

chartered savings associations to obtain agency approval of any change in its bylaws that is not preapproved by regulation.

Respondents: Savings and Loan

Associations and Savings Banks

Estimated Number of Respondents: 20

Estimated Burden Hours Per

Respondent: 8 Hrs. Avg

Frequency of Response: On Occasion

Estimated Total Recordkeeping Burden: 160 Hrs.

Clearance Officer: Colleen M. Devine, (202) 906-6025, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 Street, N. W., Washington, D.C. 20552

OMB Reviewer: Milo Sunderhauf, (202) 395-7340, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10226, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Cora Prifold Beebe,

Director of Administration.

[FR Doc. 95-14698 Filed 6-14-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6720-01-P

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

International Creative Arts Exchanges for Public and Private Non-Profit Organizations

ACTION: Notice request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Arts America Creative Arts Exchanges Division of the U.S. Information Agency's [USIA] Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award. Public and non-profit organizations that demonstrate disciplinary expertise in the arts and meet the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-(1) may apply to develop projects for artists and arts administrators. These will consist of residences and/or exchange programs in which artists from the United States and other countries work and learn together. Interested applicants are invited to request and read the complete Solicitation Package before submitting their proposals.

Overall grant making and funding authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries * * *; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and

achievements of the people of the United States and other nations * * * and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world."

Programs and projects must conform with requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. A Solicitation Package consists of the **Federal Register** Request For Proposals (RFP); a Project Objectives, Goals, and Implementation (POGI) statement; and Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI). USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds. Individuals interested in other USIA programs can access information via the USIA Internet gopher site: Gopher. USIA.GOV

ANNOUNCEMENT NAME & NUMBER: All communications concerning this announcement should refer to the title and reference number—E/DE-96-06.

DATES: All proposal materials must be received at USIA by 5:00 p.m. Washington, DC time on Thursday, September 7, 1995. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked on September 7, 1995, but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline. Projects should begin between February 1, 1996 and July 31, 1996. For projects that begin after July 31, 1996, proposals should be submitted under the next award competition. The next competition will be announced in the **Federal Register** on or about December 7, 1995.

FOR FURTHER APPLICATION INFORMATION: Please contact the Office of Arts America, Creative Arts Exchanges Division, Room 568, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547 (Phone: 202-619-5338, Fax: 202-619-6315, Internet: JDorsey@USIA.gov) to request a Solicitation Package, which includes more detailed award criteria; all application forms; and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget. Please specify Christopher Paddock on all inquiries and correspondences. Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before submitting their proposals. Creative Arts staff are available to answer any programmatic or technical questions applicants may have prior to submission of applications. Once the RFP deadline has passed, staff may not discuss this competition with applicants until after the proposal review process has been completed.

Proposal Submission Instructions

Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package and send an original and two (2) copies of the full package plus nine (9) additional copies of Tabs A-E to: U.S. Information Agency, REF: E/DE-96-01, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

Applicants must also submit to E/EX the "Executive Summary," "Proposal Narrative," and "Budget" sections of each proposal on a 3.5" diskette, formatted for DOS. This material must be provided in ASCII text (DOS) format with a maximum line length of 65 characters. USIA will transmit these files electronically to USIS posts overseas for their review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to get posts' comments for the Agency's grants review process.

Guidelines

The Creative Arts Exchanges Division works with U.S. non-profit organizations to develop cooperative international group projects that introduce American and foreign participants to each other's cultural and artistic life and traditions. The Division seeks projects with organizations that have disciplinary expertise in the arts as well as broad outreach and networking capabilities into American arts activities nationwide. International projects in the United States or overseas may involve composers, choreographers, playwrights, theater designers, writers and poets, filmmakers, visual artists, and arts administrators. Arts administration programs can include topics such as arts management, institutional development, community outreach, fundraising, tour management, and organizational structure.

Organizations interested in museum/curatorial projects should contact the American Association of Museums (AAM) International Partnerships Among Museums (IPAM) program: Office of International Programs, American Association of Museums, 1225 Eye Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005; telephone: (202) 289-1818; FAX: (202) 289-6578. We will not accept direct applicants from museums for international projects.

Projects should involve the following components:

1. An international exchange of professionals in the fields listed above;
2. The development of institutional linkages between American organizations and their counterparts in other countries;
3. Travel to or from the United States, preferably in both directions;

4. Assurances of quality, fairness, balance and openness in the selection of project participants.

Proposed projects should involve U.S. Information Service (USIS) posts worldwide to carry out activities supportive of the USIA mission to increase mutual understanding between the United States and other countries and to promote international cooperation in educational and cultural fields. USIS' role in such projects should be substantive and integral and not purely facilitative.

Proposals including performances and/or exhibitions will be considered only if the performance or exhibition is integral to the creative process. Projects in which exhibitions and/or performances are the main focus will not be supported.

Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including but not limited to race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle.

Drafts of all printed materials developed for this program using USIA funds should be submitted to the Agency for review and approval. USIA must receive a royalty-free, non-exclusive and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the work for Federal purposes, and to authorize others to do so. Funded projects must acknowledge USIA sponsorship in all printed project materials and official project documents.

Special conditions and exclusions:

1. USIS Posts should be given the option of nominating foreign program participants, while the U.S. grantee organization will make final selection decisions.

2. Proposals involving more than one country are preferred. However, single-country projects that have strong USIS Post support and clearly demonstrate the potential for creating and strengthening linkages between foreign and U.S. institutions are also welcome.

3. Proposals involving foreign organizations should identify them and clearly define their role in the project. Letters of commitment from these organizations should be included in the proposal package. Prospective applicants should consult with USIS

Posts regarding such organizations prior to submitting their proposals.

4. Proposals centering on films or videos must deal with the creative aspects of film or video making. Projects may include story development, other aspects of the creative processes, or management issues like funding and distribution. They should not include installations, screenings, competitions, full scale film production or distribution, or any other type of project prohibited in this announcement.

The following types of projects are ineligible for support:

1. Vocational and technical training projects;

2. Scholarly programs, long-term academic study or training programs, and student and/or faculty exchanges (Organizations interested in programs of this nature should contact USIA's Office of Academic Programs—202-619-6409);

3. Speaking tours, conferences, research projects, research for project development purposes, publications;

4. Youth or youth-related activities (participants' age under 25) or projects for the exchange of amateurs or semi-professionals;

5. International arts competitions, community-level arts presentations or festivals for general audiences;

6. Study tours and observerships;

7. Projects in the fields of historical and cultural conservation and preservation.

USIA is a major supporter of Sister Cities International and Partners of the Americas. It has agreed to fund administrative expenses of these organizations' national offices, but will not fund projects arising from sister city and partner state relationships once they are established.

Geographic guidelines:

Proposals which address themselves to various geographic regions of the world, and allow across-the-board participation from all areas are preferred. In addition, preferences for specific geographic areas are:

1. Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, the Near/Middle East, and South Asia: Proposals are especially encouraged for projects in these regions. There are no specific preferences in terms of thematic fields.

2. American Republics (South America, Central America and the Caribbean): Proposals are invited in all appropriate areas. Preference will be given to proposals that focus on ethnic and indigenous arts.

3. Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union: Proposals should clearly demonstrate knowledge of the host country environment and the

institutional partner in that country and provide evidence of long-term commitment to project goals.

4. Western Europe and Canada: Only proposals that are multi-country, address arts financing in the U.S., and invite arts administrators as participants will be considered.

Visa/Insurance/Tax Requirements

Programs must comply with J-1 visa regulations. Please refer to program specific guidelines in Solicitation Package for further details. Administration of the program must be in compliance with reporting and withholding regulations for federal, state, and local taxes as applicable. Recipient organizations should demonstrate tax regulation adherence in the proposal narrative and budget.

Budgetary Requirements

Detailed budgetary requirements and guidelines are included in the Solicitation Package. Creative Arts discretionary awards are on average approximately \$58,000 with many successful proposals coming in at well below this level. Organizations may request up to \$100,000 for single-country projects. In exceptional cases awards of up to \$200,000 dollars are available for multi-country projects. Organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs are eligible for awards up to \$60,000. Please note that proposal budgets must include a minimum of 33% cost sharing of the total project cost. Administrative costs must be no more than 20% of the total amount requested from USIA.

Review Process

USIA will acknowledge receipt of all proposals and will review them for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines in the Solicitation Package. Eligible proposals will be reviewed by the Office of Arts America, USIA geographic area policy offices, and USIA Posts overseas. Panels of USIA officers will make funding recommendations. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the General Counsel or by other USIA elements. Funding decisions are at the discretion of the USIA Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) resides with the USIA Office of Contracts.

Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to

the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered:

1. Quality of the program idea: Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to USIA's mission and the goals of the Creative Arts Exchanges Program as stated under the Summary and Guidelines sections of this document.
2. Program planning: Detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive artistic/organizational undertakings and logistical capacity. Agenda and plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above.
3. Ability to achieve program objectives: Objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the program's objectives and plan.
4. Institutional capacity/ability: Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals. Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past USIA grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts. USIA will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.
5. Multiplier effect/impact: Proposed programs should strengthen long-term mutual understanding, including maximum sharing of information and establishment of long-term institutional and individual linkages.
6. Follow-on activities: Proposals should provide a plan for continued follow-on activity (without USIA support) which insures that USIA supported programs are not isolated events.
7. Support diversity: Proposals should demonstrate the recipient's commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity as defined under the *Guidelines* section of this document.
8. Project evaluation: Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the activity's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. USIA recommends that the proposal

include a draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives. Award-receiving organizations/institutions will be expected to submit intermediate reports after each project component is concluded or quarterly, whichever is less frequent.

9. Cost-effectiveness: The overhead and administrative components of the proposals, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate.

10. Cost-sharing: Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

11. Value to U.S.-partner country relations: Proposed programs should receive positive assessments by USIA's geographic area desk and overseas USIS officers of program need, potential impact, and significance in the partner country(ies).

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by USIA that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. USIA reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposed budgets in accordance with the needs of the program. Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Notification

All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process on or about January 1, 1996. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: June 5, 1995.

Dell Pendergrast,

Deputy Associate Director, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 95-14248 Filed 6-14-95; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Wage Committee, Notice of Meetings

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in accordance with Pub. L. 92-463, gives notice that meetings of the VA Wage Committee will be held on: Wednesday, July 19, 1995, at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 16, 1995, at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 30, 1995, at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 27, 1995, at 2:00 p.m.

The meetings will be held in Room 1225, Department of Veterans Affairs, Tech World Plaza, 801 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

The Committee's purpose is to advise the Under Secretary for Health on the development and authorization of wage schedules for Federal Wage System (blue-collar) employees.

At these meetings the Committee will consider wage survey specifications, wage survey data, local committee reports and recommendations, statistical analyses, and proposed wage schedules.

All portions of the meetings will be closed to the public because the matters considered are related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Department of Veterans Affairs and because the wage survey data considered by the Committee have been obtained from officials of private business establishments with a guarantee that the data will be held in confidence. Closure of the meetings is in accordance with subsection 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463, as amended by Pub. L. 94-409, and as cited in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (2) and (4).

However, members of the public are invited to submit material in writing to the Chairperson for the Committee's attention.

Additional information concerning these meetings may be obtained from the Chairperson, VA Wage Committee, Room 1225, 801 I Street, NW., Washington, DC 20001.

Dated: June 7, 1995.

By direction of the Secretary.

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 95-14612 Filed 6-14-95; 8:45 am]

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