

**Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 3,181,961.**

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

**Request for Comments**

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: May 29, 1998.

**Garrick R. Shear,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-14876 Filed 6-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

**UNITED STATES ENRICHMENT CORPORATION**

**Sunshine Act Meeting**

**AGENCY:** United States Enrichment Corporation.

**SUBJECT:** Board of Directors Meeting.

**TIME AND DATE:** Tuesday-Wednesday, June 2-3, 1998, commencing at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 2, 1998.

**PLACE:** USEC Corporate Headquarter, 6903 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, Maryland 20817.

**STATUS:** Portions of the Board meeting will be closed to the public.

**MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED:** Issues related to the privatization of the Corporation

and other commercial, financial and operational issues of the Corporation.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Elizabeth Stuckle at 301/564-3399

Dated: June 2, 1998.

**William H. Timbers, Jr.,**

*President and Chief Executive Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-14956 Filed 6-2-98; 10:19 am]

BILLING CODE 8720-01-M

**UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY**

**Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determination**

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 13359, 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, "Nicholas and Alexandra: The Last Imperial Family of Tsarist Russia," (see list <sup>1</sup>), 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 a foreign lender. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the listed exhibit objects at the First USA Riverfront Arts Center in Wilmington, Delaware, beginning on or about August 1, 1998, ending on or about December 31, 1998, and at two additional venues thereafter, is in the national interest.

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

Dated: May 27, 1998.

**Les Jin,**

*General Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 98-14788 Filed 6-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

**UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY**

**East Timor Exchange Project; Request for Proposals**

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Citizen Exchanges of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an

<sup>1</sup> A copy of this list may be obtained by contacting Ms. Lorie Nierenberg, Assistant General Counsel, at 202/619-6084. The address is U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Room 700, Washington, DC 20547-0001.

assistance award. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may apply to develop the East Timor Exchange Project.

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."

Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

**Announcement Title and Number:** All communications with USIA concerning this RFP should refer to the announcement's title and reference number.

**Deadline for Proposals:** All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on Friday, July 17, 1998. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. Documents postmarked by the due date but received at a later date will not be accepted.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** The Office of Citizen Exchanges (E/P), Room 216, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, telephone number: (202) 619-5326, fax number: (202) 260-0440, e-mail address: rharvey@usia.gov to request a Solicitation Package containing more details. Please request required application forms, and standard guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget.

**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 received via the Bureau's "Grants Information Fax on Demand System", which is accessed by calling 202/401-7616. Please request a

"Catalog" of available documents and order numbers when first entering the system.

Please specify USIA Program Officer *Name* on all inquiries and correspondences. Interested applicants should 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 in any way with applicants until the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

**Submissions:** Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and 12 copies of the application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: *E/P-98-56*, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547.

Applicants must also submit the "Executive Summary" and "Proposal Narrative" sections of the proposal on a 3.5" diskette, formatted for DOS. This material must be provided in ASCII text (DOS) format with a maximum line length of 65 characters. USIA will transmit these files electronically to USIS posts overseas for their review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to get posts' comments for the Agency's grants review process.

#### **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 account for advancement of this goal in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

The Indonesian province of East Timor has had relatively little contact with the outside world, and its people are only now receiving increased opportunities for educational exchange with western countries, including the U.S. Many are ill-prepared for U.S. study, due to limited opportunities at local institutions of higher learning, insufficient English-language skills, and inadequate library resources and knowledge of information science. International efforts to assist the people of East Timor require sensitivity to appropriateness for the local context. Our objective is to provide meaningful opportunities to qualified exchange program participants so that a growing number of East Timor residents are knowledgeable about U.S. society and values and can share their experiences with others. Implementation of projects may be affected by changes underway in Indonesia.

##### **Guidelines**

Projects designed to contribute to better understanding of the U.S. in East Timor could include training in administration and/or curriculum development for educational institutions; exchanges for print and/or broadcast media professionals; public administration and NGO management programs; enhancement of English-language teaching; support for development of library resources to the University of East Timor and training in library science; and other program activities which contribute to the overall goal of enhancing mutual understanding between the U.S. and the province of East Timor. Interested U.S. institutions will be expected to liaise closely with the U.S. Information Service in Jakarta, Indonesia. Grants must be written prior to September 30, 1998.

##### **Selection of Participants**

All grant proposals should clearly describe the type of persons who will participate in the program as well as the process by which the participants will be selected. It is recommended that program in support of U.S. internship include letters tentatively committing host institutions to support internships. In the selection of foreign participants, USIA and USIS Jakarta retain the right to nominate all participants and to accept or deny participants recommended by grantee organizations. However, grantee institutions are often asked by USIA to suggest names of potential participants. The grantee institution will also provide the names

of American participants and brief (two pages) biographical data on each American participant to the Office of Citizen Exchanges for information purposes. Priority will be given to foreign participants who have not previously traveled to the United States. Foreign participants in the program will travel to the U.S. utilizing J-1 visas.

##### **Budget**

Funding requests submitted to USIS should not exceed \$200,000. 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. There must be a summary budget as well as a breakdown reflecting both the administrative budget and the program budget. For further clarification, applicants may provide separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity in order to facilitate USIA decisions on funding.

Allowable costs for the program include the following:

- (1) Travel and Per Diem
- (2) Administrative Costs
- (3) Books and Materials

Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

##### **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. Eligible proposals will be forwarded to panels of USIA officers for advisory review. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by the program office, as well as the USIA Office of East Asia and Pacific Affairs and the USIS Jakarta overseas, where appropriate. Proposals may be reviewed by the Office of the General Counsel or by other Agency elements. Funding decisions are at the discretion of the USIA 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 Agency 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 Bureau'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 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.

8. Follow-on Activities: Proposals should provide a plan for continued follow-on activity (without USIA support) which ensures that USIA 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.

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

#### 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: May 29, 1998.

**Robert L. Earle,**

*Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 98-14933 Filed 6-3-98; 8:45 am]

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