

Program Overview – Museum Grants for African American History and Culture

Museum Grants for African American History and Culture (AAHC) support projects that improve the operations, care of collections, and development of professional management at African American museums.

Distinguishing features of successful AAHC projects are:

- *Institutional Impact:* Projects improve the operations, care of collections, or development of professional management of the museum.
- *In depth Knowledge:* Applications reflect a thorough understanding of current practice and knowledge about the subject matter.
- *Project-based Design:* Work plans consist of a set of logical, interrelated activities tied directly to addressing the key need or challenge identified in the application.
- *Demonstrable Results:* Projects generate measureable results that tie directly to the need or challenge it was designed to address.

Project Activities

An eligible organization may apply for projects including, but not limited to, the following activities:

- Fostering partnerships among museums and institutions of higher education to address challenges facing the African American museum community
- Training and professional development for staff, volunteers, and educators
- Creating and supporting internships and fellowships, including recruitment, supervision, mentoring, and training for interns and fellows
- Developing collection plans, interpretive plans, or strategic plans using consultants, researchers, and other sources of professional expertise
- Implementing recommendations or action plans from planning activities
- Exhibition development, design, and fabrication (non-construction)
- Interpretive and educational program development and delivery
- Design and printing of educational resources including training manuals, toolkits, and curricula that support educational programs and exhibitions
- Creating environments for community learning, debate, and dialogue
- Audience research and evaluation, including utilizing an evaluation consultant to help develop achievable performance goals and measurable outcomes
- Cataloguing, inventorying, documenting, and registration of collections
- Rehousing collections and environmental improvements (non-construction) for museum collections storage and exhibit areas;
- Installing, migrating to, and upgrading collections databases to improve collections management, collections-related information, and/or to facilitate access and discovery
- Digitization of collections designed to enhance outreach, expand access, or improve collections management

Funding Levels

There are two funding levels in the Museum Grants for African American History and Culture program, and they differ in cost share requirement.

- Requests between \$5,000 and \$25,000 must not include a cost share. If an applicant includes cost share in the budget, the application is rejected from further consideration.
- Requests between \$25,001 and \$150,000 must include at least a 1:1 cost share. If an applicant does not include at least a 1:1 cost share in the budget, the application is rejected from further consideration.