

**Department of State- Embassy of the United States of America in Paraguay
Notice of Funding Opportunity**

Program Office: Public Diplomacy
Funding Opportunity Title: U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) 2020 Large Grants Competition, Paraguay.
Announcement Type: Initial
Funding Opportunity Number: SPA10020GR002WHA10252019
CFDA 19.025 — Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation
Deadline for Applications: December 9, 2019

I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Embassy in Paraguay in coordination with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State are pleased to announce the fiscal year 2020 call for Project Abstracts and Full Proposals for the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation Large Grants competition in Paraguay. The Fund is aimed at 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 Paraguay. Floor on Amount of Each Award: US \$200,000 per project. Ceiling on Amount of Each Award: \$800,000 per project.

Funding areas: PD invites eligible organizations to submit Project Abstracts and, if selected to advance to Round 2, Full Applications for large-scale, partnership-based projects to preserve significant cultural heritage sites in Paraguay through the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP).

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).
- Anastylis (an archaeological term for a reconstruction technique whereby a ruined building or monument is restored using the original architectural elements to the greatest degree possible).
- Restoration (replacing missing elements to recreate the original appearance of a site, usually appropriate only with fine arts, decorative arts, and historic buildings).

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.

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

II. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Award Period: Up to five years

Award Amount: A maximum amount per award of \$800,000 is available under this program. Since 2008, awards made through this program for new large-scale projects have ranged from \$245,000 to \$500,000.

Cost Sharing or Matching: This program does not require cost sharing but any cost sharing will be looked upon favorably.

Awards will be made before September 30, 2020 using Grants and are subject to the availability of funds.

III. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Eligible Applicants: Eligibility is limited to reputable not-for-profit organizations, museums, ministries of culture, or similar institutions and organizations, including U.S.-based organizations subject to Section 501(c)(3) of the tax code, that are registered and active in SAM.gov and able to demonstrate that they have the requisite experience and capacity to manage projects to preserve cultural heritage.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching: Applicants are not required to include funding from other donors. However, applications that include additional in-kind and/or cash contributions from non-U.S. Government sources will be more competitive, since cost-sharing demonstrates a strong commitment to the planned activities and will be considered to show great cost effectiveness.

3. Other: Eligibility is limited to those organizations who qualify to receive Grants from the U.S. Department of State and have the ability to develop and implement proposed programs in Paraguay. Individuals are not eligible to apply under this notice. Please follow all instructions below carefully especially concerning deadlines as applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed or considered.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Application Submission Process: The application process for the AFCP Large Grants Program takes place in two rounds: Project Abstract (Round 1) and Full Application (Round 2). Applicants must submit Project Abstracts electronically to educationparaguay@state.gov or on Grants.gov using the new workflow system. Applications are accepted in English only, and final award agreements will be concluded in English as the controlling language. Applicants will receive a confirmation e-mail

from the U.S. Embassy in Asuncion's Public Diplomacy section to indicate that we have received the Project Abstract.

Application Content: Applicants must follow the NOFO instructions and conditions contained herein and supply all information required. **Failure to furnish all information or comply with stated requirements will result in disqualification from the competition.** Applicants must set forth full, accurate, and complete information as required by this NOFO. The penalty for making false statements in proposals to the USG is prescribed on 18 U.S.C.1001.

Round 1 Project Abstract requirements (DEADLINE: December 9, 2020)

The Project Abstract must consist of the following:

Section 1 - Full and complete Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424), including Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A):

These forms can be found on-line at: <https://py.usembassy.gov/es/embassy-es/asuncion-es/grants-corner/>

SF 424 [Http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424_2_1-V2.1.pdf](http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424_2_1-V2.1.pdf)

SF424A <https://py.edit.usembassy.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/274/SF424A.pdf>

Section 2 - Project Basics:

- A. Title, project dates, location, and site.
- B. Project applicant information, including contact information, DUNS Number, and SAM registration status
- C. Special designations (national monument, World Heritage Site, etc.)
- D. Law(s) protecting the site or collection (citations only).
- E. Project purpose that summarizes the project objectives and desired results.
- G. Statement of importance highlighting the historic, architectural, artistic, or cultural (non-religious) values of the site or collection.

Round 2 Full Application requirements (DEADLINE: March 1, 2020)

- A. Revised project abstract, if applicable.
- B. Revised SF-424, if applicable.
- C. Proof of official permission to undertake the project and the full endorsement and support of the national cultural authority in Paraguay.
- D. Project activities description that presents the project tasks in chronological order (NOTE: If the proposed project is part of a larger effort involving multiple projects supported by other entities, the plan must present the full scope of the preservation effort and the place of the proposed project within that larger effort).
- E. Project time frame or schedule that lists the major project phases and milestones with target dates for achieving them (NOTE: Applicants may propose project periods of up to 60 months [five years]).

- F. Project participant information, including resumes or CVs of the proposed project director and key project participants.
- G. Statement of urgency indicating the severity of the situation and explaining why the project must take place now.
- H. Statement of sustainability outlining the steps or measures that will be taken to maintain the site or collection in good condition after the AFCP-supported project is complete.
- I. Detailed project budget, demarcated in one-year budget periods (2019, 2020, 2021, etc.), that lists all costs in separate categories (Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Travel [including Per Diem], Equipment, Supplies, Contractual, Other Direct Costs, Indirect Costs, Cost Sharing); indicates funds from other sources; and gives a justification for any anticipated international travel costs.
- J. Budget narrative explaining how the costs were estimated (quantity x unit cost, for example) and any unique line items in the budget.
- K. Ten (10) or more high quality digital images (JPEGs) or audiovisual files that convey the nature and condition of the site or museum collection and show the urgency or need for the proposed project (collapsing walls, extensive water damage, etc.)
- L. Relevant supporting documentation, such as historic structure reports, restoration plans and studies, conservation needs assessments and recommendations, architectural and engineering records, etc., compiled in preparation for the proposed project.

All applicants must:

1. Have or obtain a Unique Entity Identifier currently known as a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet (if your organization does not have one already) by applying on line at:
<http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/pages/CCRSearch.jsp>
2. Have or obtain an N-Cage number by applying on line at:
<https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/scage/CageList.aspx>
3. Register with the System for Awards Management (SAM) data base; please note that your SAM registration must be renewed annually. Failure to renew your SAM registration may prohibit submission of a grant application through Grants.gov. The website for registering after your organizations has both a DUNS and N-Cage number is: <https://www.sam.gov/portal>

Application Deadline: All Project Abstracts must be submitted via e-mail before December 9, 2019, 5:30 p.m. Paraguay time. Applications submitted after 5:30 p.m. 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. There will be no exceptions to this application deadline.

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Consistent with the federal award regulations, the Department of State reserves the right to give priority for its funds to those organizations working on key USG objectives that are and have been supportive, in policy and programs, of USG policies in Paraguay.

Evaluation Criteria: Project Abstracts submitted under this notice will be reviewed by the Cultural Heritage Center of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Center will review and select Round 1 project abstracts and full project applications (Round 2).

The Center will screen and rate all project abstracts received by the deadline and forward the favorably rated abstracts to the relevant regional bureaus for ranking. The project abstracts may be forwarded for advisory peer review to other federal agency personnel with relevant experience as well as to other State offices. On or around February 16, 2020, the Center will invite applicants whose project abstracts received a favorable rating and ranking to submit full project applications.

VI. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION

Federal Award Notices: The Grant award shall be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The Grants Officer is the Government official delegated the authority by the U.S. Department of State Procurement Executive to write, award, and administer Grants and Fixed Amount Awards. The assistance award agreement is the authorizing document and it will be provided to the Recipient through either e-mail or facsimile transmission. Organizations whose applications will not be funded will also be notified in writing. This notice is made and any awards will be made in line with the [2 CFR 200](#).

Applicants under consideration for an award will be subject to a pre-award survey to determine fiscal responsibility and ensure adequacy of financial controls. This survey contains a list of criteria for determining whether the applicant's accounting system meets the minimum standards to be eligible for USG funding. These standards include appropriate accounting software and written financial management policies and accounting procedures. The pre-award survey will involve assessing the extent to which these are in place within an organization and being actively implemented.

Administrative Requirements: Awards made through Grants under this notice will be subject to [The U.S. Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions for Federal Assistance Awards](#).

Issuance of this NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government, nor does it commit the Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, the Government reserves the right to reject any or all Project Abstracts received.

Reporting Requirements: Grantees are required to submit quarterly program progress and financial reports throughout the project period. Progress and financial reports are due 30 days after the reporting period. Final programmatic and financial reports are due 90 days after the close of the project period. Progress reports at a minimum should be submitted via electronic mail to an address to be provided in the award.

VII. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT

For questions about this solicitation, contact Darren Beltran, Grants and Program Specialist, at:

Email: educationparaguay@state.gov (Preferred method of communication)

Phone: +595-21-213-715