 or PerschlerMJ@state.gov for information.

19. COST SHARING AND OTHER FORMS OF COST PARTICIPATION: There is no minimum or maximum percentage of cost participation required for this competition. When cost sharing is offered, it is understood and agreed that the applicant must provide the amount of cost sharing as stipulated in its application and later included in an approved agreement. The applicant will be responsible for tracking and reporting on any cost share or outside funding, which is subject to audit per 2 CFR 200. Cost sharing may be in the form of allowable direct or indirect costs.

DUNS NUMBER AND SAM Registration: Applicants must have a Dun & Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, a NATO Commercial and Government Entity (NCAGE) code and be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) prior to submitting full applications. It is mandatory for applicants to have a DUNS and SAM.gov registration unless they meet one of the exemptions specified in the Federal Assistance Directive (<http://a.m.state.sbu/sites/OPE/FA/SitePages/Policy.aspx>). **Note:** The DUNS/NCAGE/SAM.gov process can take weeks/months, especially for non-U.S. applicants. Applicants may acquire DUNS numbers at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or by requesting a number online at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. Non-U.S. based applicants may request a NCAGE code at <https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/scage/CageList.aspx>. SAM is the official, free on-line registration database for the U.S. government. SAM.gov replaced the Central Contractor Registration (CCR), the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA), and the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) in July 2012. SAM.gov collects, validates, stores, and disseminates data in support of federal agency acquisition and grant award mission. Registration in SAM is free: <http://sam.gov>

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE OF AFCP 2020 GRANTS: The period of performance begins upon the Grants Officer's signature and the grantee's countersignature of a Department Standard Notice of Award. A Notice of Award is the legal document issued to notify an award recipient that an award has been made and that funds are available for use during the specified award period. Failure to produce a complete Notice of Award package may result in the nullification of the award.

For additional information about the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation, please visit <https://eca.state.gov/cultural-heritage-center/ambassadors-fund-cultural-preservation>