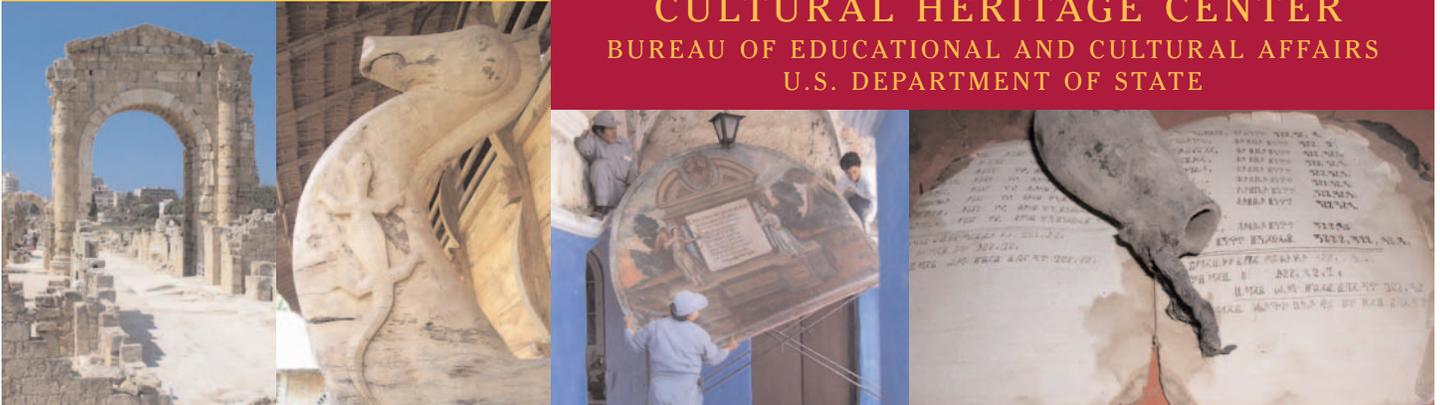


# THE AMBASSADOR'S FUND FOR CULTURAL PRESERVATION



## CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE



*“Each piece of the past tells something of what we were or what we are. By enlarging our ties with past generations, we commit ourselves to future generations and we dignify the present.”*

ELVIRA CUERVO DE JARAMILLO, Colombian Minister of Culture

**The Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation**, established by the U.S. Congress in 2001, is the only U.S. government program providing direct small grant support to heritage preservation in less-developed countries. The Ambassador's Fund, which has supported 378 projects worldwide totaling \$9.5 million, emphasizes the importance of preserving the world's cultural patrimony as an integral component of U.S. foreign relations.

The Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation supports projects worldwide that focus upon:

- Preservation of archaeological sites
- Restoration of historic buildings
- Conservation of museum collections
- Conservation of ancient manuscripts
- Documentation of traditional forms of music, dance, and language

The U.N. Human Development Index is used as a guide in determining the eligible countries each year. United States Ambassadors in eligible countries may submit competitive proposals for one-time or recurring projects. Awards are based on the importance of the site, object, or traditional form of expression, the urgency of need, and the impact of the U.S. contribution. Often the project is a partnership between the U.S. Embassy and the country's Ministry of Culture, local university, or non-profit organization.

Clockwise from top right: Traditional Music of Berber Women, Morocco. PHOTO BY AMANDA KOSTER • Bamum Scripts and Archives, Yaounde Cameroon. PHOTO BY U.S. EMBASSY YAOUNDE • Painting Conservation, Santa Catalina Monastery, Arequipa, Peru. PHOTO BY U.S. EMBASSY LIMA • Omo Hada House, Nias Island, Indonesia. PHOTO BY U.S. EMBASSY JAKARTA • Al-Bass Necropolis, Tyre, Lebanon. PHOTO BY U.S. EMBASSY BEIRUT

### SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS OF 2006 PROJECTS

- **Tanzania:** Restoration of two mosques on the Island of Pemba that have unique architectural features combining Swahili and Persian influences.
- **Turkmenistan:** Conservation of manuscripts dating from the 18th through early 20th century, including Arabic, Turkmen, and Persian texts.
- **Algeria:** Stabilization of the foundation and retaining walls of El Pacha Mosque, to protect from impending collapse this shining example of Ottoman architecture that was constructed in 1796 to celebrate the return of the city of Oran to the Ottoman Empire.
- **Timore Leste:** Documentation of the process and rituals of building Uma Luliks (traditional sacred houses) that are part of Timor's pre-Christian culture and currently a powerful historic symbol.
- **Peru:** Preventive conservation of pre-Columbian collections in the San Marcos Archaeological Museum.
- **Syria:** Preservation of decorative mosaics rescued from 5th-through 10th-century buildings in the Forgotten Cities of Northern Syria.

The Cultural Heritage Center supports the foreign affairs functions of the U.S. Department of State related to the protection and preservation of cultural heritage. The office serves as a center of expertise on global cultural heritage protection issues and administers U.S. responsibilities relating to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.