**Request for Applications**

Communities Connecting HeritageSM

Deadline for Submission: November 30, 2018

In partnership with World Learning, the Cultural Programs Division of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs has launched the third cycle of an exciting initiative called Communities Connecting HeritageSM. The program will engage underserved communities, empower youth, and build partnerships between communities in the U.S. and in key strategic world regions through exchange projects that explore cultural heritage topics. These projects will advance tangible and intangible cultural heritage appreciation and preservation through community outreach and public education. This program is a unique opportunity for international partnership, network development, cultural heritage outreach and promotion, and citizen diplomacy.

**Eligibility**

World Learning is seeking U.S.-based organizations to apply for participation in this program. Eligible organizations include but are not limited to art centers, cultural associations, historical sites, museums, libraries, and universities. Ideal candidates will meet the following criteria:

* Not-for-profit, non-governmental organization (for-profit organizations ineligible)
* Dedicated in whole or part to cultural heritage exploration or preservation (or able to partner locally with an organization that fits this criterion)
* Strong local networks and connections within the community
* Commitment to forming an international partnership and implementing a collaborative project
* Able to commit time to pre-award activities (capacity building, being matched with
an international organization, etc.)
* Able to organically form a project idea in collaboration with partner, as opposed to having an already-formed project and rigid requirements around implementation
* Capacity to manage subaward and ability to work within World Learning policies and     US federal government regulations outlined in the award
* Financial capacity to distribute per diems to participants and pay for program expenses (advances may be requested)
* Ability to manage logistics of two-week exchange program
* Capacity to support international participants and manage group dynamics both online and in person
* Familiarity with virtual tools and platforms, or willingness to learn
* Experience working with youth 15-25

All applicants should represent an aspect of the unique cultural heritage of their local community. Organizations willing to invest time in capacity building and into forming their international partnership before project implementation will benefit the most from this program.

For the purposes of this program, the definitions of tangible and intangible cultural heritage are the following (drawn from UNESCO’s definition): tangible cultural heritage includes buildings and historic places, monuments, artifacts, etc., which are considered worthy of preservation for the future. These include objects significant to the archaeology, architecture, science or technology of a specific culture. Intangible cultural heritage involves traditions or living expressions inherited from ancestors and passed on to descendants, including oral traditions, traditional performing arts, festive events, and the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts.

**International Partner**

Through this process, U.S. organizations will be matched with like-minded organizations in Europe, Eurasia, the Near East, North Africa, or South and Central Asia to create joint cultural heritage preservation projects. International organizations will be nominated by their respective US Embassy to be considered for participation.

Your organization does not need to have an already-established partnership to participate. A matching process will aid in the pairing of organizations to assist in forming this partnership. If your organization already has an existing partnership or project with an organization in one of the eligible countries of the participating regions and you would like them to be considered for the program, they must be nominated for participation by the U.S. Embassy in their country by the deadline; no direct applications without nominations will be accepted from international organizations. We expect that even those with ties to an international organization would still be open to the possibility of being paired with another organization during the matching process.

**Participation Cycle**

Six international partnerships will be selected through a competitive process for funding in spring 2019. Subawards will be signed and program startup will begin in fall 2019. The projects will initially be virtual and then most will culminate in reciprocal in-person exchanges as well as public exhibitions. Successful partnerships will have approximately five-six months to execute their projects to be implemented in one of two cohorts. Following are examples of possible types of projects. We encourage new ideas and/or project themes:

* Teenage girls in the U.S. and a foreign country study the textile collections of one another’s museums in order to compare and contrast the history of their communities and develop new garments expressing their individual and collective identities;
* University students in the U.S. and a foreign country work with underserved community members to research significant local sites, collect oral histories, and document objects for an interactive website designed to give voice to the community while also preserving its history;
* High school students in the U.S. and a foreign country learn computer skills to document and share their traditional folk music with one another while working together to collaboratively develop new performance pieces based on the similarities and differences in their musical heritage;
* At-risk students in the U.S. and a foreign country learn photography skills to explore identity themes such as family, tradition, and migration, in order to develop a public exhibition that showcases their cultural heritage.

We recommend that you review current 2018-19 projects on the [CCH webpage](https://www.worldlearning.org/projects/communities-connecting-heritage/) and get to know the 2017-18 program through the new [CCH Interactive](http://interactives.worldlearning.org/communities-connecting-heritage/).

Anticipated timeline for the 2019-2020 CCH program:

* December 2018: U.S. and international semi-finalists selected
* January-March 2019: Semi-finalists participate together in virtual capacity building for proposal development
* February-March 2019: Matching process between U.S. and international organizations begins; partnerships finalized
* April 2019: Partners submit joint project proposal
* May 2019: Up to 12 finalists (6 project partnerships) selected and notified
* Summer 2019: Subawards finalized
* Fall 2019-Summer 2020: Virtual and in-person project implementation takes place
	+ Cohort 1: November 2019-April 2020
	+ Cohort 2: February 2020-July 2020
* July 2020: Final deliverables turned in; conclusion of the program

**Past Project Examples**

Past project examples:

Question 27 requires you to upload past project examples as a part of your organization’s application. Instructions are copied and pasted below for your reference.

*“Upload examples of past cultural heritage preservation projects your organization has implemented.* *Include at least one, but no more than three examples. Up to three examples must be submitted in one attachment (maximum of three pages, either Word or PDF) and should include a mention of the project goal, scope, target community, and (if possible) impact for each project. Photos and visuals are welcome and should be embedded into the document directly. Submissions must be in English.”*

**Funding**

A budget submission is not part of the current application. Semi-finalists participate in initial capacity building and matching at no cost, and will not receive funding for their participation in this phase. A budget will be part of the proposal submission for semi-finalists (April 2019), and competitive budgets will be one aspect of consideration when determining finalists. Funding in the range of approximately $11,000-$15,000 will be available per finalist to off-set administrative costs and program costs associated with the virtual program, the international exchange (daily allowance, ground transportation, etc.), and public exhibition. *This figure excludes international airfare and lodging for visitors which World Learning will cover directly.* More information on the budget submission will be explained in spring 2019.

**Application**

[**Click here to begin your organization’s 2019-2020 application.**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCHAppforUSorgs) Online applications take about 30-45 minutes to complete. The deadline for U.S. organizations to submit applications is **November 30, 2018** (11:59 pm EST).

*We strongly suggest that you save your answers as you go, or that you enter your answers into Word and then copy-paste them into the survey to avoid losing work.*

If you are unable to submit using the link above, contact cch@worldlearning.org to obtain a PDF of the application form. Electronic submission strongly preferred.