FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

U.S. MISSION IN MOROCCO PUBLIC DIPLOMACY GRANT PROGRAM
Notice of Funding Opportunity for Fiscal Year 2023

Funding Opportunity Title: *Space Pavilion at Science Fair*
Funding Opportunity Number: PAS-MOROCCO-FY23-08
Deadline for Applications: *May 12, 2023*
Assistance Listing Number: *19.040*
Total Amount Available: *$25,000*

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Embassy Morocco is pleased to announce an open competition for organizations to submit applications to manage Embassy Rabat's Space Pavilion at the Moroccan Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication's Science Fair taking place in November 2023 for ten days. This would be a U.S. Embassy branded space-themed booth that will consist of an interactive exhibit that showcases the wonders of the universe and the latest advancements in space technology. All program activities should have a strong American focus and should include U.S. models, examples, and precepts. The pavilion will feature engaging displays, demonstrations, and hands-on activities that showcase the latest advancements in space technology and the wonders of the universe. From virtual reality to building your own mini-rocket, visitors of all ages will leave the pavilion with a deeper appreciation for the cosmos and a greater understanding of U.S. leadership in this field. In addition to the pavilion, workshops and public talks delivered by U.S. speakers and USG alumni of STEM programs will be organized on the margins of the festival.

Priority Region: *Morocco*

Proposed Themes:

The space pavilion will cover various aspects of space exploration, including:
  – The history of space exploration
  – Recent NASA achievements and advancements in the field
  – The solar system and celestial bodies
  – Astronaut training and life in space
  – The role of telescopes and observatories (James Webb Telescope)
  – The importance of international collaboration in space missions

Potential Activities/Features:
To create an immersive experience for visitors, below are potential activities and features of the space pavilion:
  - Interactive activities about space exploration, the solar system, and celestial bodies

- Virtual reality (VR) simulations of spacewalks and planetary surface exploration
- A mock-up of a spacecraft cockpit, allowing visitors to experience the role of an astronaut.
- A scaled-down version of a Mars rover with remote control features for visitors to operate
- Telescope demonstrations and live streaming of images from observatories around the world
- Public talks and workshops with space experts and alumni of State Department programs.

Target Audience:

The pavilion is designed to cater to a diverse range of visitors, including:

− **General public:** The booth will be **accessible** and engaging for visitors of all ages and backgrounds, providing information and activities that can be enjoyed by everyone, including individuals with physical disabilities. Visitors will gain insight into the world of space exploration and its significance, regardless of their prior knowledge.
− **Students and youth:** A key focus of the pavilion will be to inspire young visitors and students. The activities and learning experiences will be tailored to make complex concepts more approachable and foster a curiosity for space and related sciences.
− **Educators and teachers:** The pavilion will serve as a resource for educators and teachers, providing them with ideas and materials to incorporate space-themed lessons into their classrooms. Teachers will be able to explore the different activities and gather ideas to engage their students in the world of space exploration.
− **Aspiring space professionals:** Visitors with a keen interest in pursuing careers in the space industry will find the pavilion particularly beneficial. They will have the opportunity to interact with experts, explore the various facets of space exploration, and gain a deeper understanding of the field.
− **Space enthusiasts:** The pavilion will cater to space enthusiasts who are passionate about learning more about the universe and the advancements in space exploration. These visitors will appreciate the detailed information, VR simulations, and live interactions with experts that the pavilion offers.

Program Objectives:

1- To provide a fun and educational experience that teaches visitors about space, astronomy, and the latest advancements in space technology.
2- To inspire the next generation of scientists and explorers by showcasing the possibilities of space exploration and discovery.
3- To engage visitors of all ages and backgrounds and foster a deeper appreciation for science.
4- To promote public engagement and understanding of science, particularly in the field of space and astronomy.

The implementer must be able to carry out the following:

- **Project design and preparation:** The Recipient will define, in consultation with the U.S. Embassy, the project scope, main outcomes and outputs including audience profiles. The Recipient will conduct research to identify the space-related themes, technologies, and activities that will be showcased at the pavilion. All program activities should have a strong American focus and should include U.S. models, examples, and precepts.
- **Staffing and Pavilion Management:** Hire and train staff to manage the pavilion, including scientists, educators, and volunteers who have expertise in space and astronomy. Ensure that staff members are knowledgeable, engaging, and prepared to answer visitors' questions. The recipient will also identify organizations, institutions, or individuals who will be involved in participating or managing the pavilion, and establish partnerships and collaborations as needed.
- **Promotion and Outreach:** Promote the space-themed pavilion to potential visitors and media outlets through social media, email campaigns, press releases, and other marketing channels. Provide information about the pavilion's activities, hours of operation, and location, and invite visitors to participate.
- **Implementation and Evaluation:** Implement the space-themed pavilion during the science festival and collect data on visitor engagement, satisfaction, and learning outcomes. Use this data to evaluate the effectiveness of the pavilion and identify areas for improvement in future iterations.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Length of performance period:	Six to nine *months*
Number of awards anticipated:	One award
Award amounts:	Awards may range from a minimum of *$20,000* to a maximum of *$25,000*
Total available funding:	*$25,000*
Type of Funding:	*FY23 Smith Mundt Public Diplomacy Funds*
Anticipated program start date:	July 2023

This notice is subject to availability of funding.

Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative agreement.

U.S. Embassy staff will:

a. Review and approve implementation timeline which should include specific milestones and deadlines for each stage.
b. Provide standardized logos/branding guidelines for promotional materials.
c. Review and approve marketing materials and participation in promotional activities of the pavilion, and the use of the U.S. Mission's social media platforms and media contacts.

d. Review and approve the design of the pavilion.
e. Review and approve trainers/speakers' recruitment and selection.
f. Assist in identifying and contacting alumni of U.S. government exchange programs, representatives of U.S. companies, and U.S. Mission personnel as potential speakers or trainers.
g. Review and approve proposed activities and activity/workshop topics and formats.
h. Review and approve the metrics that will be used to measure the success of the pavilion and ensure that these metrics are clear, measurable, and aligned with the project goals and objectives.
i. Review and approve any partnerships or collaborations that have been established to support the projects.

Program Performance Period: Proposed programs should be completed in *nine months* or less.

The Department of State will entertain applications for continuation grants funded under these awards beyond the initial budget period on a non-competitive basis subject to availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the program, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the U.S. Department of State.

C. ELIGILIBITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants:

The following organizations are eligible to apply:

- Only Moroccan associations and committed and organized civil-society organizations having started SAM registration and experience executing youth STEM programs will be eligible to receive funding.

For-profit, commercial entities, U.S. organizations, and NGOs are not eligible to apply.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost-share is not required; however, if provided, please detail whether the cost-share is through in-cash or in-kind contributions and the approximate dollar amount. Cost-share will not be included in the criteria for evaluation.

3. Other Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to receive an award, all organizations must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number issued via www.SAM.gov as well as a valid registration on www.SAM.gov. Please see Section D.3 for more information. Individuals are not required to have a UEI or be registered in SAM.gov.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Submit all forms as *PDFs* in electronic format to Rabatgrants@state.gov no later than April 8, 2023, at midnight. All questions about this NOFO should be addressed to: Rabatgrants@state.gov

Please follow all instructions below carefully. Proposals that do not meet the requirements of this announcement or fail to comply with the stated requirements will not be reviewed.

1. **Content of Application**

- Applications are due by **April 8, 2023**.
- The proposal should be $20,000-$25,000.
- Acquisition of a UEI number and a SAM.gov registration is required.
- The project should not have an intended start date before June 2023.
- The proposal clearly addresses the goals and objectives of this funding opportunity.
- All documents are in English.
- All budgets are in U.S. dollars.
- All pages are numbered.
- All documents are formatted to 8 ½ x 11 paper, and
- All Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.
- All proposals must adhere to the policy explained in the Space Pavilion at Science Fair Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) including the "eligibility requirements."

The following documents are required and the first 6 can be found on our website:

- SF424 (Application for Federal Assistance)
- SF424A (Budget Information)
- SF424B (Assurances)
- Project Narrative Template (in English)
- Applicant Organization Information Form
- Budget Proposal (in USD) (please use $1 = 10 MAD as exchange rate)

- Detailed proposed program
- CVs for Director and key project personnel
- Final registration papers for the organization (وصل نهائي)

2. **Registrations**

All organizations applying for this grant **should apply for a UEI number and a SAM.gov registration at the time of application**. Both are free of charge. **The DUNS number and NCAGE code** (if not applying for Department of Defense funding) are **no longer required** for federal assistance applications.

Step 1: **Validate your organization.**

UEI application: Organizations must have a Unique Entity Identifier from SAM.gov. If your organization has not yet been assigned a UEI number, you may obtain one by visiting: https://sam.gov/content/home. Follow instructions for validating your organization; see necessary documentation that must be submitted before your UEI number can be assigned. If you have had U.S. government funding before and had a DUNS number, you should have been assigned a UEI number. In this case just proceed with Step 2.

Step 2: **Register in SAM.gov.**

After receiving your UEI number, begin your registration in SAM.gov by logging onto: https://www.sam.gov. Your SAM registration must be renewed annually.

If you encounter any error, please contact the SAM Federal Service Desk to report problem at https://www.fsd.gov/clients. There is a standard (not toll free) number that customers can use 334-206-7828.

> *Note: The process of obtaining or renewing a SAM.gov registration may take anywhere from 4-8 weeks. **Please begin your registration as early as possible.***

Exemptions

An exemption from the UEI and sam.gov registration requirements may be permitted on a case-by-case basis if:

- An applicant's identity must be protected due to potential endangerment of their mission, their organization's status, their employees, or individuals being served by the applicant.
- For an applicant, if the Federal awarding agency decides that there are exigent circumstances that prohibit the applicant from receiving a unique entity identifier and completing SAM registration prior to receiving a federal award. In these instances, Federal awarding agencies must require the recipient to obtain a unique entity identifier and complete SAM registration within 30 days of the Federal award date.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. **Criteria**

Quality and Feasibility of the Proposed Program: The pavilion idea is well developed, with details about how program activities will be carried out. The proposal includes a reasonable implementation timeline, including for recruitment of volunteers and trainers. Goals and objectives are clearly stated, and program outline is likely to provide maximum impact in achieving the proposed results.

Organizational Capacity and Record on managing STEM programs: Applicants should have experience in designing and implementing educational programs for youth, with a particular focus on space science and technology. Applicants should also have access to qualified staff and subject matter experts with relevant qualifications and experience in the field of space science and technology. The ability to work collaboratively and effectively with other organizations and stakeholders is also crucial. Overall, this organization should have a passion for advancing STEM and a strong commitment to achieving diversity, equity, and inclusion in these fields.

U.S. Component: There is strong participation of trainers with a connection to the United States, application of U.S. models, or approaches typically applied in the United States.

Budget: The budget justification is detailed. Costs are reasonable in relation to the proposed activities and anticipated results. The budget is realistic, accounting for all necessary expenses to achieve proposed activities.

Monitoring and evaluation plan: Applicant demonstrates it can measure program success against key indicators and provides milestones to indicate progress toward goals outlined in the proposal. The program includes output and outcome indicators and shows how and when those will be measured.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Federal Award Notices

The grant award or cooperative agreement will be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The assistance award agreement is the authorizing document, and it will be provided to the recipient for review and signature by email. The recipient may only start incurring program expenses beginning on the start date shown on the grant award document signed by the Grants Officer and after the Kickoff meeting has taken place.

If a proposal is selected for funding, the Department of State has no obligation to provide any additional future funding. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the discretion of the Department of State.

Issuance of this NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. government, nor does it commit the U.S. government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, the U.S. government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Before applying, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications which will apply to this award, to ensure that they will be able to comply. These include:

- [2 CFR 25 - UNIVERSAL IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT](#)

- [2 CFR 170 - REPORTING SUBAWARD AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION INFORMATION](#)

- [2 CFR 175 - AWARD TERM FOR TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS](#)

- [2 CFR 182 - GOVERNMENTWIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE (FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE)](#)

- [2 CFR 183 - NEVER CONTRACT WITH THE ENEMY](#)

- [2 CFR 600 – DEPARTMENT OF STATE REQUIREMENTS](#)

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance located at 2 CFR part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, the Department of State will review and consider applications for funding, as applicable to specific programs, pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity in accordance with the following: NOTE:

- [Guidance for Grants and Agreements in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations](#) (2 CFR), as updated in the Federal Register's 85 FR 49506 on August 13, 2020, particularly on:
    - Selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an objective process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR part 200.205),
    - Prohibiting the purchase of certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment in alignment with section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L. No. 115—232) (2 CFR part 200.216),
    - Promoting the freedom of speech and religious liberty in alignment with *Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty* (E.O. 13798) and *Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities* (E.O. 13864) (§§ 200.300, 200.303, 200.339, and 200.341),
    - Providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR part 200.322), and
    - Terminating agreements in whole or in part to the greatest extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR part 200.340).

In accordance with the [Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Underserved Communities](#), proposals should demonstrate how the program advances equity with respect to race, ethnicity, religion, income, geography, gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability. The proposal should also demonstrate how the program will further engagement in underserved communities and with individuals from underserved communities. Proposals should demonstrate how addressing racial equity and underserved communities will enhance the program's goals and objectives, as well as the experience of participants.

The support of underserved communities will be part of the review criteria for this opportunity. Therefore, proposals should clearly demonstrate how the program will support and advance

equity and engage underserved communities in program administration, design, and implementation.

3.   **Reporting**

Reporting Requirements: Recipients will be required to submit financial reports and program reports. The award provisions document will specify how often these reports must be submitted. For a grant not more than a one-year grant, at least two reports would be required: an interim report halfway through the timeframe, and a final report (programmatic and financial) at the end.

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

Any prospective applicant who has questions concerning the contents of this NOFO should email Rabatgrants@State.gov. Note that once the NOFO deadline has passed, Department of State staff may not discuss this competition with applicants until the review process has been completed.

H. OTHER INFORMATION

Guidelines for Budget Justification

Personnel and Fringe Benefits: Describe the wages, salaries, and benefits of temporary or permanent staff who will be working directly for the applicant on the program, and the percentage of their time that will be spent on the program.

Travel: Estimate the costs of travel and per diem for this program, for program staff, consultants or speakers, and participants/beneficiaries. If the program involves international travel, include a brief statement of justification for that travel.

Equipment: Describe any machinery, furniture, or other personal property that is required for the program, which has a useful life of more than one year (or a life longer than the duration of the program), and costs at least $5,000 per unit.

Supplies: List and describe all the items and materials, including any computer devices, that are needed for the program. If an item costs more than $5,000 per unit, then put it in the budget under Equipment.

Contractual: Describe goods and services that the applicant plans to acquire through a contract with a vendor. Also describe any sub-awards to non-profit partners that will help carry out the program activities.

Other Direct Costs: Describe other costs directly associated with the program, which do not fit in the other categories. For example, shipping costs for materials and equipment or applicable taxes. All "Other" or "Miscellaneous" expenses must be itemized and explained.

Indirect Costs: These are costs that cannot be linked directly to the program activities, such as overhead costs needed to help keep the organization operating. (If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate (NICRA) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, attach a copy

of your latest NICRA.) Organizations that have never had a NICRA may request indirect costs of 10% of the modified total direct costs as defined in 2 CFR 200.68.

Cost Sharing: refers to contributions from the organization or other entities other than the U.S. Embassy.   It also includes in-kind contributions such as volunteers' time and donated venues.

Alcoholic Beverages: Please note that award funds cannot be used for alcoholic beverages.