GRANT PROSPECT: Middlesex Canal Association Building Project

**American Express Foundation**

**Prospect: Good A**

The foundation supports programs designed to promote historic preservation; leadership; and community service.

From webpage http://about.americanexpress.com/csr/hpc.aspx

***Please Note: Applications are accepted BY INVITATION ONLY under the Historic Preservation theme.***

**A short online questionnaire will generate “invitation” if certain criteria are met. Among them, you must certify that you do not discriminate etc. This may require a board adoption of an anti-discrimination covenant if one is not already in place. (Templates from other orgs are available to model.)**

Funding Range: $5K-$2 million

From Guidestar:

**American Express Foundation**  
World Financial Ctr.  
200 Vesey St., 48th Fl.  
New York, NY 10285-4804  
URL: [about.americanexpress.com/csr/?inav=about\_CorpResponsibility](http://about.americanexpress.com/csr/?inav=about_CorpResponsibility" \t "_blank)  
**Type of Grantmaker**: Company-sponsored foundation  
**Financial Data** (yr. ended 12/31/10): Assets: $18,655,058; Total giving: $8,190,000  
**EIN**: 136123529  
**990-PF**: [2011](http://990s.foundationcenter.org//990pf_pdf_archive/136/136123529/136123529_201112_990PF.pdf" \t "_blank) [2010](http://990s.foundationcenter.org//990pf_pdf_archive/136/136123529/136123529_201012_990PF.pdf" \t "_blank) [2009](http://990s.foundationcenter.org//990pf_pdf_archive/136/136123529/136123529_200912_990PF.pdf" \t "_blank) [2008](http://990s.foundationcenter.org//990pf_pdf_archive/136/136123529/136123529_200812_990PF.pdf" \t "_blank) [2007](http://990s.foundationcenter.org//990pf_pdf_archive/136/136123529/136123529_200712_990PF.pdf" \t "_blank) [2006](http://990s.foundationcenter.org//990pf_pdf_archive/136/136123529/136123529_200612_990PF.pdf" \t "_blank) [2005](http://990s.foundationcenter.org//990pf_pdf_archive/136/136123529/136123529_200512_990PF.pdf" \t "_blank) [2004](http://990s.foundationcenter.org//990pf_pdf_archive/136/136123529/136123529_200412_990PF.pdf" \t "_blank) [2003](http://990s.foundationcenter.org//990pf_pdf_archive/136/136123529/136123529_200312_990PF.pdf" \t "_blank) [2002](http://990s.foundationcenter.org//990pf_pdf_archive/136/136123529/136123529_200212_990PF.pdf" \t "_blank) [2001](http://990s.foundationcenter.org//990pf_pdf_archive/136/136123529/136123529_200112_990PF.pdf" \t "_blank)

**Last Updated:** 9/26/2012

**Additional Contact Information**  
Application address for organizations located outside of Phoenix, AZ, south FL, and Salt Lake City, UT: 3 World Financial Center, M.C. 01-48-04, New York, NY 10285-4804; E-mail for Phoenix, AZ: American Express Co., c/o Community Affairs, PhoenixLOIs@aexp.com; E-mail for south Florida: American Express Co., c/o Community Affairs, FtLauderdaleLOIs@aexp.com; E-mail for Salt Lake City, UT: American Express Co., c/o Community Affairs, SaltLakeCityLOIs@aexp.com

**Online Communications**  
[Grants List](http://about.americanexpress.com/csr/docs/2011grantslist.pdf" \t "_blank)

*Links to:*

*http://about.americanexpress.com/csr/docs/2011grantslist.pdf*

*Sample in 2011 shows about 40 historic preservation grant recipients, 3 in MA not related projects.*

**Donor(s)**  
American Express Co.

**Background**  
Incorporated in 1954 in NY.

**Limitations**  
Giving on a national and international basis in areas of company operations with emphasis on greater Phoenix, AZ, Los Angeles and San Francisco, CA, Washington, DC, south FL, Atlanta, GA, Chicago, IL, Boston, MA, New York, NY, Philadelphia, PA, Puerto Rico, Houston, TX, Salt Lake City, UT, Argentina, Austria, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Singapore, Spain, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom.  
No support for discriminatory organizations, religious organizations not of direct benefit to the entire community, or political organizations.  
No grants to individuals, or for fundraising, goodwill advertising, souvenir journals, or dinner programs, travel, books, magazines, or articles in professional journals, endowments or capital campaigns, traveling exhibitions, or sports sponsorships.

**Purpose and Activities**  
The foundation supports programs designed to promote historic preservation; leadership; and community service.

**Program Area(s)**  
The grantmaker has identified the following area(s) of interest:   
**Community Service**  
The foundation supports programs designed to cultivate meaningful opportunities for civic engagement and encourage community service. Special emphasis is directed toward capacity building of nonprofits through community engagement, including volunteers, audience members, and donors; encouraging citizens to play an active role in civic processes; and the engagement of community members and American Express employees in philanthropy, volunteerism, or participation in local civic organizations. The foundation also supports disaster relief and preparedness programs that allow relief agencies to be better equipped in responding to emergencies as they occur.  
**Historic Preservation**  
The foundation supports programs and projects designed to preserve, restore, or sustain historic places, landmarks, and public spaces; and preserve sites that represent diverse cultures. Special emphasis is directed toward projects designed to restore historic places to ensure ongoing public access and interaction with the sites; preserve historic places for future or innovative use; and sustain historic places by creating systems to manage increased visitor activities and environmental impact.  
**Leadership**  
The foundation supports programs designed to provide current and future nonprofit leaders with practical opportunities to learn and build leadership skills. Special emphasis is directed toward programs designed to address the leadership deficit in the nonprofit sector by enabling new executive directors or supporting the training and development of emerging leaders; diversify the current landscape of nonprofit leaders; and transform organizations through best-in-class management and leadership practices through board leadership, implementing management principles, or expanding an organization's capacity to attract, develop and retain leadership talent.

**Fields of Interest**  
**Subjects**  
American Red Cross  
Arts  
Children/youth, services  
Community/economic development  
Disasters, preparedness/services  
Economic development  
Education  
Food banks  
Food distribution, meals on wheels  
Food services  
Foundations (community)  
Higher education  
Historic preservation/historical societies  
Hospitals (general)  
Human services  
Leadership development  
Museums  
Nonprofit management  
Performing arts  
Public affairs  
Visual arts  
Voluntarism promotion

**Geographic Focus**  
Arizona  
California  
District of Columbia  
Florida  
Georgia  
Illinois  
Massachusetts  
New York  
Pennsylvania  
Puerto Rico  
Texas  
Utah

**Types of Support**  
Annual campaigns  
Conferences/seminars  
Continuing support  
Emergency funds  
General/operating support  
Management development/capacity building  
Program development

**Publications**  
Application guidelines  
Grants list  
Program policy statement

**Application Information**  
Letter of inquiry should be no longer than 1 to 3 pages. Historic preservation applications for archival projects are discouraged. Leadership applications for youth leadership programs are discouraged. Organizations receiving support of at least $7,500 are asked to provide a final report. Application form not required. Applicants should submit the following:

1. Timetable for implementation and evaluation of project
2. Statement of problem project will address
3. Copy of IRS Determination Letter
4. Brief history of organization and description of its mission
5. Explanation of why grantmaker is considered an appropriate donor for project
6. Detailed description of project and amount of funding requested
7. Copy of current year's organizational budget and/or project budget
8. Listing of additional sources and amount of support

Initial approach: Letter of inquiry to application address; e-mail letter of inquiry to organizations located in Phoenix, AZ, southern FL, and Salt Lake City, UT  
Board meeting date(s): Biannually  
Deadline(s): None; Feb. 1 and July 1 for Phoenix, AZ, southern FL, and Salt Lake City, UT  
Final notification: 3 to 4 months

**Officers and Trustees**  
Note: An asterisk (\*) following an individual's name indicates an officer who is also a trustee or director.  
**Thomas Schick**,\* Chairperson  
**Timothy J. McClimon**, President  
**Judy Tenzer**, Secretary  
**Mary Ellen Craig**, Comptroller  
**Kenneth I. Chenault**  
**Edward P. Gilligan**  
**Daniel T. Henry**  
**Stephen J. Squeri**

**Memberships**  
**Regional Associations of Grantmakers**  
Donors Forum of South Florida  
**Affinity Groups**  
Association of Corporate Contributions Professionals  
Funders Concerned About AIDS  
Hispanics in Philanthropy  
**Associations and Other Philanthropic Organizations**  
Council on Foundations  
European Foundation Center  
Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York  
Women & Philanthropy

**Financial Data**  
**Year ended 12/31/10:**  
Assets: $18,655,058 (market value)  
Gifts received: $18,680,000  
Expenditures: $8,255,330  
Total giving: $8,190,000  
Qualifying distributions: $8,252,628  
Giving activities include:   
$8,190,000 for 118 grants (high: $2,000,000; low: $5,000)

**Additional Location Information**  
County: New York  
Metropolitan area: New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA  
Congressional district: New York District 10

**Selected Grants**  
The following grants are a representative sample of this grantmaker's funding activity:  
$2,000,000 to World Trade Center Memorial Foundation, New York, NY, in 2010. For Special Projects, payable over 1 year.  
$500,000 to National Academy Foundation, New York, NY, in 2010, payable over 1 year.  
$200,000 to Feeding America, Chicago, IL, in 2010, payable over 1 year.  
$150,000 to Independent Sector, Washington, DC, in 2010, payable over 1 year.  
$130,000 to Entrepreneurial Training for Innovative Community, Tokyo, Japan, in 2010, payable over 1 year.  
$100,000 to Common Purpose International, London, England, in 2010, payable over 1 year.  
$67,000 to Dom Romer GmbH, Frankfurt, Germany, in 2010, payable over 1 year.  
$50,000 to Asociacion Amigos del Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2010, payable over 1 year.  
$47,000 to Fundacion Cimientos, Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2010, payable over 1 year.