

AFCP 2015 Competition Request for Proposals

DEADLINE: December 8, 16:59 hrs, 2014

PLEASE EXPRESS YOUR INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE BY SENDING AN E-MAIL TO THE FOLLOWING E-MAIL ADDRESS: alexandrescui@state.gov, IN ORDER TO RECEIVE ALL NECESSARY FORMS.

It is crucial for applicants to register in advance (prior to submitting applications) for Dun & Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and in the System for Award Management (SAM). Without these two items, no application for more than \$ 25,000 will be accepted.

ONCE YOU SUBMIT THE APPLICATION, PLEASE ASK FOR CONFIRMATION THAT THE APPLICATION WAS RECEIVED by e-mail at alexandrescui@state.gov or at the following telephone number: 021-200-3684.

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY OFFICE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APPLICATIONS THAT DO NOT REACH THE E-MAIL ADDRESS WRITTEN ABOVE.

The digital images (.JPEG format) must be high quality and should NOT exceed 3 MB each. Images sent in another format (copy/pasted in a ".doc" format, i.e., or any other format) will not be accepted.

Audio-video files should NOT be sent by e-mail, ONLY through TRANSFER FILES WEBSITES.

Please do not/not send .rar, .zip or any documents in other formats than .doc and .jpeg.

1. **SUMMARY:** The U.S. Embassy in Bucharest is accepting project proposals for the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) 2015 Competition. The deadline for submitting proposals to the Embassy is December 15, 2014.

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

1. **CULTURAL SITES**—such as, but not limited to, historic buildings and archaeological sites;
2. **CULTURAL OBJECTS AND COLLECTIONS** from a museum, site, or similar institution—that include, but are not limited to, archaeological and ethnographic objects, paintings, sculpture, manuscripts, and general museum conservation needs; and,
3. **FORMS OF TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSION**—such as traditional

music, indigenous languages, and crafts.

3. FUNDING PRIORITIES—GENERAL: AFCP will recommend for funding those proposals that include project activities in adherence to the following guidelines and to international standards for the preservation of cultural heritage. These activities may include:

1. **CULTURAL SITES:** conservation of an ancient or historic building, preservation of an archaeological site, or documentation of cultural sites in a region for preservation purposes.
2. **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 and protection purposes; the creation of safe environments for storage or display of collections; or specialized training in the care and preservation of collections.
3. **FORMS OF TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSION:** documentation and audiovisual recording of traditional music and dance forms for broad dissemination as the means of teaching and further preserving them, or support for training in the preservation of traditional applied arts or crafts in danger of extinction.

4. FUNDING PRIORITIES—SPECIFIC TO THE AFCP 2015 ANNUAL COMPETITION: Proposals for projects that meet one or more of the following criteria will receive consideration in FY 2015:

1. Strengthen capacity in country to preserve and protect cultural heritage;
2. Support the preservation of inscribed World Heritage sites;
3. Advance long-term cultural preservation objectives, lay the groundwork for subsequent AFCP-supported activities, or encourage the continued or expanded application of proven methods at the project site or elsewhere; and
4. Engage women, youth, or under-served communities.

5. 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.

6. ELIGIBLE PROJECT APPLICANTS: Eligible project applicants are defined 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. Embassies will vet applicants for

eligibility, suitability, and reputable performance in cultural preservation or similar activities and will ensure the applicants are able to receive support from the U.S. Government and AFCP grants in accordance with AFCP program policies.

7. 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:

1. 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;
2. Preservation of natural heritage (physical, biological, and geological formations, paleontological collections, habitats of threatened species of animals and plants, fossils, etc.);
3. Preservation of hominid or human remains;
4. Preservation of news media (newspapers, newsreels, radio and TV programs, etc.);
5. Preservation of published materials available elsewhere (books, periodicals, etc.);
6. Development of curricula or educational materials for classroom use;
7. Archaeological excavations or exploratory surveys for research purposes;
8. Historical research, except in cases where the research is justifiable and integral to the success of the proposed project;
9. Acquisition or creation of new exhibits, objects, or collections for new or existing museums;
10. Construction of new buildings, building additions, or permanent coverings (over archaeological sites, for example);
11. Commissions of new works of art or architecture for commemorative or economic development purposes;
12. Creation of new or the modern adaptation of existing traditional dances, songs, chants, musical compositions, plays, or other performances;
13. Creation of replicas or re-creation of cultural objects or sites that no longer exist;
14. Relocation of cultural sites from one physical location to another;
15. Removal of cultural objects or elements of cultural sites from the country for any reason;
16. Digitization of cultural objects or collections, unless part of a larger, clearly defined conservation effort;
17. Conservation plans or other studies, unless they are one component of a larger project to implement the results of those studies;
18. 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);
19. Costs of fund-raising campaigns;
20. Indirect costs or 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;

21. Contingency, unforeseen, or miscellaneous costs or fees;
22. Costs of work performed prior to announcement of the award;
23. International travel, except in cases where travel is justifiable and integral to the success of the proposed project;
24. Travel or study for professional development;
25. Individual projects costing less than \$10,000;
26. Independent U.S. projects overseas.

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

9. **AWARD INFORMATION:** Funding Instrument Type: Grant (Program Authority: Fulbright Hays Section 102(b)(5), as amended). Floor on Amount of Individual Awards: US \$10,000 per project. Ceiling on Amount of Individual Awards: \$200,000 per project. In FY 2014, awards ranged from US \$10,000 to US \$200,000.

10. **APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION:** Applicants in eligible countries must submit completed project proposals at the following e-mail address: alexandrescui@state.gov. No non-Department of State registration requests will be accepted.

11. **APPLICATION CLOSING DATE:** **All applications must be submitted electronically on or before Monday, December 8 2014, 16:59. Applications submitted after 16:59 will be ineligible for consideration. Begin the application process early, as this will allow time to address any technical difficulties that may arise in advance of the deadline.**

12. **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Project proposals must include or address the following:

1. 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 Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL);
2. Project Basics, including title, project dates, AFCP focus area, and other top-level information;
3. Project Applicant information, including contact information, DUNS Number, and SAM registration (see Section 18 below);
4. Project Location;
5. Proof of Official Permission to undertake the project and the endorsement and support of the appropriate national authority;
6. Project Purpose that briefly explains the project objectives and desired results;
7. Project Activities Description that explains how the applicant intends to achieve

the project objectives and results, presents proposed tasks in a logical order, and describes how those tasks directly contribute towards achieving the project objectives and results;

8. Project Time Frame or Schedule that identifies the major project phases and milestones, with performance target dates for achieving them (NOTE: Applicants may propose project performance periods of up to 60 months [five years] with five budget periods of one year each; projects must begin before September 30, 2015, and conclude no later than September 30, 2019);
9. Project Participant Information, specifically an estimated number of non-US and US participants and estimated number of primary and secondary participants, as well as resumes of the proposed project director and other primary project participants, which demonstrate that the applying entity (ministry of culture, NGO, etc.) has assembled the requisite experience and the capacity to carry out projects to preserve cultural heritage;
10. Statement of Importance highlighting the historic, architectural, artistic, or cultural (non-religious) values of the cultural site, object, collection, or form of traditional expression;
11. Statement of Urgency indicating the severity of the situation and explaining why the project must take place now;
12. Statement of Sustainability 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 either resulting or gained from the project;
13. M. Detailed project narrative and budget, demarcated in one-year budget periods (2015, 2016, 2017, etc.), that lists all costs in separate categories (Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Travel [including Per Diem], Equipment, Supplies, Contractual, Other Direct Costs, Cost Sharing); indicates funds from other sources; and gives a justification for any anticipated international travel costs;
14. Attachments and supporting documents including, at a minimum and **REQUIRED**, five (5) high quality digital images (JPEGs) or audiovisual files that convey the nature and condition of the site, object, or form of expression and, in the case of a site or object, show the urgency or need for the proposed project (collapsing wall, water damage, worn fabric, broken handle, etc), any historic structure reports, conservation needs assessments, and other planning documents compiled in preparation for the proposed project;
15. Rationale for U.S. support, explaining why it is important to fund the project
16. Media and outreach plan for the project through existing print, electronic, and social media platforms

13. **COST SHARING AND OTHER FORMS OF COST PARTICIPATION:** There is no minimum or maximum percentage required for this competition. However, AFCP encourages cost sharing, in-kind contributions, and other forms of cost participation. When cost sharing is offered, it is understood and agreed that the applicant must provide the amount of cost sharing as stipulated in its proposal and later included in an approved agreement. Cost sharing may be in the form of allowable direct or indirect

costs. For accountability, you must maintain written records to support all costs which are claimed as your contribution, as well as costs to be paid by the federal government. Such records are subject to audit.

14. DUNS NUMBER AND SAM REGISTRATION: Applicants requesting **\$25,000** or more in federal assistance must have a Dun & Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) prior to submitting applications. 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>. 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:
<https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/>

15. APPLICATION RATING CRITERIA: Using a point-based system (below), all applications will be rated based on the program funding priorities; the quality, soundness, and comprehensiveness of the proposed project and budget; the urgency of the proposed project; the rationale for U.S. support of the project supplied by the applying U.S. embassy; the quality and quantity of supporting materials, such as resumes of the key project participants, images of the resource, and **notices of official permission** from the responsible resource steward, such as a ministry of culture.

17. AFCP POINT-BASED RATING SYSTEM: Proposals will be rated as follows:

1. Purpose and Summary, Description, Time Frame, Importance of Site/Object/Form of Expression: 20 points max
2. Urgency: 10 points max
3. Sustainability: 10 points max
4. Rationale for U.S. Support: 15 points max
5. Media and Outreach Plan: 15 points max
6. Budget: 15 points max
7. Supporting Materials: 15 points max

Once the Bureau in charge has completed its screening and rating, it will forward the technically eligible and favorably rated proposals to the Public Diplomacy sections in the respective regional bureaus in the State Department for ranking. Once the proposals are ranked, the Center will convene a panel to recommend proposals for funding. The Center may deem proposals ineligible if they do not fully adhere to AFCP 2015 Competition objectives, requirements, and other criteria stated herein.

18. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION: The Bureau will announce the awards via cable as soon as possible once the Department's FY 2015 funding levels are known

and a financial plan approved.

19. PERFORMANCE AND DELIVERABLES: AFCP 2015 award recipients must submit semi-annual performance progress and federal financial status and final reports on time as specified in the Notice of Award.