

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3176]

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "The Dead Sea Scrolls"

AGENCY: United States Department of State.

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), the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, and Delegation of Authority No. 236 of October 19, 1999, as amended, I hereby determine that the objects to be included in the exhibition "The Dead Sea Scrolls," imported from abroad for the temporary exhibition without profit within the United States, are of cultural significance. These objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with foreign lenders. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at the Field Museum, Chicago, Illinois, from on or about March 10, 2000 to on or about June 11, 2000, is in the national interest.

The action of the United States in this matter and the immunity based on the application of the provisions of law involved does not imply any view of the United States concerning the ownership of the exhibit objects. Further, it is not based upon and does not represent any change in the position of the United States regarding the status of Jerusalem or the territories occupied by Israel since 1967. See Letter of September 22, 1978, of President Jimmy Carter, attached to the Camp David Accords, reprinted in 78 Dept. of State Bulletin 11 (October 1978); Statement of September 1, 1982, of President Ronald Reagan, reprinted in 82 Dept. of State Bulletin 23 (September 1982).

Public Notice of these Determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a list of exhibit objects, contact Jacqueline H. Caldwell, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202/619-5078). The address is U.S. Department of State, SA-44; 301-4th Street, SW, Room 700, Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: December 8, 1999.

William B. Bader,

Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 99-32662 Filed 12-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3177]

Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs; Book Donation/Information Technology Services Program

NOTICE: Request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The *Office of Geographic Liaison (IIP/G)* announces an open competition for a *book donation/information technology services program*. Private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3) may submit proposals to: implement a book donation program in Eastern Europe and the NIS; build upon programs outside the former Communist bloc in transition around the world, particularly in Africa; provide educational materials for the victims of civil strife as requested by the Department; and make available Internet and Information Technology training in conjunction with the provision of books.

Program Information: Overview: The grant requires the successful applicant to match federal with support from non-governmental sources such as: Foundations; professional, ethnic, and fraternal organizations and individuals; provide primarily new books, CD-ROMS, educational videocassettes and other educational materials (with no medical titles to be sent under the grant and no more than 15% of the total volumes shipped having been used); have in place ongoing, sustainable relationships with NGO partners in the countries covered under the grant to ensure effective distribution and tracking of donated materials; send booklists in advance to the overseas partners for selection to ensure that only requested materials are shipped under the grant; employ electronic mail and the Internet in the provision of booklists and the dissemination of information about the program; and (if necessary) train partners in the use of same; respond to the differing and changing needs of partners by making available materials in wide ranges of subjects and educational levels; plan and host Partner meetings in the U.S. and abroad as requested. The grantee must have demonstrable experience assessing book

donation and information technology training programs abroad.

Guidelines: The grant is expected to commence January 1, 2000 and end December 31, 2000.

Budget Guidelines: Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000.

Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. Awards may not exceed \$200,000. There must be a summary budget as well as breakdowns reflecting both administrative and program budgets. Applicants may provide separate 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 the IIP/G3434 concerning this RFP should reference the above title and number IIP/G-1.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Office of Geographical Liaison, IIP/G, 4th Floor U.S. Department of State, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547. The solicitation package may be obtained by calling: 202 619 5876, requesting by fax at 202 619 4879 or by contacting the program officer Ron Ungaro at rungaro@usia.gov. The Solicitation Package contains detailed award criteria, required application forms, specific budget instructions, and standard guidelines for proposal preparation. Please specify Program Officer Ron Ungaro 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, Department 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 the following website at <http://e.usia.gov/education/rfps>. Please read all information before downloading.

Deadline for Proposals: All proposal copies must be received at IIP/G Office of Geographic Liaison by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on January 9, 2000. 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 10 copies of the application should be sent to: U.S. Department of State, Office of Geographic Liaison, Attention: Patricia Tyson, Ref.: IIP/G-1, 4th Floor South, 301 4th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20547.

Diversity, Freedom and Democracy Guidelines

"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.

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 IIP/G. 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.

IIP/G 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

IIP/G 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 Public Diplomacy section overseas, where appropriate. Eligible proposals will be forwarded to panels Department officers for advisory review. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the Legal

Adviser or by other Department elements. Final funding decisions are at the discretion of the Department of State's Coordinator for International Information Programs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) resides with the Department's 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 Office's mission.
2. *Program planning:* Detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive 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. *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.
5. *Support of Diversity:* Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Department's policy on diversity. Achievable and relevant features should be cited in both program administration (selection of participants, program venue and program evaluation) and program content (orientation and wrap-up sessions, program meetings, resource materials and follow-up activities).
6. *Institutional Capacity:* Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals.
7. *Institution's Record/Ability:*

Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past grants as determined by Department Grant Staff. The Department will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

8. *Follow-on Activities:* Proposals should provide a plan for continued follow-on activity (without Department support) ensuring that Department supported programs are not isolated events.

9. *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. A draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives is recommended. Successful applicants will be expected to submit intermediate reports after each project component is concluded or quarterly, whichever is less frequent.

10. *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.

11. *Cost-sharing:* Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions. Proposals must include documented sources of matching funds prescribed in the announcement.

12. *Value to U.S.-Partner Country Relations:* Proposed projects should receive positive assessments by the U.S. Department of State's geographic area desk and overseas officers of program need, potential impact, and significance in the partner country(ies).

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 Department representative. Explanatory information provided by the Department 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 Department 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 department procedures.

Dated: December 7, 1999.

Evelyn S. Lieberman,

Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 99-32663 Filed 12-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Transit Administration****FTA Fiscal Year 2000 Apportionments, Allocations and Program Information; Notice of Changes and Corrections**

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice; Changes and Corrections.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice announces changes to program allocations previously published in the Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration Notice entitled "FTA Fiscal Year 2000 Apportionments, Allocations and Program Information; Notice," dated October 28, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Levine, Director, Office of Resource Management and State Programs, at (202) 366-2053.

I. Changes to FTA FY 2000 New Starts and Bus Allocations

On November 29, 1999, President Clinton signed into law the Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Pub. L. 106-113). One provision of the Act provides for an across the board, Government-wide reduction in spending of the discretionary budget authority for FY 2000. A second provision, makes available \$6 million from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund for new transit projects.

The FY 2000 Consolidated Appropriations Act requires a government-wide reduction of 0.38 percent. The actual amount of reductions may vary among programs. The Federal transit share of this reduction totals \$17.6 million. Since the formula programs provide the primary sources of Federal transit assistance, are distributed to all states and urbanized areas, and have already been used by grantees to develop plans for FY 2000, no reductions will be assessed against these programs. No reduction is being

assessed against the Job Access and Reverse Commute program so as not to hinder progress in welfare reform, a national priority. Thus, the congressionally mandated \$17.6 million reduction is being taken from the New Starts and Bus programs under the Capital Investment Grants account and the National Research program under the Transit Planning and Research account resulting in a net reduction of 1.15 percent in each of these accounts. FTA published a **Federal Register** Notice dated October 28, 1999 (64 FR 58211-58263) which included the allocations for projects under these programs as contained in the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Pub. L. 106-69). The revised allocations for the New Starts Program (Table 8) and the Bus Program (Table 9) are contained in amendments to Tables 8 and 9 which may be found on the FTA website at: [http://www.fta.dot.gov/office/program/aa.htm]. An additional table displays the project specific adjustments made under the National Research program.

The new projects specified under the FY 2000 Consolidated Appropriations Act are listed below and in the Table 9 amendment. These projects were not subject to the 1.15 percent reduction, but three-fourths percent for oversight has been deducted, in accordance with Section 5327 of 49 U.S.C.

State and project	Allocation
AK: Anchorage, Alaska 2001 Special Olympics Winter Games buses and bus facilities	\$2,481,250
CA: Santa, Clarita, California bus maintenance facility	744,675
MN: Twin Cities, Minnesota metropolitan buses and bus facilities	1,736,875
NE: Lincoln, Nebraska bus maintenance facility	992,500
Total Allocation	5,955,000

II. Corrections**FTA Correction**

A. In TABLE 10, Federal Transit Administration, FY 2000 JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS, on page 58258, the State designation for the "Central Kenai peninsula public transportation task force," project was incorrectly identified as "GA" (Georgia). The correct State designation is "AK" (Alaska).

B. In Table 9 on page 58247-58248:

1. The figure for "Cedar Rapids intermodal facility" project amended to

read \$3,340,000—a reduction of \$160,000;

2. Added new project: "Iowa—Mason City, bus facility" for \$160,000;

3. Changed project description for "Colorado Association of Transit Agencies" project to "Colorado buses and bus facilities";

4. Changed project description for "Kansas Public Transit Association buses and bus facilities" project to "Kansas buses and bus facilities".

Issued on: December 9, 1999.

Nuria I. Fernandez,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 99-32463 Filed 12-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-57-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Research and Special Programs Administration**

[Docket RSPA-98-4957; Notice 12]

Notice of Extension of Existing Information Collection

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Request for OMB approval and public comments.

SUMMARY: As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) published a notice seeking public comments on a proposed renewal of an information collection for the Alcohol Misuse Prevention Program for Pipeline Operators (64 FR 54065, October 5, 1999). No comments were received. This information collection requires gas pipelines, hazardous liquid pipelines, and liquefied natural gas (LNG) operators to document their alcohol misuse prevention programs. The public has an additional 30 days to comment on the extension of this information collection requirement.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received January 18, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should identify the docket number of this notice, RSPA-98-4957, and be mailed directly to the Office of Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 726 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20503, Attn: RSPA Desk Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marvin Fell, Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-6205 or by electronic mail at marvin.fell@rspa.dot.gov.