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Nuestra Herencia Grant Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Eligibility

- Q: Who can apply for the LHC Grant Program?

A: We welcome applications from 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that are Latinx-led (governed or managed primarily by Latinx individuals) and/or Latinx-serving (providing programs or services that benefit Latinx communities). If your group does not yet have nonprofit status, you may apply with a Fiscal Sponsor.

- Q: Can individuals apply?

A: Not at this time. Applications must come from 501(c)(3) organizations or groups with a Fiscal Sponsor.

- Q: What is a Fiscal Sponsor?

A: A Fiscal Sponsor is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that agrees to receive and manage grant funds on your behalf. They assume legal and financial responsibility for the grant, while your group—the Project Organization—leads the work and must meet the other eligibility criteria.

- Q: Does my Fiscal Sponsor need to be Latinx-led or Latinx serving?

A: No, but the Project Organization should be.

- Q: Are churches or cemeteries eligible?

A: Yes but if you are unsure if your project aligns with our funding goals, please reach out to the Preservation Grants Manager.

- Q: What about privately owned properties?

A: Unfortunately, we don't fund projects involving privately owned properties unless they serve the public in some way. Please speak with the Preservation Grants Manager if your project involves a private property and you want clarity.

- Q: My organization's mission focuses on Latinx arts and culture, are we eligible?

A: If you meet the basic eligibility requirements, then your organization is eligible to apply, but your project must revolve around preserving Latinx history and heritage. Please reference Nuestra Herencia's funding goals in the guidelines to see if your project idea fits the vision of the program.

- Q: What's the difference between being eligible and being competitive?

A: Meeting the eligibility requirements allows you to apply, but competitive applications are more likely to receive funding. To be competitive, you must demonstrate strong alignment with the program's funding goals, that the project is well planned and ready to begin, and clearly explain what historic places will be documented, protected, restored, or interpreted through the proposed project.

Application Process

- Q: What's the best way to prepare before applying?

A: Review the application template and examples of funded projects from Cycle One, attend a webinar or watch the recording, and read the program guidelines in full.

- Q: What's the difference between the Project Organization and the Fiscal Sponsor?

A: The Project Organization is the group doing the work and proposing the project. If the Project Organization lacks 501(c)(3) status, they may partner with a Fiscal Sponsor, a nonprofit that will receive and manage the funds on the Project Organization's behalf.

- Q: Can I get help with my application?

A: Absolutely! Our team is here to support you. You can contact the Preservation Grants Manager here.

Budget & Funding

- Q: Can we include staff salaries or overheads in our budget?

A: Not at this time. We recognize how important staff funding is for grassroots organizations and hope to expand our funding in this area in the future.

- Q: Can I use grant funds to hire consultants?

A: Yes, applicants in all categories can propose hiring outside consultants or contractors for their project.

- Q: Do I need to submit my entire organizational budget?

A: Nope! Just show us how you plan to use the LHC grant funds using the provided budget template.

- Q: Is a cash match required?

A: No! You are not required to match the award amount with your own funds.

Project Categories

- Q: What does "place-based" mean?

A: It means your project is focusing on the history of a specific physical location, such as a building, landmark, neighborhood, community, or city, that holds significance to Latinx heritage and history.

- Q: Do you fund arts and culture projects?

A: We do not fund theatrical performances, festivals, new murals, concerts, or general arts programming. We understand that intangible heritage is a critical part of preservation, but our funding goals are currently focused on place-based projects.

- Q: Does my project have to involve a historic building?

A: No. Eligible projects may focus on historic districts, neighborhoods, landscapes, community spaces, cultural sites, marker programs, or other historically significant places connect to Latinx heritage.

Historic Preservation

- Q: What qualifies as a historic site?

A: Historic sites may include buildings, structures, neighborhoods, landscapes, or other places associated with important people, events, cultures, or community histories. According to mainstream Historic Preservation guidelines, a site is typically deemed historic if it is 50-years or older and fulfills specific criteria demonstrating historical or architectural significance, however, LHC also recognizes that sites with significance may be younger than this. If the site you are working on is a building, it should also maintain much of its original features.

- Q: Does a site have to be 50 years old to be considered historic or significant?

A: No. At LHC, we recognize that places less than 50 years old may still be significant to Latinx communities and warrant protection. Significance can take many different forms. It is not always related to architecture or famous people. Local businesses, schools, historic murals, community centers, and social clubs are all examples of places that a community may consider significant.

- Q: My site is not listed on any historic registers. Can I still apply?

A: Yes. A site does not need to be listed on a local, state, or national historic registers to be eligible. We recognize that many important Latinx historic places have not yet received formal designation. Applicants should explain why the place is significant to Latinx history and heritage.

- Q: How can I demonstrate significance?

A: Significance means explaining why a place matters. Tell us why the site or project is important to your community, to Latinx history, or to a larger historical story. The strongest applications provide specific examples and evidence.

You can make the case that a site is significant to Latinx heritage and history in many ways. It may be related to a famous person in Latinx history (ex. House or office of a noteworthy figure), it could be important to the Latinx community in your town (ex. Community center), it's history may tie into larger historical trends or themes (ex. Segregated Mexican school), or it may have unique architecture (ex. Historic adobe). Significance can take many different forms. What's important is that you are able to explain why your site matters and why it should be funded.

- Q: What are the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties?

A: The Secretary of the Interior's Standards are nationally recognized guidelines for maintaining and repairing historic properties while preserving their historic character.

- Q: Why do you require Capital Projects to comply with the Secretary of the Interior Standards?

A: We want your restoration project to comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards because doing so helps preserve the historic site's integrity. Integrity refers to how much of the original building, landscape, materials, and appearance remain intact. For example, a historic building that retains its original design and major features typically has higher integrity than one that has been substantially altered.

Historic integrity is an important factor when site nominations are evaluated for listing in local, state, or national historic registers. It is important to preserve integrity now because one of LHC's goals is to increase Latinx representation on historic registers and help ensure these places receive long-term recognition and protection. Following the Standards during your project can help avoid potential challenges if the property is ever nominated for designation in the future.

Technical Support

- Q: Is the Submittable platform easy to use?

A: Most folks find it very user-friendly! If you run into issues, staff at LHC and Submittable are available to assist you.

- Q: When should I verify my organization in Submittable?

A: Begin the application process by verifying your organization in Submittable as early as possible. Waiting until the application deadline may create avoidable issues with EIN verification or organizational records.

- Q: What's the word limit for responses?

A: Each question has an individual word limit that is noted on the application template and in Submittable.

After You Apply

- Q: How are applications evaluated?

A: Applications are reviewed against our scoring rubric. Criteria include alignment with funding goals, preservation impact, project readiness, and organizational capacity.

- Q: When will I hear back about my application?

A: You will receive an update on your application status by June 2027. If selected, you'll get detailed instructions on next steps.

- Q: If I am not funded, can I apply again?

A: Absolutely. Applicants are encouraged to request feedback and submit improved applications in future rounds.