

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This announcement is not a request for applications.

This announcement is to provide public notice of the National Park Service's intention to award financial assistance for the following project activities. *Refer to Section 2. Grants.gov Posting Determination.*

ABSTRACT	
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	NPS-20-REG1-0020
Project Title	Lowell Folk Festival Support
Recipient	Lowell Folk Festival
Anticipated Federal Funding	\$134,817
Non-Federal Cost Share	\$0
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$134,817
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☒ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	Through December 31, 2024
Legal Authority	16 USC 410cc-(a)(2); 16 USC 410cc-25(c); 54 USC 101702(a)
CFDA # and Title	15.946: Cultural Resources Management
Single Source Justification Criteria	Unique Qualifications
National Park Service Point of Contact	Patrick Reidy, Grants Management Specialist 215-597-5949

Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Project Goals – To serve as a catalyst in the revitalization of Lowell's economic and cultural environments through the presentation of the finest in traditional music, dance, crafts, and the cultural treasures within Lowell National Historical Park and Preservation District. Project Objectives – The objective of this Agreement is to provide ethnic and cultural events based on NPS themes at Lowell National Historical Park.

- Share cultural traditions between people from all walks of life so that we can better appreciate and learn about each other's' cultural differences and the generations of people that have worked to preserve and pass down those traditions which make us unique.
- Invite new and returning visitors to Lowell MA to introduce them to all that Lowell has to offer, thus helping to propagate Lowell's cultural and economic revitalization.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

This cooperative agreement has tremendous public purpose. The 34th Annual Lowell Folk Festival creates interpretive opportunities highlighting cultures that have played a vital role in Lowell's industrial revolution right through Lowell's revitalization. Federal money will leverage almost 8 times more of non-federal money, that will bring 150,000 visitors, thereby enriching lives. This is accomplished through music, dance, international foods, educational workshops presented by our community partners and a strong core of local volunteers. The activities of this cooperative agreement will generate millions of dollars for the local economy and allow for creation of additional interpretive content specifically related to the theme presented each year.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

The Lowell Folk Festival is an annual celebration showcasing the best in traditional folk music, dance, artisan crafts, and ethnic foods. Returning to downtown Lowell, the festival kicks off with the traditional parade of nations from Lowell's City Hall Plaza to Boarding House Park that attracts over 150 volunteers from the community displaying their ethnic backgrounds by way of ancestral flags and the wearing of ethnic dress. The three day event host five stages showcasing traditional folk performers from around the world; Foodways demonstrating traditional ethnic food preparations; Folk craft area where master craftspeople share their culture-specific traditions; and Ethnic food vendors who are local non-profits showcasing the vast diversity of tastes and cuisines that make up the American foodscape. Over 1700 local volunteers participate in this event each year. The free festival offers something for everyone, from 8 to 80-year-olds all within the heart of Lowell National Historical Park.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

A. The recipient shall be responsible for the following items under this agreement:

Produce, manage, and assume full financial responsibility for the events described below. This includes securing sponsorships, budgeting, cash management, bill payment, payroll for event crew and production staff, managing accounts, and securing an audit at the end of the program year to assure compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Lowell Festival Foundation will obtain Special Use Permits or other appropriate approvals prior to undertaking activities in a park unit. Lowell Festival Foundation will secure liability insurance and workers compensation, listing the United States of America as a named insured prior to the start of activities funded under this agreement.

1) 34th Annual Lowell Folk Festival, July 23 - 25, 2021

Partners include Lowell National Historical Park, National Council for the Traditional Arts, Greater Merrimack Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the City of Lowell.

a. Contract for artists, musicians, and performers.

b. Contract for artist and staff lodging, and the crafts area. The crafts area is only for demonstration purposes and no crafts will be sold.

B. The NPS Responsibilities:

☐ A task agreement is proposed;

☒ A cooperative agreement is proposed;

therefore substantial involvement by NPS is anticipated during the period of performance of this agreement. In support of this agreement NPS will:

A. Work with the Lowell Festival Foundation on developing, planning, coordinating, and presenting cultural activities, programs, and production for the Lowell Folk Festival.

B. Participate in planning and coordinating meetings with the producing partners.

C. Provide use of the agreed-upon fully equipped office space on the third floor of the Park's Headquarters totaling 235 square feet and also, for intermittent use when available, the conference room on the second floor for the planning and presentation of the Lowell Folk Festival.

D. Recruit event volunteers in the Volunteers In Parks (VIP) program.

E. Provide financial support for these events as defined in Article XII. NPS funds will be used in accordance with the attached budget.

F. Provide the LFF staff with government-owned cell phones for official uses, and the performance of assigned duties (see 18 U.S.C 641). For the duration of this agreement the employees are authorized for such use.

G. Consider applications from LFF for Special Use Permits and other appropriate legal instruments to authorize activities that are appropriate under NPS policy.

☐ A grant agreement is proposed, therefore no substantial involvement on the part of the NPS is anticipated for the successful completion of the statement of work. It is anticipated that involvement will be limited to actions related to monitoring project performance and technical assistance at the request of the recipient.

Section 2. Grants.gov Posting Determination

- ☐ The National Park Service intends to award a task agreement under a previously competed or single source justified award.
- ☒ The National Park Service intends to award a single source justified cooperative agreement. *Refer to Section 3 Single Source Justification.*
- ☐ The National Park Service intends to award a single source justified grant agreement. *Refer to Section 3 Single Source Justification.*

Section 3. Single Source Justification

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS

National Park Service Policy FAP&P 1443-2015-06 requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable. The justification must address one of the following criteria.

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. The unsolicited proposal must demonstrate an innovative capability or concept not currently available to the government, and prepared without Government involvement. ;
- (2) Continuation – The activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of, an activity presently being funded, 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, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications. Successful past performance, familiarity with existing requirements, capabilities that can be obtained or matched by a competitor, or a positive reputation, are not considered to be 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:

- ☐ Task Agreement issued under previously competed or single source master cooperative agreement per Section 2 above. Single Source Justification not applicable.
- ☐ Unsolicited Proposal ☐ Continuation ☐ Emergency
- ☐ Legislative Intent ☒ Unique Qualifications

Explanation of the proposed recipient's qualifications or the criteria of the proposed project which requires use of the single source criteria cited.

The Lowell Festival Foundation is a 40+ year 501 (c)(3) partner of the Lowell National Historical Park and has been an instrumental part of the Lowell Folk Festival in this capacity for the last 33 years. They are not profiting from this agreement. Their mission is to help revitalize Lowell, Massachusetts culturally and economically by producing large scale special events that bring 150,000+ visitors to Lowell annually, spending millions of recreational dollars into the local economy, while reinforcing National Park themes.

Section 4. Department of the Interior Secretary's Priorities

This award will support the following DOI Secretary priority(ies):

Other Key Initiatives:

- ☐ Employment of veterans.
- ☐ Supporting DOI Infrastructure needs.
- ☒ Creating jobs in the American economy.
- ☐ Access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

Priority 1: Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt

- ☐ Utilize science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment.
- ☐ Examine land use planning process and land use designations that govern public use and access.
- ☐ Revise and streamline the environmental and regulatory review process while maintaining environmental standards.
- ☐ Review DOI water storage, transportation, and distribution systems to identify opportunities to resolve conflicts and expand capacity.
- ☐ Foster relationships with conservation organizations advocating for balanced stewardship and use of public lands.
- ☐ Identify and implement initiatives to expand access to DOI lands for hunting and fishing.
- ☐ Shift the balance towards providing greater public access to public lands over restrictions to access.

Priority 2: Utilizing our natural resources

- ☐ Ensure American energy is available to meet our security and economic needs.
- ☐ Ensure access to mineral resources, especially the critical and rare earth minerals.
- ☐ Refocus timber programs to embrace the entire 'healthy forests' lifecycle.
- ☐ Manage competition for grazing resources.

Priority 3: Restoring trust with local communities

- ☐ Be a better neighbor with those closest to our resources by improving dialogue and relationships with persons and entities bordering our lands.
- ☐ Expand the lines of communication with Governors, state natural resource offices, Fish and Wildlife offices, water authorities, county commissioners, Tribes, and local communities.

Priority 4: Ensuring sovereignty means something

- ☐ Support tribal self-determination, self-governance, and sovereignty.
- ☐ Solidify mutual interests between the U.S. and the freely associated states and territories.

Priority 5: Generating additional revenues to support DOI & National interests

- ☐ Ensure that the public receives the full market value for the natural resources produced on Federal lands.
- ☐ Ensure that fees or costs levied for DOI services are reasonable and targeted to achieve cost recovery.
- ☐ Consider the impact of DOI decisions on economic development and job creation.

Priority 6: Protecting our people and the border

- ☐ Actively support efforts to secure our southern border.
- ☐ Ensure DOI law enforcement staffing addresses public safety risks anticipated on DOI land.
- ☐ Promote a "public service" demeanor within our law enforcement community.

Priority 7: Striking a regulatory balance

- ☐ Reduce the administrative and regulatory burden imposed on U.S. industry and the public.
- ☐ Ensure that Endangered Species Act decisions are based on strong science and thorough analysis.

Priority 8: Modernizing our infrastructure

- ☐ Support the White House Public/Private Partnership Initiative to modernize U.S. infrastructure.
- ☐ Remove impediments to infrastructure development and facilitate private sector efforts to construct infrastructure projects serving American needs.
- ☐ Prioritize DOI infrastructure needs to highlight:
 1. Construction of infrastructure;
 2. Cyclical maintenance;
 3. Deferred maintenance.

Priority 9: Reorganizing for the next 100 years

- ☐ Improve alignment and integration of the DOI organizational structure. Redistribute organizational resources (people and funding) to enhance mission achievement and improved public service.
- ☐ Improve organizational alignment with Executive Branch counterparts with major land management assets or influence.

Priority 10: Achieving our goals and leading our team forward

- ☐ Senior executives are expected to provide leadership in achieving goals of the President and the Secretary.
- ☐ The Management Team is expected to:
 1. Ensure cost-effective operations and quality service to the public;
 2. Facilitate organizational cooperation and conflict resolution;
 3. Ensure the workplace environment is conducive to employee productivity and safety;
 4. Hold individuals accountable for actions that violate DOI policies and requirements.

The proposed project does not support any of the DOI Secretary priorities, but the project is being funded for the following reasons: