

Passenger Information System (APIS) and the Automated Export System.

On February 4, 1998, the President issued Executive Order 13073 (63 FR 6467; 3 CFR 1998 Compilation __; 34 Weekly Comp.Pres.Doc. 198) concerning Year 2000 Conversion. That Order directed, in part, that executive branch agencies:

(1) Assure that no critical Federal program experiences disruption because of the Y2K problem;

(2) Assist and cooperate with State, local, and tribal governments to address the Y2K problem where those governments depend on Federal information or information technology or the Federal Government is dependent on those governments to perform critical missions; and

(3) Cooperate with the private sector operators of critical national and local systems, including the banking and financial, the telecommunications, the public health, the transportation, and the electronic power generation systems, in addressing the Y2K problem.

This notice addresses the third of these concerns and seeks to allow those members of the trade community with electronic filing capabilities that are approved to interface with Customs through Customs automated systems and that can meet the operational requirements specified below to transmit trial data to establish if their computer software applications will interface with Customs computers regarding recognition of the year 2000. These trials should raise the confidence level of the trade community in Customs Year 2000 renovated systems.

Trial Design/Plan

Initially, this exercise will occur in cycles, with one week "on" and one week "off", for a six week period of time. During each cycle, a specific date will be pre-identified as the "systems date". For example, on Monday the system clock would be set to 12/31/99; the following Tuesday the system clock would be set to 01/01/00, etc., until the prescribed dates have been utilized and processed. The plan will simultaneously execute similar applications with similar communication protocols and configurations together.

Participation Requirements

This notice requests volunteers. In order to participate in these Y2K trials, the electronic filer must be currently approved (deemed operational) to interface through Customs automated systems. The filer must also be able to perform the following types of actions:

(1) Advance his computer systems' internal clock to conform to the adjusted systems date in the Customs Y2K test environment;

(2) Utilize preestablished test data that will accommodate futuristic date validations in order to accurately process with Customs test system. The dates within this test data must be modified by the participant on each day of the exercise. In the case of the APIS however, participants will be required to utilize test data with preestablished dates; and

(3) Utilize special "dial-up" phone lines.

It is noted that participants connecting through other mediums such as dedicated lines, Value Added Networks (VANs), etc., will be carefully supported to coordinate connectivity issues. Other unique system requirements may be necessary to support this effort. These will be identified with participants and coordinated accordingly.

It should be noted that participation in these trials will not permit Customs to certify the trading partner's system for Y2K compliancy.

Interested members of the trade community wishing to participate in these Y2K trials or wishing to submit comments before the date of these trials should contact their Customs or Census client representative or APIS coordinator as indicated at the front of this document.

Dated: January 19, 1999.

S.W. Hall,

Assistant Commissioner, Office of Information and Technology.

[FR Doc. 99-1461 Filed 1-21-99; 8:45 am]

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INFORMATION AGENCY

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "Diego Rivera: Art and Revolution"

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 133359, 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, "Diego Rivera: Art and Revolution," imported from abroad for the temporary exhibition without profit within the

United States, are 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 exhibit objects at the Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio, from on or about February 14, 1999, through on or about May 2, 1999, and the Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, California, from on or about May 30, 1999, through on or about August 16, 1999, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, from on or about September 19, 1999, through on or about November 28, 1999, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carol Epstein, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, 202/619-6981, and the address is Room 700, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: January 15, 1999

Les Jin,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 99-1467 Filed 1-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program Washington Seminar; Request for Proposals

SUMMARY: The Office of Academic Programs of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition to administer the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program Washington Seminar. Washington-based public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may submit proposals to assist USIA with the planning and implementation of a seminar lasting up to five days for approximately 132 mid-career professionals from developing countries and selected Eastern European countries. The seminar will take place in the first half of November, 1999 (please see seminar date details below).

Program Information

Overview: The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program provides a year of non-degree, graduate level study and related professional experiences to mid-level professionals from developing countries and selected Eastern European countries. Fellowships are granted

competitively to public and private sector candidates with a commitment to public service in the fields of natural resources/environmental management, public policy analysis/public administration, economic development, agricultural development/economics, finance/banking, human resource management/personnel, urban and regional planning, public health policy/management, technology policy/management, educational planning, and communications/journalism. Fellows are placed by professional field in groups of seven to 15 at one of 11 participating host universities around the country. Fellows are nominated for the program by USIA overseas posts or Fulbright commissions based on their potential for national leadership, commitment to public service, and professional and academic qualifications. By providing these future leaders with exposure to U.S. society, and to current U.S. approaches to the fields in which they work, the program provides a basis for establishing lasting ties among U.S. citizens and their professional counterparts in other countries.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Enhance fellows' leadership skills through understanding of U.S. social, cultural, and political processes and institutions, including the unique political environment of Washington, D.C.

- Emphasize opportunities for regional and professional networking among fellows and with U.S. colleagues.

Guidelines: Non-profit organizations with key program staff based in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and available for frequent meetings with USIA staff are invited to submit proposals. Organizations also must have experience in conference management, professional exchanges, and international exchanges. Only organizations with at least four years of experience in international exchange activities are eligible to apply for this award. The grant period should begin on August 1, 1999 and conclude on May 31, 2000. The seminar will accommodate approximately 132 participants, in addition to USIA and other staff.

There are two options for conference dates: October 31–November 5 and November 14–19, 1999. Organizations may choose their preferred set of dates according to cost effectiveness and project feasibility.

The recipient organization will be responsible for most arrangements associated with this seminar. These include organizing a coherent schedule of activities, making lodging and

transportation arrangements for participants, preparing all necessary support materials, working with Humphrey Fellowship Coordinators at host universities and IIE staff to achieve maximum workshop effectiveness, conducting a final evaluation, and other details which are outlined in the solicitation package. Drafts of all printed materials developed for the seminar should be submitted to the Agency for review and approval. All official documents should highlight the U.S. Government's role as program director and funding source. Please refer to program guidelines in the solicitation package for further details.

Budget Guidelines: The award for this seminar may not exceed \$165,000, and cost sharing is strongly encouraged. Applicants must submit a comprehensive, line-item budget for the entire seminar. There must be a summary budget, as well as separate sub-budgets for administrative and program costs. Applicants may provide additional sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity to provide clarification. Please refer to the solicitation package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

Announcement Title and Number: All correspondence with USIA concerning this RFP should reference the above title and number E/ASU-99-09.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: The Specialized Programs Branch, E/ASU, Room 349, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, telephone: 202-619-5289 and fax number: 202-401-1433. Applicants may also send a message via Internet to lrieder@usia.gov to request a Solicitation Package. The Solicitation Package contains detailed award criteria, required application forms, specific budget instructions, and standard guidelines for proposal preparation. Please specify USIA Senior Program Officer Leigh Rieder on all other inquiries and correspondence.

Please read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, Agency staff may not discuss this competition with applicants until 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 requested 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 p.m., Washington, DC time on Thursday, February 18, 1999. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. Documents postmarked the due date but received on a later date will not be accepted. Each applicant must ensure that the proposals are received by the above deadline.

Applicants must follow all instructions in the Solicitation Package. The original and six copies of the application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/ASU-99-09, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

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 fullest 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 Services 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 and then forwarded to panels of 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 USIA's Associate 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. Quality of the program idea: Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to the Agency's mission.
2. Program planning: Detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive undertakings, as well as showing clearly how the seminar's objectives will be met. Agenda and plan should adhere to all

program guidelines in the Solicitation Package.

3. Multiplier effect/impact: Proposed program should strengthen long-term mutual understanding, including maximum sharing of information, and encourage continued institutional and individual linkages after the fellowship year.

4. Support of Diversity: Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity. Achievable and relevant features should be cited in both program administration and program content.

5. Institutional Capacity: Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the seminar's goals.

6. Institution's Record/Ability: Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successfully administering programs for professional-level participants, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Agency grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

7. Project Evaluation: Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the seminar's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. A draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description of a methodology to link outcomes to original project objectives is recommended. Successful applications will be expected to submit intermediate reports during the planning and preparation process.

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

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

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." The funding authority for the program above is provided through legislation.

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, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Dated: January 11, 1999.

William B. Bader,

Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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