Dated: November 2, 1998.

Les Jin,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 98–29738 Filed 11–5–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230–01–M

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determination: ''Project 66: Campana/Ingo Maurer''

AGENCY: United States Information Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985, 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978 (43 FR 13359, March 29, 1978), and Delegation Order No. 85–5 of June 27, 1985 (50 FR 27393, July 2, 1985), I hereby determine that the objects to be included in the exhibit, ''Project 66: Campana/Ingo Maurer,'' imported from abroad for the temporary exhibition without profit within the United States, is of cultural significance. These objects are imported pursuant to a loan agreement with the foreign lender. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the listed objects at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York, from on or about November 27, 1998, to on or about January 19, 1999, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Neila Sheahan, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, 202/619–5030, and the address is Room 700, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547–0001.

Dated: November 2, 1998.

Les Jin,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 98–29737 Filed 11–5–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230–01–M

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Summer Institutes in American Studies for Foreign University Teachers; Request for Proposals (RFP)

SUMMARY: The Branch for the Study of the United States of the U.S. Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for four (4) assistance awards. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(C) may apply to develop and implement one of the following four post-graduate level American Studies programs designed for multinational groups of 18 experienced foreign university faculty:

1. Summer Institute on Contemporary American Literature
2. Summer Institute on Change and Reform in American History
3. Summer Institute on the Foundations of U.S. Foreign Policy
4. Summer Institute on the U.S. Constitution

These programs are intended to provide participants with a deeper understanding of American life and institutions, past and present, in order to promote the development and improvement of courses and teaching about the United States at universities abroad.

Program are six weeks in length, and will be conducted during the Summer of 1999.

USIA is seeking detailed proposals from colleges, universities, consortia of colleges and universities, and other non-for-profit academic organizations that have an established reputation in one or more of the following fields: political science, international relations, law, history, sociology, literature, American studies, and/or other disciplines or sub-disciplines related to the program theme. Applicant institutions must demonstrate expertise in conducting post-graduate programs for foreign educators, and *must have a minimum of four years experience in conducting international exchange programs.* The project director or one of the key program staff responsible for the academic program must have an advanced degree in one of the fields listed above. Staff escorts traveling under the USIA cooperative agreement must have demonstrated qualifications for this service.

Programs must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. USIA programs are subject to the availability of funds.

Program Information

Overview and Objectives: The ''Summer Institutes in American Studies'' are intended to offer foreign scholars and teachers whose professional work focuses on the United States the opportunity to deepen their understanding of American institutions and culture. Their ultimate goal is to improve curricula and the quality of teaching about the U.S. in universities abroad.

Program should be six weeks in length, must include an academic residency segment of at least four weeks at a U.S. college or university campus (or other appropriate location), and a study tour segment of not more than two weeks which directly complements the academic program and includes visits to one or more additional regions of the United States.

All institutes should be designated as intensive academically rigorous programs that are organized through an integrated series of lectures, readings, seminar discussions, research and independent study opportunities, faculty consultations, site visits and regional travel.

Institutions submitting proposals are encouraged to design thematically coherent programs in ways that draw upon the particular strengths and resources of their institutions as well as upon the nationally recognized expertise of scholars and other experts throughout the United States. Within the limits of the program's thematic focus and organizing frameworks, proposals should also be designed to:

A. Provide participants with a survey of current scholarship and scholarly trends within the institute's governing academic discipline, indicating how current academic practice and debate represent both a continuation of and, where appropriate, a departure from past practices within that discipline;

B. Bring an interdisciplinary or multi disciplinary approach to bear on the subject when appropriate;

C. Give participants a multi-dimensional view of U.S. society and institutions that reflects a board range of perspectives, including the views of scholars and of experts outside the university, such as government officials, public intellectuals and cultural critics, journalists, and other relevant professionals; and,

D. Insure access to extensive bibliographic and materials resources that will enable grantees to continue their research, study and curriculum development after returning to their home institutions.

Program Description

1. Summer Institute on Contemporary American Literature (E/AES–99–01)

This institute should survey contemporary American literature and criticism, examining how major writers, schools and movements have both continued in the tradition of the American literary canon, and at the same time established new directions for American literature. Program may be organized thematically, historically, by

genre, or by any combination thereof that serves to suggest the variety, richness and complexity of contemporary American writing.

2. Summer Institute on Change and Reform in American History (E/AEA–99–02)

This institute should examine the history of reform in the United States from the Colonial period to the present. Attention should be given to major periods (e.g., 1830s, 1890s, 1930s), themes (e.g., abolition, women's rights, civil rights) and leading figures and to the larger political, social and economic currents that contributed to and were in turn affected by the various reform movements examined. Attention should also be given to the literature that posits recurring patterns of reform in American life as a way of understanding American institutions generally.

3. Summer Institute on the Foundations of U.S. Foreign Policy (E/AES–99–03)

This institute should examine the foundations—political, social, economic and cultural—of U.S. foreign policy in the Post-Cold War era. Principal themes, critical policy debates and contemporary issues should be examined within the historical context of U.S. international relations since World War II and within the larger framework of U.S. diplomatic history as a whole. The program should be structured to give attention to U.S. policies both in a global context and in major geographic areas.

4. Summer Institute on the U.S. Constitution (E/AES–99–04)

This institute should examine the U.S. Constitution in terms of its origins, its historical evolutions and its significance in contemporary American life. The program should examine the Constitution in terms of its fundamental political principles—federalism, republicanism, checks and balances, separation of powers, individual rights—and also in terms of how the Constitution has served as a defining text through which the central values of American society and institutions have been defined and redefined throughout American history.

Program Dates: Tentative program dates are June 26 to August 6, 1999. Based on these dates, participants would be booked to arrive in the U.S. on or about June 25, and depart on August 7, 1999. USIA is willing to consider adjustment of these program dates, based on the needs of the host institution. However, the institute must be 42 program days in length, and should take place sometime between June 12 and August 28, 1999.

Participants: programs should be designed for a total of 18 highly-motivated and experienced foreign university faculty who are interested in participating in an intensive seminar on aspects of U.S. civilization as a means to develop or improve courses and teaching about the United States at their home institutions. Most participants can be expected to come from educational institutions where the study of the U.S. is relatively well-developed. Thus, while they may not have in-depth knowledge of the particular institute program theme, most will have had some experience in teaching about the United States. Many will have had sustained professional contact with American scholars and American scholarship, and some may have had substantial prior experience studying in the U.S. Participants will be drawn from all regions of the world and will be fluent in English.

Participants will be nominated by U.S. Information Service posts abroad, and selected by the staff of USIA's Branch of the Study of the United States in Washington, DC. USIA will cover all international travel costs directly.

Program Guidelines: The conception, structure and content of the institute program is entirely the responsibility of the organizers. However, given the multiple possibilities for the successful design of such a program, organizers are expected to submit proposals that articulate in concrete detail how they intend to organize and implement the institute.

Programs must comply with J–1 visa regulations. Please refer to the Solicitation Package for further details on program design and implementation, as well as additional information on all other requirements.

Budget Guidelines: Unless special circumstances warrant, based on a group of 18 participants, the total USIA-funded budget (program and administrative) should not exceed $170,000, and USIA-funded administrative costs as defined in the budget details section of the solicitation package should not exceed $51,000. Justifications for any costs above these amounts must be clearly indicated in the proposal submission. Any grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to $60,000. Applicant proposals should try to maximize cost-sharing in all facets of the program and to stimulate U.S. private sector, including foundation and corporate, support. Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program, and availability of U.S. government funding.

Please refer to the ''POGI'' in the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions for the institute program.

Announcement Name and Number: All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the following titles and reference numbers:

1. Summer Institute on Contemporary American Literature (E/AES–99–01)

2. Summer Institute on Change and Reform in American History (E/AES–99–02)

3. Summer Institute on the Foundations of U.S. Foreign Policy (E/AES–99–03)

4. Summer Institute on the U.S. Constitution (E/AES–99–04)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: To request a Solicitation Package containing more detailed award criteria, required application forms, specific budget instructions, and standard guidelines for proposal preparation, applicants should contact: U.S. Information Agency, Office of Academic Programs, Branch of the Study of the United States, E/AES—Room 252, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, Attention: Richard Taylor, Telephone number: (202) 619–4557, Fax number: (202) 619–6790, Internet address: rtaylor@usia.gov.

Please specify USIA Program Officer Richard Taylor on all inquiries and correspondence. Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before addressing inquiries to the office listed above or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, USIA staff may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until after the proposal review process has been completed.

To Download a Solicitation Package Via Internet

The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at http://www/usia/gov/education/rfps. Please read all information before downloading.

To Receive a Solicitation Package via Fax on Demand

The entire Solicitation Package may be required from the Bureau's Grants Information Fax on Demand System,'' which is accessed by calling 202/401–7616/ The ''Table of Contents'' listing available documents and order numbers

should be the first order when entering the system.

Deadline for Proposals: All proposal copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5:00 p.m. Washington D.C. time on Friday, January 29, 1999. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked January 29, 1999 but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposal submissions arrive by the deadline.

Submissions: Applicants must follow all instructions in the Solicitation Package. The original and 13 copies of the complete application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Reference: (insert appropriate reference number from above, e.g. E/AES–99–xx), Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547.

Applicants should also submit the ''Executive Summary'' and Proposal Narrative'' sections of the 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.

Diversity, Freedom and Democracy Guidelines: 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 ethnicity, race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle both in program administration and in program content. Please refer to the review criteria under the ''Support for Diversity'' section for specific suggestions on incorporating diversity into the total proposal. Public Law 104–319 provides that ''in carrying out programs of educational and cultural exchange in countries whose people do not fully enjoy freedom and democracy,'' USIA ''shall take appropriate steps to provide opportunities for participation in such programs to human rights and democracy leaders of such countries.'' Proposals should reflect advancement of this goal in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

Year 2000 Compliance Requirement (Y2K Requirement): The Year 2000 (Y2K) issue is a broad operational and accounting problem that could potentially prohibit organizations from processing information in accordance with Federal management and program-specific requirements, including data exchange with USIA. The inability to process information in accordance with Federal requirements could result in grantees being required to return funds that have not been accounted for properly.

USIA therefore requires all organizations use Y2K compliant systems including hardware, software, and firmware. Systems must accurately process data and dates (calculating, comparing and sequencing) both before and after the beginning of the year 2000 and correctly adjust for leap years.

Additional information addressing the Y2K issue may be found at the General Service Administration's Office of Information Technology website at http://www.itpolicy.gsa.gov.

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 stated herein and in the Solicitation Package. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by the program office, as well as the USIA Geographic Area Offices. Eligible proposals will then be forwarded to panels of senior USIA officers for advisory review. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the General Counsel or by other Agency elements. Final funding decisions are at the discretion of the USIA Associated Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) resides with the USIA Grants Officer.

Review Criteria: Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered, and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation:

1. Overall Quality: Proposals should exhibit originality and substance, consonant with the highest standards of American teaching and scholarship. Program design should reflect the main currents as well as the debates within the subject discipline of each institute. Program should reflect an overall design whose various elements are coherently and thoughtfully integrated. Lectures, panels, field visits and readings, taken as a whole, should offer a balanced presentation of issues, reflecting both the continuity of the American experience as well as the diversity and dynamism inherent in it.

2. Program Planning: Proposals should demonstrate careful planning. The organization and structure of the institute should be clearly delineated and be fully responsive to all program objectives. A program syllabus (noting specific sessions and topical readings supporting each academic unit) should be included, as should a calendar of activities. The travel component should not simply be a tour, but should be an integral and substantive part of the program, reinforcing and complementing the academic segment.

3. Institutional Capacity: Proposed personnel, including faculty and administrative staff as well as outside presenters, should be fully qualified to achieve the project's goals. Library and media resources should be accessible to participants; housing, transportation and other logistical arrangements should be fully adequate to the needs of participants and should be conducive to a collegial atmosphere.

4. Support for Diversity: Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity. This can be accomplished through documentation, such as a written statement, summarizing past and/or on-going activities and efforts that further the principle of diversity within the organization and its activities. Program activities that address this issue should be highlighted.

5. Experience: The proposal should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange program activity, indicating the experience that the organization and its professional staff have had in working with foreign educators.

6. Evaluation and Follow-up: The proposal should include a plan for evaluating activities during the Institute and at its conclusion. Proposals should comment on provisions made for follow-up with returned grantees as a means of establishing longer-term individual and institutional linkages.

7. Administration and Management: The proposals should indicate evidence of continuous on-site administrative and managerial capacity as well as the means by which program activities will be implemented.

8. Cost Effectiveness: The proposals should maximize cost-sharing through direct institutional contributions, in-kind support, and other private sector support. Overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible.

Authority: Overall grant making 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.''

Notice: The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Notification: Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, and allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Dated: October 30, 1998.

John P. Loiello,

Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 98–29717 Filed 11–5–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230–01–M

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

Sunshine Act Meeting

DATE/TIME: Thursday, November 19, 1998, 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

LOCATION: 1200 17th Street, NW, Suite 200—Conference Room, Washington, DC 20036.

STATUS: Open Session—Portions may be closed pursuant to Subsection (c) of Section 552(b) of Title 5, United States Code, as provided in subsection 1706(h)(3) of the United States Institute of Peace Act, Public Law 98–525.

AGENDA: November 1998 Board Meeting; Approval of Minutes of the Eighty-Sixth Meeting (September 17, 1998) of the Board of Directors; Chairman's Report; President's Report; Committee Reports; Reports on Fiscal Years 1999 and 2000 Budgets; Other General Issues.

CONTACT: Dr. Sheryl Brown, Director, Office of Communications, Telephone: (202) 457–1700.

Dated: November 4, 1998.

Charles E. Nelson,

Vice President for Management and Finance, United States Institute of Peace.

[FR Doc. 98–29947 Filed 11–4–98; 1:33 pm]

BILLING CODE 6820–AR–M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0216]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on the information needed to determine the appropriate claimant eligible for accrued benefits.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before January 5, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please refer to ''OMB Control No. 2900–0216'' in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273–7079 or FAX (202) 275–5947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13; 44 U.S.C., 3501–3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Application for Reimbursement from Accrued Amounts Due a Deceased Beneficiary, VA Form 21–601.

OMB Control Number: 2900–0216.

Type of Review: Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

Abstract: The form is used to file a claim for accrued benefits available at the time of the veteran's death. The information is used by the Veterans Benefits Administration to determine the appropriate claimant eligible for accrued benefits.

Affected Public: Individuals or households—Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Annual Burden: 1,875 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One time for most beneficiaries.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,750.

Dated: October 8, 1998.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 98–29839 Filed 11–5–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Performance Review Board Members

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4) agencies are required to publish a notice in the **Federal Register** of the appointment of Performance Review Board (PRB) members. This notice revises the list of members of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Performance Review Boards which was published in the **Federal Register** on October 15, 1997 (62 FR 53686).

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 6, 1998.