



U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation

**Cultural Heritage Center
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
U.S. Department of State**

Established by Congress in the fall of 2000, the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) awards grants for the preservation of cultural sites, cultural objects and collections, and forms of traditional cultural expression, such as music, dance, and language in more than 130 countries around the world. Administered by the Cultural Heritage Center, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, and funded from Diplomatic and Consular Program funds, the AFCP offers the U.S. a meaningful opportunity to show its respect for the cultural heritage of other countries.

Belize

2014 Conservation of the Benque Archeological Site (Structure 27-1884) \$55,000

Although the site has been declared as an archaeological reserve, the site is beset by three major and immediate conservation concerns: the collapse of the ancient architecture, continued vandalism, the illegal dumping of trash in the park. This AFCP grant will support the conservation of the excavated and looted buildings, and to halt the erosion of the platform on which the site core is located.

2012 Conservation of the Ancient Maya Ruins of Chetumal at Santa Rita Archaeological Site \$50,000

To support the conservation of several ruined structures at Santa Rita Archaeological Site, the original location of the Pre-Columbian Maya city of Chetumal. Exposure to the elements, vandalism, and the continuing urbanization and encroachment of adjacent town of Corozal are impacting the ancient structures of Chetumal. This project includes site preparation activities, conservation work, and site protection measures to safeguard the integrity of the site.

2009 Conservation of the Early Classic Maya Mask Temple (Structure N9-56) in the Lamanai Archaeological Reserve \$60,900

To support the conservation of a rare stucco portrait mask of an Early Classic Maya ruler, the only large mask of its type known to exist in Belize. Earlier conservation efforts, including the construction of a wooden roof over the site (Structure N9-56), following the excavation of the mask in the 1970s have failed to forestall the deterioration of the mask's limestone base and lime plaster.

This project involves emergency consolidation measures and the construction of a fiberglass covering to protect the mask.

2009 Restoration of Government House, an Early 19th-Century Landmark in Belize City \$53,400

To support the first phase of a multiyear restoration of an important early 19th-century colonial building and maritime landmark in Belize City. Situated only 100 feet inland from the Caribbean Sea, the building bears the brunt of the region's many storms, including destructive hurricanes in 1931 and 1961, and its brick foundations and tropical hardwood framing are highly susceptible to damage from moisture, sea spray, and insects. This project involves the repair or replacement of the building's 52 wooden shutters.

2007 Preservation of Serpon Historical Park, the Site of a 19th-Century Sugar Mill \$55,000

To support the development of an archaeological and historical park on the site of a unique 19th-century sugar mill. Established by U.S. Confederate soldiers who sought opportunities and fortune after the Civil War, the sugar mill site includes a 19th-century Tredegar (Richmond, VA) steam locomotive, one of only two known to be in existence today. The project involves site clearance, the establishment of trails, and the conservation and display of the mill ruins and locomotive.

2006 Conservation of Historic Buildings in Lamanai Archaeological Reserve \$54,340

To support the conservation of significant buildings in the Lamanai Archaeological Reserve. The buildings include two 16th-century churches, built by Spanish Conquistadors, and the first sugar mill in the district, built by British colonists in the 19th century. The site of Lamanai was inhabited continually for over 3000 years. Although funding has been directed toward the preservation of Maya temples on the site, the churches and mill have been neglected and are now at risk due to damage from recent hurricanes.

2005 Preservation of Stucco Masks at Cerro Maya Archaeological Site \$45,847

To support the preservation and protection of fragile stucco masks by shielding them with replicas made from fiberglass. Project activities include consolidation of the temple structure, tourism management, and site protection. Cerro Maya (the Mayan city) was occupied by from 300 BC to 1300 AD. The masks were excavated in 1977, and are invaluable archaeological and cultural landmarks.

2003 Training in the Preservation of Maya Cultural Heritage at El Pilar \$24,000

To enable the establishment of a citizens' group that will promote local heritage preservation. Oral histories, ethnographies and public education projects will be conducted as part of the project. Educational programs will focus on respect for the Maya forest as an example of heritage preservation. Looting of Maya monuments, such as at El Pilar, will be used to underscore the continued destruction and loss of Belize's cultural heritage.

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