

ICICLE FUND

*Supporting the environment, the arts and history in the Wenatchee River Watershed
and neighboring landscapes, through innovative collaboration*

MUSEUM FUNDING INITIATIVE 2009-2011

The Icicle Fund announces a **three year, \$80,000 per year funding initiative to support museums and heritage organizations in North Central Washington** (Okanogan, Grant, Douglas and Chelan counties). The Initiative will provide grants for building organizational capacity.

Background

The Icicle Fund was founded in 1999 to protect the environment, advance the arts and promote the natural and cultural history of North Central Washington. **A sense of place is central to the Icicle Fund's mission and the Fund believes that a fully developed sense of place necessarily involves knowledge of and appreciation for the history of the place. Fundamental ties to community and the place we live are nurtured through an understanding of our past**, as well as through artistic expression and imagination and a love for natural landscapes and wildlife. Museums and heritage organizations, along with schools, are key institutions for insuring that knowledge of the past is preserved, interpreted and passed along to the next generations.

In early 2008, Icicle Fund representatives toured museums and heritage organizations in North Central Washington to learn more about their successes and challenges. In every area visited, they discovered people with passion for history and organizations offering a diverse array of heritage programs. They also discovered some common challenges which they felt the Icicle Fund could help the organizations address. At its June 2008 meeting, the Icicle Fund Board of Directors approved this 3-year funding initiative as a means for providing that help.

Initiative Purpose

To promote understanding of the cultural and natural history of our region, strong organizations are essential. **The primary purpose of this funding initiative is to provide support for museums engaged in building their organizations and ensuring long-term sustainability. A larger, more long-term goal is to build a strong regional network of heritage organizations.** The Icicle Fund places high value on collaboration and believes that greater communications and networking provide a foundation for collaborative efforts.

Areas of Support

This funding initiative is for capacity-building activities in the following three areas: **fostering best museum practices; facilitating greater communications and cooperation among museums in North Central Washington; and engaging the next generation.** Listed below are some of the types of projects the Initiative will support (please note that this is not an exhaustive list).

Fostering Best Museum Practices: The American Association of Museums has identified best practices that include public trust and accountability, mission and planning, leadership and organizational structure, collections stewardship, education and interpretation, financial stability, and facilities and risk management. Grants in this area would be awarded for such things as:

1. Training in best practices
2. Peer-to-peer sharing on best practices
3. Capital upgrades for storage and archival needs, and other pressing capital needs
4. Museum Assessment Program (MAP)

Regional Networking and Communications

The Icicle Fund strongly believes that the capacities of individual museums can be greatly enhanced by working closely with other museums, whether that be through communications, education or working

together to develop projects that are beyond the means of any one museum. Projects attractive to the Icicle Fund include:

1. Shared training and workshops
2. Shared programming
3. Peer-to-peer exchanges
4. Joint actions to leverage foundation, national, state, and local funding
5. Development of regional initiatives (website, special digital collections, regional museum association etc.).

The Next Generation(s)

Passing on a passion for preserving the past and understanding of how knowledge of the past can inform our futures is crucial to the long term success of museums and heritage organizations. Engaging students and younger members of our communities will ensure the continual promotion of history in our region. Funding proposals that address these areas might include the following:

1. Planning for the expansion of expansion of programming within or into the schools through such things as curricular innovations, teacher training and independent projects for high school seniors.
2. Increased numbers of younger adults as volunteers and board members.

Awards

Range: \$500 to \$10,000

Type: Capacity building. This funding initiative will not provide grants for unrestricted operating support, staff positions, program requests or large capital projects.

Duration: One year. Multiyear requests will not be funded.

Restrictions: Organizations may not submit more than one grant application per grant cycle.

Grant Guidelines

Eligible Organizations

- 501(c) 3 public charity tax-exempt status. The Icicle Fund cannot provide funding to individuals
- Located and providing services in Okanogan, Grant, Douglas or Chelan counties

Preferences

- Use of Icicle Fund support to leverage additional support from state, regional and local agencies, or individual donations.
- Partnering with other organizations
- Efficient use of resources
- Plans to share knowledge or experience with other museums and heritage organizations
- Projects that will be supported (or will not require additional support) after the term of the grant

Application Process

The Icicle Fund Board of Directors awards grants twice a year, in June and in December. Applications are due approximately 6 weeks before decisions are made.

The Icicle Fund uses a web-based application management system and only applications submitted through this system will be accepted. To begin the process go to www.iciclefund.org and follow the steps listed below.

1. Click on **Requests for Funding**
2. On the next page, click on **Grant Management Login**.
3. On the Grants Management Login page, click on **Create New Account**
4. On the next page, complete the **Registration Form** by entering information about your organization.
5. Upon completion of the Registration Form you will be asked to **Login** with your **Username** and **Password**. Typically, your username will be your email address. This process will set up a permanent account for your organization. If you decide to apply to the Icicle Fund again, all your organizational information will still be there.
6. Once you have logged in, select the **Museum Funding Initiative Application**.

In addition to asking for information on the proposed project and your organization, the application requests some information that will help us evaluate our grantmaking strategies and our application process. Thank you in advance for supplying us with this additional information.

Applications must be submitted by 3:30 PM on the dues dates listed below; late applications are not accepted. The proposal is reviewed over the ensuing six weeks and notification is sent out within two weeks after the review process is completed. Plan on receiving notification approximately eight weeks after the date of submission. For 2009, the application and notification dates are as follows

For June 2009 action, submit application by May 1st and receive notification by June 26th.

For December 2009 action, submit application by October 26th and receive notification by December 26th.

Submission and notification dates for 2010 and 2011 applications will be posted on the Icicle Fund website.

Other information

Organizations are not precluded from applying for other types of assistance from the Icicle Fund, but new Icicle Fund applicants will be advised to request support through this initiative first.

Contact Information

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