

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to reopen the proceeding to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33053, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20423. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on C.A. Mennell, 31 Oak Terrace, Webster Groves, MO 63119-3614.

Decided: September 11, 1996.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-24061 Filed 9-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Fiscal Service

Financial Management Service

Proposed Collection of Information: Management of Federal Agency Disbursements

AGENCY: Financial Management Service, Fiscal Service, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Financial Management Service, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on a continuing information collection. By this notice, the Financial Management Service solicits comments concerning the information collection for Management of Federal Agency Disbursements.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before November 18, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Financial Management Service, 3361-L 75th Avenue, Landover, Maryland 20785.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to Aurora Kassalow, Cash Management Policy and Planning Division, 401-14th St., SW., Washington, DC 20227, (202) 874-7157.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995,

(44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), the Financial Management Service solicits comments on the collection of information described below.

Title: Management of Federal Agency Disbursement.

OMB Number: 1510-0066

Form Number: None

Abstract: Recipients of Federal disbursements must furnish the Financial Management Service with their bank account number and the name and Routing and Transit Number (RTN) of their bank. Recipients without a bank account must certify to that in writing to the Financial Management Service.

Current Actions: Extension of currently approved collection

Type of Review: Regular

Affected Public: Individuals or households

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1300

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 15 minutes

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 325

Comments: Comment submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget 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 on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: September 16, 1996.

Mitchell A. Levine,

Assistant Commissioner.

[FR Doc. 96-24055 Filed 9-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-55-M

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition; Determinations

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, "Charles Rennie Mackintosh" (See list 1), 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 the foreign lenders. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the listed exhibit objects at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York, from on or about November 18, 1996, to on or about February 16, 1997, the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Ill., from on or about March 26, 1997, to on or about June 22, 1997, and at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, from on or about August 1, 1997, to on or about October 12, 1997, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these determinations is ordered to be published in the Federal Register.

Dated: September 13, 1996.

Les Jin,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 96-24073 Filed 9-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

NIS Secondary School Initiative: DC Civics Education Program; Notice— Request for Proposals

SUMMARY: The Office of Citizen Exchanges, Division of the NIS Secondary School Initiative of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply to develop a program in Washington, DC on the American political system for approximately 150 high school students from the New Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union attending school in the United States during academic year 1996-97. These students will be equitably selected from a group of 1,200 students who are participating in the Division's NIS Academic Year Exchange Program. The Washington program should enable the students to learn about the federal system, observe institutions of the government, hear about and discuss issues on the federal agenda, and interact with government officials. The program should also address the principles of the Constitution and the history of

¹ A copy of this list may be obtained by contacting Ms. Neila Sheahan, Assistant General Counsel, at 202/619-5030, and the address is Room 700, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547-0001.

federalism. USIA will award one or more grant in this competition.

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-Hayes 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, development, 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."

The funding authority for this program is contained in the Freedom Support Act (Pub. L. 102-391). These exchanges represent part of the activities for the NIS Secondary School Initiative and are subject to the availability of funding for the Fiscal Year 1997 program. Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package.

ANNOUNCEMENT TITLE AND NUMBER: All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the above title and reference number E/P-97-9.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on Friday, October 18, 1996. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked October 18, 1996 but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please contact the Office of Citizen Exchanges, NIS Secondary School Division—Academic Year Program, Room 320, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, Telephone: 202-619-6299, Fax: 202-619-5311, e-mail: nfearhei@usia.gov to request a Solicitation Package, which includes more detailed award criteria; all application forms; and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget. Please specify USIA Program Officer Nancy Fearheiley on all inquiries and correspondences. Interested applicants should read the complete Federal Register announcement before addressing

inquiries to the Office of Citizens Exchanges NIS Secondary School Initiative—or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, the NIS Secondary School Division may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

TO DOWNLOAD A SOLICITATION PACKAGE VIA INTERNET: The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/> or from the Internet Gopher at <gopher://gopher.usia.gov>. Under the heading "International Exchanges/Training," select "Request for Proposals (RFPs)." Please read "About the Following RFPs" before downloading.

SUBMISSIONS: Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and six copies of the complete application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/P-97-9, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 336, 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 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 in program administration and in program content. Organizations are encouraged to seek diverse communities and host families in which to place students. Orientation programming should include information on diversity issues as part of American culture and should touch on current laws that mandate equal treatment of all people regardless of race, gender, national origin, or disabling condition. Please refer to the REVIEW CRITERIA under the "Support for Diversity" section for specific

suggestions on incorporating diversity into the total proposal.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

Grant funding is intended to provide a program in Washington, DC on the American political approximately 150 high school students from the New Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union attending school in the United States during academic year 1996-97. The Washington program should enable the students to learn about the federal system, observe institutions of the government, hear about and discuss issues on the federal agenda, and interact with government officials. The program should address the principles of the Constitution and the history of federalism, along with key developments of the American political history. Special attention should be paid to those issues that will be especially significant to people from the former Soviet Union. The program may also examine the role of the United States in the world. The program should be arranged for 5 to 7 days, including arrival and departure.

The grantee organization will be provided with the names of the students who have been chosen at random by independent, objective selectors. Every effort will be made to ensure that this group is diverse regarding country of origin, ethnicity, age, gender, and physical disability. The Division would welcome suggestions from prospective grantees on creative methods of random selection.

Guidelines

Proposals must effectively describe the organization's ability to accomplish the following essential components of the program:

1. Provide a Washington, DC civics education program as described above during the time period indicated.
2. Provide training for organization staff on NIS society and culture.
3. Provide housing and meals for the students throughout the program.
4. Arrange travel to and from Washington, DC in coordination with Academic Year Program placement organizations. Provide ground transportation for students in the DC area, including to and from airports.
5. Provide opportunities to attend cultural events and visit museums and monuments.
6. Coordinate with USIA's Division for the NIS Secondary School Initiative (E/PY) and Congressional Liaison Office (CL) in arranging Congressional meetings.

7. Provide staff to assist in case of medical emergencies.

8. Incorporate a program component which is designed to facilitate students' transition from the DC program to their host communities.

9. Provide a mechanism for evaluation of the program in terms of its impact on the students and its success in fulfilling the objectives.

Proposed Budget

Organizations must bid on arranging a program for a minimum of 150 students but may increase the number of participants through cost sharing the additional expenses incurred. One grant will be awarded for this activity. It is anticipated that the total costs of the Washington, DC Enhancement program will average \$800 per NIS participant for a five day program, including domestic travel. The organization must submit a comprehensive line item budget. Details are available in the Solicitation Packet.

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 USIA East European NIS area office, and the budget and contract offices. Proposals may also 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 grant awards resides with the USIA's Office of Contracts.

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 and adherence to the conditions above.

2. Program Planning: Detailed agenda and relevant work plan should adhere to the program objectives, timing, and guidelines described above.

3. Ability to Achieve Program Objectives: Proposals should clearly demonstrate an understanding of the program's objectives stated above and how the organization will achieve them.

4. 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).

5. Institutional Capacity: Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve and program or project's goals.

6. Institution's Track Record/Ability: Proposals should demonstrate a record of successful programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Agency grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts (M/KG). The Agency will consider the past performance of prior grantees and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

7. Project Evaluation: The proposal should include a plan to evaluate the success of the grantee organization in achieving the stated objectives. The grantee will also be expected to cooperate with USIA in evaluating the program under the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). Proposals should reflect an understanding and grasp of these responsibilities.

8. Cost Effectiveness: The overhead and administrative components of grants, as well as salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate.

9. Cost Sharing: Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions. Organizations that choose to enhance the program by using private funds to increase the number of participants will be viewed more favorably than those without cost sharing.

Notice

Organizations with less than four years of experience conducting similar programs for foreign visitors in Washington, DC, will be eligible for a grant of less than \$60,000.

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. The award made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Notification

All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process on or after December 6, 1996. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: September 13, 1996.

John P. Loiello,

Associate Director, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 96-23985 Filed 9-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VA Innovations in Nursing Advisory Committee, Notice of Establishment

As required by Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, U.S.C. (App. 1), the VA hereby gives notice of the establishment of the VA Innovations in Nursing Advisory Committee. VA has determined that this action is in the public interest.

The objectives of this Committee are to advise the Under Secretary for Health about nursing innovations and specify changes necessary for VA to foster this progress. The Committee will review current innovations in nursing, current organizational incentives that foster innovation, current disincentives for innovations and suggested opportunities for enhanced innovation. The Committee will examine such issues as: clinical care, education, management, research, information management, non-traditional roles and creative alternatives to current practice.

The Committee membership will be selected on the basis of professional expertise in current and future health care and nursing innovations. To ensure a balance, the Committee will be composed of a broad array of interdisciplinary individuals with expertise in current health care practices, business practices and entrepreneurial ventures. Some members will be selected from within VA to assure current policies and procedures are incorporated in the context of new recommendations developed by the Committee. Appointments will be for the duration of the Committee unless otherwise directed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. This is a mission-specific committee which will be terminated as soon as the stated mission is complete.