

The American Architectural Foundation Accent on Architecture Grants Program 2003

The American Architectural Foundation (AAF) Accent on Architecture grants program is seeking proposals for local projects that result in constructive engagement between the public, decision makers, and design professionals. Projects should promote an increased awareness, appreciation, and understanding of how the public's involvement in the design process can enhance the quality of life in a community.

The AAF offers matching grants of up to \$3,000 for innovative public outreach programs. These grants are available to organizations including, but not limited to: community design centers, architecture foundations, AIA components, design organizations, civic organizations, and public television or radio stations. Individuals are not eligible. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with other organizations.

Important resources for fostering public engagement are the AAF television documentaries *Back from the Brink: Saving America's Cities by Design*, *Becoming Good Neighbors: Enriching America's Communities by Design*, and *Block by Block: Reclaiming Neighborhoods by Design*. These films explore how citizen involvement in decisions affecting the built environment can nurture a sense of community. Information on these television documentaries can be found on the AAF's Web site: www.archfoundation.org. Applicants are encouraged to incorporate these programs into their proposals.

Applications must be received by October 11, 2002, for consideration in the 2003 grant cycle. Applicants will be notified by December of their application's status. Grant funds must be spent by December 13, 2003. These grants are made possible with the support of CNA Insurance Companies/Victor O. Schinnerer & Company, Inc.

Mail the completed application and five (5) copies to:

Accent on Architecture Grants
The American Architectural Foundation
1799 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006-5292



For more information, please call (202) 626-7514.

Guidelines

Only projects that include active civic engagement are eligible for funding. Projects must provide meaningful, long-term benefits to a community.

Grant funds may not be used to replace or supplement existing funding for ongoing projects. Grants may not be used to cover annual operating expenses, the purchase of equipment, construction or renovation projects, payment of design fees, documentary production, scholarship aid to students, or traveling fellowships.

All applications must contain a plan to secure matching funds from other public or private sources equal to at least 50 percent of the total cost of the project.

To receive favorable consideration, proposals must foster constructive interaction among the public, design professionals, and public officials. Any organization applying for these funds is encouraged to collaborate with design organizations and/or the public television or radio station in its community.

Applications must include:

- Applying organization's background information and summary of outreach experience
- Detailed project description
- Implementation plan
- Project budget
- Prospects for matching funds

Evaluation Criteria

The review committee will make its decisions based on the following criteria: purpose and objectives of the project; size and composition of the audience; dissemination plan; experience of the principal participants; adequacy of the budget; and amount of funding from non-AAF sources.

Deadline

Completed applications must be received at the AAF by October 11, 2002. Faxed applications will not be reviewed. Applications are considered complete when received.

Receipt of Grant Funds

Organizations submitting successful grant applications will receive payment in two parts. Two-thirds of the grant will be awarded in early 2003. The final one-third of the grant will be authorized upon receipt of a final report and financial statement. The final report must be received by December 13, 2003, or the remaining payment will be forfeited. Guidelines for the final report will be provided with the first payment.

Sponsor Acknowledgment

Sponsorship must be acknowledged on all printed materials and at all public presentations for the funded project. Credit language will be provided with the first payment.

Application Format

Please type or write legibly. Each section is to be no longer than two 8-1/2" x 11" pages, utilizing a 1" margin all around. Please use at least 11 point font size and the headings shown below. Do not restate the requirements for each section. Submit an original and five (5) copies of each application. Applications will be considered complete upon receipt.

A. Summary Page

All applications must include a one-page summary that lists information under the following headings:

- Applying organization's name, address, phone number, and Web site address
- Contact name, phone and fax numbers, and email address
- Names of principal participants
- Project title
- Project description
- Grant amount requested
- Total project cost
- Form of final products

B. Background Information of Requesting Organization

Describe the organization's mission and constituency. Provide information regarding the organization's experience with public outreach.

C. Project Description

Describe the proposed project in detail. Highlight groups to be involved and long-term benefits the community will gain as a result of this project. Indicate how the project will become financially self-sufficient, how the funds requested will provide long-term benefits for the community, or how other long-term benefits will accrue. Define the expected results.

D. Project Budget

State amount requested. This amount shall not exceed \$3,000 per organization or 50 percent of the total project cost.

Provide an itemized budget showing detail for expenses and revenues required for project performance. In-kind contributions of reasonable value may be shown as revenue with adequate explanation. Identify sources for the balance of required funds.

E. Project Implementation

Provide a clear plan detailing how the project will be completed. The detail should include a timeline reflecting critical dates, accompanied by an allocation of project dollars, as appropriate.

2002 Accent on Architecture Grant Recipients

Allegheny Ridge Corporation, “Historic District Impact” will engage the public in dialogue concerning newly designated National Register Districts in which the participants reside and conduct business. The project will include publication of a manual for each district, community workshops, and community visioning sessions to establish preservation planning goals for the districts.

AIA Memphis, “Integrating Design Education into K-12 Critical Thinking Learning Experience” This program for teachers and architects will focus on how design education can be used as a tool for empowering students, teaching them how to look at what exists, imagining practical ideas for making it different, and communicating their visions to others.

Chicago Architecture Foundation, “Architecture for Educators” is a collection of over 90 lessons written for kindergarten through eighth grade teachers directly linking Chicago’s amazing architecture to classrooms throughout Chicagoland. CAF will host workshops for teachers so they can experience how to use the lessons to support their established lesson plans.

Community Design Center of Pittsburgh, “Renovation Information Network” This grant will take a successful program that provides homeowners planning renovations with resources – education materials, practical information and one-on-one consults with design professionals – and make it available to communities across the country.

Council of Community Services (Roanoke, VA), “Developing Urban Neighborhoods: Integrating Design and Sustainable Neighborhoods” Meetings will encourage design professionals, city officials, citizens, and social and community service professionals to discuss the impact of design on sustainable neighborhoods. The intent is to lessen public opposition to affordable housing developments by including all neighborhood constituencies in the design and decisionmaking process.

Town of Fletcher, North Carolina, “Design of Fletcher Town Hall: By the People, For the People” In 1998, Fletcher initiated a community-based visioning and strategic planning process to counter rapid growth. The result of that work will be the creation of a traditional downtown and Town Hall that integrates urban and rural space, respects the environment, and meets the needs of the people and businesses it serves. This grant will assist with a design charrette.

Heritage Preservation, “Inside Outdoor Sculpture: Resource Guide and Teacher Workshops” Funding supports printing of 200 activity guides to accompany the hands-on teaching kit, *Inside Outdoor Sculpture*, and to offer four teacher/leader workshops nationwide in conjunction with the travelling exhibition, *Preserving Memory: Americans and their Monuments*.

Little Tokyo Service Center Community Development Corporation (Los Angeles), “Preserving Ethnic Historic

Sites” A public seminar series will precede the opening of a permanent interpretive center in the Little Tokyo Historic District. The goal is to study the questions involved in the preservation of architecture in historic ethnic neighborhoods.

Town of Mooresville, North Carolina, “Cascade Community Design Workshop: A Reinvestment in a Neighborhood” The workshop will solicit community input on the design and development of affordable in-fill housing on six acres of property and result in a master plan for the area.

Shaw EcoVillage Project (Washington, DC), “Safe Routes for Shaw” The goal is to develop and implement a series of bicycle safety and transportation planning proposals and educational workshops for the Shaw neighborhood. EcoDesign Corps members will work with transportation planners, designers and the staff of the Washington Area Bicyclists Association.

South Florida Chapter/Associated General Contractors of America, “Build Up! For Miami-Dade Fifth Graders” will take contractors and architects into fifth grade classrooms across the Miami-Dade County School System for a multi-week activity-based teaching experience. While providing activities in English, science and mathematics it also engages students in the world of architecture, design and construction.

Urban Design Center of Northeast Ohio (Cleveland), “Design Review Board Training Program” A series of short courses in urban design, historic preservation, site planning and building renovation for citizen members of the Design Review Boards to increase their capacity to make effective design judgments. A Training Manual will also be developed that may serve as a model for other communities.

University of Wyoming, Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering, “Fostering Community through Design of Public Space” A one-day workshop and follow-up comment field via an interactive Web site to examine options for the site selection and design of a community recreation center to be built in Laramie.

Youngstown State University, Public Service Institute, Center of Urban Studies, “The Power of our Downtowns 2002” Production of a brochure and Web site for upper elementary and middle school students in Mahoning and Trumbull Counties to educate students about architecture, historic preservation, urban sprawl and land use using utilizing examples from downtown Youngstown, Warren, Lowellville, Struthers, Girard, Niles, Leavittsburg, and Newton Falls.

The American Architectural Foundation’s Accent on Architecture grants are supported by CNA Insurance Companies/Victor O. Schinnerer & Company, Inc.