



AFCP 2017 Application Guidelines

The U.S Embassy Cairo Cultural Affairs Office is now accepting project proposals for the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) 2017 Competition. **The deadline for submitting proposals is December 31, 2016.**

All Applications should be submitted electronically to CairoAFCP@state.gov. No hard copies will be accepted.

AFCP grants range from a floor of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$200,000 per project.

FUNDING AREAS:

Through the AFCP Program, the Department of State supports projects to preserve cultural heritage in the following three areas:

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.

FUNDING PRIORITIES:

Proposals for projects that meet one or more of the following criteria will receive additional consideration in FY 2017:

1. Directly support U.S. treaty or bilateral agreement obligations, such as cultural property protection agreements.
2. Support the preservation of inscribed UNESCO World Heritage sites.
3. Support disaster risk reduction for cultural heritage and post-disaster cultural heritage recovery in seismically active and other disaster-prone areas.
4. Engage women, youth, or under-served communities.



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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. Posts considering preservation projects with a religious connection are encouraged to contact the to contact the Cultural Affairs Office at CairoAFCP@state.gov

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 that are 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 proposals. Embassies must ensure the applicants are able to receive support from the U.S. Government and AFCP grants in accordance with AFCP program policies.

INELIGIBLE PROJECT APPLICANTS:

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

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



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- 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;



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- 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. Individual projects costing less than \$10,000;
- Y. Independent U.S. projects overseas.

APPLICATION RATING CRITERIA:

The Cultural Affairs Office will first screen all proposals for technical eligibility based on the criteria contained in this request for grant proposals.

The Cultural Affairs Office will then rate all applications 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; 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 the Ministry of Antiquities. Up to three projects from Cairo will be nominated and sent to the Cultural Heritage Center in Washington, D.C.

The Cultural Heritage Center will also screen proposals against the lists of AFCP program-specific ineligible activities, costs, and applicants (see relevant sections above). At most, one project from Egypt will be chosen.