

the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered:

1. Quality of the program idea: Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to USIA's mission and the goals of the Creative Arts Exchanges Program as stated under the Summary and Guidelines sections of this document.
2. Program planning: Detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive artistic/organizational 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. Institutional capacity/ability: Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals. Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past USIA grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts. USIA will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.
5. 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.
6. Follow-on activities: Proposals should provide a plan for continued follow-on activity (without USIA support) which insures that USIA supported programs are not isolated events.
7. Support diversity: Proposals should demonstrate the recipient's commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity as defined under the *Guidelines* section of this document.
8. 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. USIA recommends that the proposal

include a draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives. Award-receiving organizations/institutions will be expected to submit intermediate reports after each project component is concluded or quarterly, whichever is less frequent.

9. Cost-effectiveness: The overhead and administrative components of the proposals, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate.

10. Cost-sharing: Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

11. Value to U.S.-partner country relations: Proposed programs should receive positive assessments by USIA's geographic area desk and overseas USIS 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 USIA that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. USIA reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposed budgets in accordance with the needs of the program. Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Notification

All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process on or about January 1, 1996. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: June 5, 1995.

Dell Pendergrast,

Deputy Associate Director, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Wage Committee, Notice of Meetings

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in accordance with Pub. L. 92-463, gives notice that meetings of the VA Wage Committee will be held on: Wednesday, July 19, 1995, at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 16, 1995, at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 30, 1995, at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 27, 1995, at 2:00 p.m.

The meetings will be held in Room 1225, Department of Veterans Affairs, Tech World Plaza, 801 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

The Committee's purpose is to advise the Under Secretary for Health on the development and authorization of wage schedules for Federal Wage System (blue-collar) employees.

At these meetings the Committee will consider wage survey specifications, wage survey data, local committee reports and recommendations, statistical analyses, and proposed wage schedules.

All portions of the meetings will be closed to the public because the matters considered are related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Department of Veterans Affairs and because the wage survey data considered by the Committee have been obtained from officials of private business establishments with a guarantee that the data will be held in confidence. Closure of the meetings is in accordance with subsection 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463, as amended by Pub. L. 94-409, and as cited in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (2) and (4).

However, members of the public are invited to submit material in writing to the Chairperson for the Committee's attention.

Additional information concerning these meetings may be obtained from the Chairperson, VA Wage Committee, Room 1225, 801 I Street, NW., Washington, DC 20001.

Dated: June 7, 1995.

By direction of the Secretary.

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

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