

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Grants from Public or Museum-Related Organizations

INSTITUTE FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

American Heritage Preservation Program

Deadline: Sept. 15

www.ims.gov/collections/grants/boa.htm

Bank of America partners with IMLS to provide grants of up to \$3,000 to small museums, libraries, and archives. The grants aim to raise awareness and fund preservation of specific items, including works of art, artifacts, and historical documents that are in need of conservation. Applicants should build on completed conservation assessments of their collections, to ensure that the grants are used in accordance with best practices in the field. Grant programs that provide assistance with conservation planning and assessments include the Conservation Assessment Program offered by Heritage Preservation (described on the next page under "Private Grants") and the National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grants (visit www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/pag.html to learn more).

Conservation Project Support

Deadline: October 1

www.ims.gov/applicants/grants/conservProject.shtm

This IMLS program awards grants to help museums identify collections needs and priorities and to perform activities to safeguard their collections. Grants are available for many types of collections activities, such as surveys, training, research, treatment, and environmental improvements. Grants range up to \$150,000 and generally cover a two-year period.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Humanities Collection and Reference Resources

Deadline: July 15 (for projects beginning May 2011)

www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/HCRR.html

As the web site states, "Thousands of libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations across the country maintain important collections of books and manuscripts, photographs, sound recordings and moving images, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, art and material culture, and digital objects. Funding from this program strengthens efforts to extend the life of such materials and make their intellectual content widely accessible, often through the use of digital technology. Awards are also made to create various reference resources that facilitate use of cultural materials." Eligible projects include "arranging and describing archival and manuscript collections; cataloging collections of printed works, photographs, recorded sound, moving images, art, and material culture; providing conservation treatment for collections (including mass deacidification); digitizing collections; preserving and improving access to born-digital sources; developing databases, virtual collections, or other electronic resources..." and more. Grants can range up to \$350,000 over 3 years.

Be sure to look at other NEH grants, such as the *America's Historical and Cultural Organizations Grants*, which were described in the December 2009 issue of the *Bulletin*. These grants have an August 18 deadline.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Access to Artistic Excellence

Deadline: Aug. 12, 1010

www.nea.gov

When history organizations research grants, they may not think about applying to the National Endowment for the Arts. But NEA offers several grant programs that may be of interest to history organizations, including the Access to Artistic Excellence grant. Colonial Williamsburg, for example, received a \$30,000 Access grant to support the installation of a permanent furniture exhibit. The Connecticut Historical Society received \$25,000 to support an exhibit on Connecticut women and their needlework from 1740 to 1840, and to support the accompanying catalogue and education program. The International Center of Photography received \$150,000 to support its touring exhibit of photographs of the Spanish American War, and to provide a catalog and other publications. The San Diego Historical Society received \$20,000 to enhance access to the Norman Baynard Collection of African American Photographs. Other grants of interest have supported the conservation of tapestries, Native American baskets, paintings, and more.

As stated by the NEA, "Access to Artistic Excellence encourages and supports artistic creativity, preserves our diverse cultural heritage, and makes the arts more widely available in communities throughout the country." Among the projects that are supported by these grants are projects that present artistic works of all cultures and periods or that preserve significant works of art and cultural

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Grants from Public Organizations (cont'd)

traditions. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$150,000, and there are usually two deadlines each year, one in August and one in March. To learn more about the Access to Artistic Excellence program, visit <http://www.nea.gov/grants/apply/GAP11/MuseumsAAE.html>. Be sure to also learn about other grants offered by the NEA such as Challenge America Fast Track, Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth, and Coming Up Taller.

NORTH CAROLINA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

Programming Grants

Deadline: August 15

The Humanities Council offers three types of grants to help organizations plan and present public programming. A planning grant pays up to \$750 to help secure the help of a humanities scholar or consultant to plan a project. This money can be used to pay a stipend as well as expenses for the scholar's travel, meals, and lodging. There are no deadlines for a planning grant. A mini-grant (\$1,200 or less) provides funds for scholar stipends, travel expenses, publicity, and some other expenses. A large grant (more than \$1,200) provides funds for humanities projects of extended scope including, but not

limited to, lecture/discussion series; performance/discussions; exhibit/discussions; and film/video productions. Large grants require the submission of a draft proposal, which is reviewed and returned to the applicant for final changes. For projects beginning after December 15, draft proposals are due on August 15 and final proposals are due on September 15. For projects that will take place next summer (after July 15, 2011), the deadlines for draft proposals are March 15, 2011 and April 15, 2011 for final proposals. For more information, call (336) 334-5325 or visit www.nchumanities.org.

Grants from Private Organizations

HERITAGE PRESERVATION **Conservation Assessment Program**

Deadline: December 1

*(Note: Heritage Preservation encourages **early applications.**)*
www.heritagepreservation.org/CAP/index.html

Heritage Preservation and IMLS provide the Conservation Assessment Program to help museums care for their collections. As the Web site states, "CAP helps small to mid-sized museums . . . obtain a general assessment of the condition of their collections, environment, and historic buildings. Following an on-site assessment by a conservation professional, the museum receives a written report recommending priorities to improve collections care. This report assists museums in educating staff and board members on conservation practices, creating long-range and emergency plans, and raising funds to improve the care of their collections."

Most museums are assigned a conservator to provide a general conservation assessment for the collections, while museums with a historic structure may also get an architectural assessor. Though the program allocates money to help cover the costs of the assessors, museums need to be prepared to pay any costs above that allocation. (Heritage Preservation estimates that these costs could be between \$400 and \$1,000, depending on how many assessors are assigned, their fees, travel cost, etc.) To receive an application in the mail, contact the CAP staff at cap@heritagepreservation.org or call (202) 233-0800 and ask to be added to the mailing list.

The applications will be mailed out on September 3; they will also be posted on the web page at that time. Please note that **applications will be evaluated in the order in which they are received**, so applicants are encouraged to submit

their completed application as soon as possible. Many museums who take part in CAP later apply for an IMLS Conservation Project Support or the American Heritage Preservation Program to implement recommended changes (see a description of these grants under "Public Grants").

Please note that CAP provides a general conservation assessment, which is a broad study of museum conditions. CAP does not provide an object-by-object survey, which would include identifying the material type, condition, and conservation needs or priorities for each object. Heritage Preservation recommends that if you need a collection survey rather than a general assessment, you should apply for a Conservation Project Support (CPS) grant through IMLS. More information on the CPS program is available at www.imls.gov/applicants/grants/conservProject.shtm.