

This Funding Announcement is not a request for applications. This announcement is to provide public notice of the National Park Service (NPS), intention to fund the following project activities **without** competition.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement	P17AS00039
Project Title	Perform Exhibit Conservation for Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument
Recipient	Pearce Creasman, University of Arizona
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$153,162
Cost Share	N/A
Anticipated Length of Agreement	12/25/2016-06/01/2021
Anticipated Period of Performance	12/25/2016-06/01/2021
Award Instrument	Task Agreement under a Cooperative Agreement
Statutory Authority	54 U.S.C. §100703 Cooperative Study Units
CFDA # and Title	15.945 Cooperative Research and Training Programs – Resources of the National Park System
Single Source Justification Criteria Cited	Notice of Intent
Point of Contact	Katie Gaertner, Grants Specialist

OVERVIEW

This project provides a museum conservation focused educational work experience opportunity for participants interested in art and artifact conservation, as well as recent graduates from art conservation training programs, which complements classroom instruction. The participants will acquire and apply diverse skills related to best practices in preventive care and conservation treatment as it relates to preparing collections for exhibit in a park service setting and will be exposed to the technical experience of treating historic, ethnographic, and archeological collections. The training and practical work experience this project provides will enhance the students' employability in the public or private sector.

STATEMENT OF JOINT OBJECTIVES/PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Supporting exhibit conservation is critical to ensure the long term preservation of museum objects. This project is designed to support exhibit conservation for Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (LIBI), preparing objects for exhibit, or reproduction for exhibit, ensuring objects are stable for handling during mount-making, exhibit installation, and digitization for reproductions. Additionally this project includes coordination with the park curator and NPS conservator(s) to ensure treatment needs are fully met. Devising and implementing a wide range of conservation treatments while coordinating with NPS curators and conservators will provide extensive experience in conservation laboratory operations as well as exhibit conservation strategies and considerations.

This project fulfills a public purpose by providing a museum-focused educational work opportunity for students with art conservation interest that complements classroom instruction. The participants will acquire and apply diverse

skills related to preventive care, accountability, and art conservation protocols. Techniques and standards gained from this work can be readily applied in other museum settings. The additional training and practical work experience from this project will enhance the participant's employability in the public or private sector.

Objectives and Methodology: Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research (LTRR) and the WACC conservation staff will collaborate on the following museum-focused educational work experience opportunities for pre-graduate/graduate art conservation students that will complement classroom instruction. The students will acquire and apply diverse skills related to preventive care, accountability, and conservation treatment. Work will be completed at the Western Archeological and Conservation Center, Tucson, Arizona.

To provide a diverse student experience, this joint effort will be directed in the following areas:

Perform Conservation Treatments: Conservation treatment is often required before objects are prepared for exhibit. Past surveys of LIBI objects, textiles, and paper collections have identified 185 objects that require stabilization treatments prior to mount-making, exhibit installation, or digitization for reproduction. These treatments require research into appropriate treatment methods, full documentation including a condition report and treatment proposal approved by the NPS conservator and the LIBI curator, and initial before treatment photography before the stabilization treatment can proceed. A final treatment report and after treatment photographs for each object document the results of the treatment work. NPS owns copyright of all documentation images. All work will meet standards in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works and the NPS *Museum Handbook*.

Improve Accessibility to Conservation Information: Conservation records document condition and history of preservation activities for specific objects. Collaboration between curation and conservation is necessary to ensure conservation treatments and documentation are comprehensively completed prior to exhibit activities. Survey data for at least 75 records will be migrated into the LIBI conservation tracking database and communication with the LIBI curator and NPS conservator will be maintained to ensure access to up to date object treatment information. Upon completion of the treatments, treatment data will be migrated to the WACC master conservation database and shared with LIBI for input into the Interior Collection Management System (ICMS).

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

Collaboratively undertake a project titled: "Perform Exhibit Conservation for Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument."

Ensure that students complete training on ICMS, the museum database, and the *Museum Handbook* training to provide the broad overview of museum work in the National Park Service.

Perform documentation and stabilization treatments for 185 objects from LIBI as identified in Article III, Section A, Perform Conservation Treatments. NPS owns copyright of all documentation images.

Migrate survey data for at least 75 records, maintain communication between park and NPS staff regarding treatment information, and migrate treatment information into WACC master database and share with LIBI curator once treatments are complete as identified in Article III, Section A, Improve Accessibility to Conservation Information.

Follow existing protocols for carrying out the tasks and collaboratively confer with NPS staff for any situations that are not already addressed by existing protocols. Maintain an on-going dialog and exchange of information and documentation about issues and tasks with the ATR and NPS Technical Experts who may bring together other identified relevant parties (parks and partners) for discussions about changes to protocols, achieving efficiencies, setting priorities, identifying action items, and scheduling.

Provide all electronic records created or revised during the project to the Technical Experts for review and make any necessary corrections resulting from that review.

Not reveal locations of any cultural resources in any publically released products unless granted written permission to do so by the ATR.

Fully acknowledge the NPS in any published or formally presented material developed or derived from this Task Agreement.

Comply with NPS personal identity verification procedures that implement Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12 (HSPD-12), Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance M-05-24, and Federal Information Processing Standards Publication (FIPS PUB) Number 201 and insert paragraph 13 of this Article in all subcontracts when the subcontractor is required to have physical access to a federally-controlled facility or access to a Federal information system.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INVOLVEMENT

Provide financial assistance to University of Arizona Board of Regents as provided in article VI. The budget, included as Attachment A, is incorporated in this Task Agreement.

Work with the Recipient's program coordinator on recruiting, interviewing, and recommending appropriate candidates. However NPS staff will have no managerial role with the students selected.

Coordinate the work of LTRR staff, NPS interns, and any volunteers that may be assigned to various aspects of this project.

Provide technical consultation on conservation tracking database and documentation protocol.

Provide technical consultation on the conservation process throughout the ongoing work.
Facilitate scheduling and coordinate receipt for property forms and incoming loan paperwork so collections can be moved to the conservation laboratory.

Provide space at WACC, Tucson, AZ, and equipment, including government laptop or desktop computers, scanners, network access, camera, and lights for all work. NPS owns copyright of all documentation images.

Review all products and the final project report and provide students with feedback and corrections needed for the products to meet standards.

Collaborate with the Recipient's Principle Investigator on a final report summarizing the project.

Complete background investigations deemed necessary for any University of Arizona staff provided access to NPS facilities or computers.

Notify LTRR of statutorily protected information (e.g., by the National Parks Service Omnibus Management Act of 1998) regarding threatened or endangered species locations that should not be released in any published or unpublished material developed under this Task Agreement, and provide written permission for any exceptions to this. NPS is then responsible for permanently archiving this protected information, as LTRR will not retain it past the life of the project.

Fully acknowledge The University of Arizona and LTRR in any published or formally presented materials developed under or derived from the Task Agreement.

SINGLE-SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS
Department of the Interior Policy (505 DM 2) requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable for each single-source award. The justification must address one or more of the following criteria as well as discussion of the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient, as applicable.
In order for an assistance award to be made without competition, the award must satisfy one or more of the following criteria: (1) Unsolicited Proposal – The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited assistance application which represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach which is not the subject of a current or planned contract or assistance award, but which is deemed advantageous to the program objectives; (2) Continuation – The activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of an activity presently being funded, and for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity or completion of the activity; (3) Legislative intent – The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates Congress’ intent to restrict the award to a particular recipient of purpose; (4) Unique Qualifications – The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as location, property ownership, voluntary support capacity, cost-sharing ability if applicable, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications; (5) Emergencies – Program/award where there is insufficient time available (due to a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety) for adequate competitive procedures to be followed.

NPS did not solicit full and open competition for this award based the following criteria:

Continuation – The activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of an activity presently being funded, and for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity or completion of the activity;

The University of Arizona, University of California, Los Angeles and the Museum of Northern Arizona were considered for the award. The University of Arizona was chosen because this project continues conservation work already being conducted by the Laboratory of Tree Ring Research. Bringing in another cooperator to work simultaneously would case inordinate confusion, inefficiency, lost productivity and risk of missing components in completing this work.