

## **Call for Applications: Museums Connect 2014**

The US Embassy in Amman is pleased to announce a call for applications for the 2014 Museums Connect grant program.

The Museums Connect grant program strengthens connections and cultural understanding between people in the United States and abroad through innovative year-long collaborative projects facilitated by museums. Each project involves a partnership between at least one museum in the U.S., and at least one museum abroad.

The program has two primary goals:

- Communities in the U.S. and abroad develop a broader knowledge about and understanding of one another's cultures.
- Museums and related arts and cultural organizations create replicable models for international collaborations that reach beyond their physical walls to directly engage members of their communities.

Awards are offered on an annual basis (contingent on funding) in amounts between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and require a 50% cost-share match. Projects must be mutually beneficial, address critical issues and themes, and include community and museum staff travel between participating countries.

This cycle's critical issues and themes include:

- \* Addressing Community Challenges
- \* Adapting to Changing Demographics
- \* Promoting Disability Rights and Engagement
- \* Investing in Green Practices
- \* Developing Amateur Experts

For more information on the program, and to see examples of current and past projects, please see here: <http://www.aam-us.org/resources/international/museumsconnect/>

For a fuller explanation of the critical issues and themes for this year's application cycle, see here: <http://www.aam-us.org/resources/international/museumsconnect/apply/themes>

**Application to participate in Museum Connects is a multi-step process.** Museums interested in participating must first submit a museum profile, which includes basic information about the museum and potential project ideas. Potential project ideas are non-binding, and need not be expressed in extensive detail at this phase.

During the same initial application phase, interested museums in the U.S. and abroad can peruse the information provided by other museums in order to form partnerships (which must include at least one U.S. museum and one foreign museum), before jointly proceeding in the next phase of the application, which includes a fuller description of the joint project.

**If your museum would like to participate in Museums Connect for 2014, you must provide a museum profile by October 7, 2013.** Use the form provided here (click on "Appendix I"):

<http://www.aam-us.org/resources/international/museumsconnect/apply>.

**Please e-mail the completed form** to [museumsconnect@aam-us.org](mailto:museumsconnect@aam-us.org), cc'ing [UnderwoodMC@state.gov](mailto:UnderwoodMC@state.gov) and [AbdelhadiR@state.gov](mailto:AbdelhadiR@state.gov).

For a full explanation of the multi-step application process, please see here:

<http://www.aam-us.org/resources/international/museumsconnect/apply>

Note: For purposes of the Museums Connect program, **the term 'museum' is used broadly to include both governmental and private museums of anthropology, art history and natural history, aquariums, arboreta, art centers, botanical gardens, children's museums, historic sites, nature centers, planetariums, science and technology centers, and zoos.**

Also Note: Museums Connect does not fund construction or projects focused primarily on staff/institutional development or capacity building, staff-to-staff exchange, traditional exhibit design or object exchange, or artist residencies. See here for examples of past and current projects: <http://www.aam-us.org/resources/international/museumsconnect/projects>

Museums Connect<sup>SM</sup> is made possible by the [U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs](#) and is administered by the American Alliance of Museums.