

Call for Proposals: U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation – LARGE GRANTS PROGRAM

The U.S. Mission to South Africa is accepting Letters of Intent and Project Abstracts for the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) 2016 **Large Grants Program**. 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. The minimum amount of the award is \$200,000 (the average award amount is \$500,000).

For more information about the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, please visit <http://eca.state.gov/cultural-heritage-center/ambassadors-fund-cultural-preservation>.

The AFCP competition for South Africa supports large-scale, partnership-based projects to preserve cultural heritage sites of significance to South Africa. This award is considered to be an important contribution to the preservation of world cultural heritage. Floor for the amount of award under the large grant program is \$200,000 per project. This call for proposals is divided into two phases: Letter of Intent due January 25 and Project Abstract due February 8.

Application and Submission Information:

ROUND 1: The deadline to submit a Letter of Intent is Wednesday, **January 25, 2016**. The Letter of Intent can be submitted through Public Affairs Offices in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. The Letter of Intent should include the title, project dates, and a short description of the project. The Public Affairs Office will evaluate the statements of intent and invite shortlisted projects to advance to Round 2.

ROUND 2: The Public Affairs Office will invite shortlisted institutions to develop and submit Project Abstracts by **Monday, February 8, 2016**. Project Abstracts must be submitted in English in electronic format to the following address: Amy Christianson, ChristiansonAL@state.gov and Sheila Goodgall GoodgallSE@state.gov ; Subject: *AFCP Large Grants Proposal*. The Abstract should be in word format but attachments can be sent in jpeg and pdf.

Funding Priorities:

The AFCP Large Grants Program gives top priority to project activities that are appropriate and in keeping with international cultural heritage preservation standards. An appropriate preservation activity is one that protects the values of the site 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. Appropriate project activities may include:

- preventive conservation (addressing conditions that damage or threaten the site)

- 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)

Eligible Projects: AFCP 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.

Round 1: Letters of Intent must include or address the following:

- Project Basics, including title, project dates, AFCP focus area, and other top-level information.

Round 2: Institutions that are invited to advance to Round 2 will work with the Public Affairs Sections of the U.S. Mission in South Africa to develop a Project Abstract that must include the following information:

- 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).
- Project Basics, including title, project dates, location, and site.
- Project Applicant information, including contact information, DUNS Number, and SAM registration status.
- Special Designations (national monument, World Heritage Site, etc.).
- Law/s Protecting the Site or Collection (citations only).
- Project Purpose that summarizes the project objectives and desired results.
- Statement of Importance highlighting the historic, architectural, artistic, or cultural (non-religious) values of the site or collection.
- 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 existing bilateral agreements and other U.S. foreign policy objectives.

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Prospective applicants should seriously consider that the following types of projects and costs will not be considered for award. Prior to submission of a Letter of Intent, please review the non-eligibility list below:

- 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;
- Preservation of natural heritage (physical, biological, and geological formations, paleontological collections, habitats of threatened species of animals and plants, fossils, etc.);
- Preservation of hominid or human remains;
- Preservation of news media (newspapers, newsreels, radio and TV programs, etc.);
- Preservation of published materials available elsewhere (books, periodicals, etc.);
- Development of curricula or educational materials for classroom use;
- Archaeological excavations or exploratory surveys for research purposes;
- Historical research, except in cases where the research is justifiable and integral to the success of the proposed project;
- Acquisition or creation of new exhibits, objects, or collections for new or existing museums;
- Construction of new buildings, building additions, or permanent coverings (over archaeological sites, for example);
- Commissions of new works of art or architecture for commemorative or economic development purposes;
- Creation of new or the modern adaptation of existing traditional dances, songs, chants, musical compositions, plays, or other performances;
- Creation of replicas or conjectural reconstructions of cultural objects or sites that no longer exist;
- Relocation of cultural sites from one physical location to another;
- Removal of cultural objects or elements of cultural sites from the country for any reason;
- Digitization of cultural objects or collections, unless part of a larger, clearly defined conservation or documentation effort;
- Conservation plans or other studies, unless they are one component of a larger project to implement the results of those studies;
- 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);
- Costs of fund-raising campaigns;
- Contingency, unforeseen, or miscellaneous costs or fees;
- Costs of work performed prior to announcement of the award unless allowable per 2 CFR 200.458 and approved by the grants officer;
- International travel, except in cases where travel is justifiable and integral to the success of the proposed project;
- Travel or study outside the host country for professional development;
- Individual projects costing less than \$200,000;
- Independent U.S. projects overseas.

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Please direct inquiries about this call for proposals to Amy Christianson, Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Pretoria (ChristiansonAL@state.gov) and Sheila Goodgall, Cultural Affairs Specialist, U.S. Embassy Pretoria (GoodgallSE@state.gov). Information on previous awards is available from the AFCP Website:
<http://exchanges.state.gov/heritage/afcp.html>.