

Table 9.6 Potential Funding Sources

Agency or Organization	Funding Program	Funding	Description
Federal Agencies			
National Endowment for the Arts www.nea.gov	Our Town	\$25,000 - \$200,000; median of \$50,000	Supports creative placemaking projects focused on arts engagement, and design and cultural planning
	Art Works	\$10,000-\$100,000	Supports innovative art projects that engage and educate communities
	Challenge America Fast Track	\$10,000	Supports small to mid-sized organizations that reach underserved populations
	The Big Read	\$2,500-\$25,000	Programs are designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and to encourage reading
National Endowment for the Humanities www.neh.gov	America’s Historical and Cultural Organizations – Planning	Up to \$40,000	Supports early stages of project development for exhibits, interpretation, discussion programs, interpretive websites. Includes consultation with scholars, refinement of humanities themes, preliminary design, testing and audience evaluation
	America’s Historical and Cultural Organizations - Implementation	Up to \$400,000	Supports final scholarly research and consultation, design development, production and installation of a project for presentation to the public
	Collaborative Research Projects	\$25,000-\$100,000	Supports interpretive humanities research by a team of two or more scholars for projects that may include: increasing understanding of the humanities, hosting conference or archaeological projects
	Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions	Up to \$6,000	Helps improve the ability to preserve and care for humanities collections.
	Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections	Up to \$50,000 – planning Up to \$350,000-	Supports preventive conservation measures to mitigate deterioration and prolong the life of collections

Table 9.6 Potential Funding Sources (continued)

Agency or Organization	Funding Program	Funding	Description
Federal Agencies			
National Park Service National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) www.nccptt.nps.gov		Up to \$25,000	Funds projects that develop new technologies or adapt existing technologies to preserve cultural resources. Can include research, training, documentation, manuscript or website development
Library of Congress – American Folklife Center www.loc.gov/folklife	Henry Reed Fund for Folk Artists	Up to \$2,000	Provides support for activities directly involving folk artists such as honoraria for presentations, programs honoring folks artists and documenting folk artists
Agency or Organization	Funding Program	Funding	Description
National Historical Publications and Records Commission www.archives.gov/nhprc	Documenting Democracy: Access to Historical Records	Up to \$200,000	Promotes the preservation and use of documentary resources. Supports establishment of archives programs, surveying and processing archival records, and converting records to online formats
	Digitizing Historical Records	Up to \$150,000	Supports digitizing nationally significant collections and making them freely available online
	Innovations in Archives and Documentary Editing	\$50,000-\$150,000	Supports innovative methods to improve the preservation, public discovery and use of historical records
	Publishing Historical Records	\$20,000-\$250,000	Supports publication of papers of major figures from American life or broad historical movements. Grants support collecting, describing, preserving, editing and publishing documentary resource materials
Institute of Museum and Library Services www.imls.gov	Museums for America	\$5,000-\$150,000	Supports activities to strengthen museums as resources for lifelong learning and maintaining collections
	National Leadership Grants for Museums	\$50,000-\$500,000	Supports projects that address challenges or needs of the museum field
	Museum Grants for African American History and Culture	\$5,000-\$150,000	Supports improving care of collections, developing professional management or providing internships and fellowships

Table 9.6 Potential Funding Sources (continued)

National Organizations and Foundations

National Trust for Historic Preservation www.preservationnation.org	Preservation Fund	Up to \$5,000	Supports preservation planning and education or emergency intervention for historic properties. Supports professional assistance in architecture, archaeology, engineering, preservation planning, organizational development and other areas
	Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation	\$2,500 - \$10,000	Support consultant services, production of communication materials, preservation conferences and workshops and implementing innovative programs
	Rosenwald School Centennial Fund	Up to \$20,000	Provides funding for the restoration and rehabilitation of Rosenwald School buildings
	Alice Rosenwald Flexible Fund	\$500 - \$5,000	Supports preservation planning, education and rehabilitation plans for Rosenwald Schools
National Trust for Historic Preservation www.preservationnation.org (continued)	Battlefield Preservation Fund	Up to \$5,000	Supports activities including legal and research fees to mitigate development threats, fundraising and media plans, feasibility studies, landscape research, interpretation and heritage education activities
	Hart Family Fund for Small Towns	\$2,500 - \$10,000	Provides seed money for preservation projects in small towns
Kresge Foundation www.kresge.org		Varies	Offers operating and project support grants. Areas include arts and culture, community development and education
ArtPlace America www.artplaceamerica.org			Supports arts and culture to result in creative placemaking that demonstrates vibrancy and diversity

Table 9.6 Potential Funding Sources (continued)

Regional Organizations or Foundations

Foundation for the MidSouth (MS, LA, AK) www.fndmidsouth.org	Varies	Supports community development (community enrichment, culture, economic development, leadership training, education and environment)
Delta Regional Authority www.dra.gov	Varies	Supports projects for sustainable communities and workforce development

Mississippi Government Agencies and Nonprofits

Mississippi Department of Archives and History www.mdah.state.ms.us	Community Heritage Preservation Grant Program	Varies	Supports preservation, restoration and interpretation of historic courthouses and schools. Properties must be designated Mississippi Landmarks. (Certified Local Government communities may use funds for other historic buildings.)
	Mississippi Landmark Grant Program	Up to \$300,000	Supports the cost of acquisition, preservation, restoration and operation of designated Mississippi Landmarks
	Certified Local Government Grant Program	\$1,000-\$10,000	Supports preservation projects in designated CLG communities including building restoration, site inventory work, National Register nominations, educational programs and staff support for new historic preservation commissions
	Mississippi Archaeology Research Grant Program	Varies	Funds university archaeologists and graduate students for projects including excavations, collections analysis and laboratory testing

Table 9.6 Potential Funding Sources (continued)

Agency or Organization	Funding Program	Funding	Description
Mississippi Government Agencies			
Mississippi Arts Commission www.arts.ms.gov	Mini-grants	\$50-\$1,000	May be used to present an artist from MAC's Artist Roster, support a consultancy with an arts organization, or assist staff travel to an arts conference
	Project grants	\$250-\$5,000	Supports projects in four areas: arts-based community development, arts education, arts industry and Mississippi Heritage
	Operating grants	\$10,000 - \$25,000	Helps nonprofit arts organizations maintain financial stability
	Special initiatives	Varies	Supports programs in four areas: Building Fund for the Arts, Arts in the Classroom, Whole Schools Initiative and Model Whole Schools
Mississippi Humanities Council www.mshumanities.org		\$1,500 - \$7,500	Supports programs in four areas: Books and Reading, Mississippi History and Culture, Civil Discourse and Capacity Building
Mississippi Office of Tourism www.visitmississippi.org	Event grants	Up to \$5,000	Provides funds for marketing and advertising of events

IV. Risk and Risk Mitigation

The MDNHA board bears the responsibility for the fiduciary safety of the organization. The board will be sensitive to the existence of risk, set the tone for dealing with it, and ensure proper processes and tools are in place to keep the organization safe and ready to act when a situation demands it. For the MDNHA, there are two major risks:

Stability of Funding – As with all non-profits, a consistent and reliable stream of funding is critical. Unfortunately for National Heritage Areas that rely on government funding, the budget process has become unpredictable. While Congress has maintained a steady amount of funding to National Heritage Areas over the years, there is no guarantee the appropriations to the National Park Service for National Heritage Areas will continue. For many National Heritage Areas, the loss of federal funding in any one year can be crippling, if not catastrophic. That fact is magnified for a new National Heritage Area, like Mississippi Delta. Therefore, the board and staff will prepare alternative strategies for garnering other sources of funds, not only to offset any potential loss as a result of a Congressional cut, but as a good practice of broadening its funding sources base.

- **Dilution of the Brand** – Another risk is the dilution of its brand due to potential competition from other entities. The history and heritage of the Mississippi Delta is powerful and carries with it the potential for many other organizations to capitalize on its story. MDNHA must work to position itself as the definitive, leading, organization within the Delta that helps communities preserve their rich, nationally-significant heritage and culture. To accomplish this goal, the coordinating entity, as the Congressionally-designated entity, will marshal numerous partners in the Delta to tell its story and plan for its future. Through providing leadership and working closely with partners, the coordinating entity will continue to be viewed as a local and national leader in the Delta's preservation and conservation strategies. The brand of the Delta is too important to the sustainability of the National Heritage Area, and the board and staff will continue the good work they have already started in establishing the organization as the preeminent leader in the heritage development field.



MDNHA Grants Program

Tips for Developing Resources

Federal Government

1. Understand that federal funding for most programs in arts, culture, humanities, historic preservation and similar areas of interest are in danger of being eliminated – if you are eligible and have a fundable project, now is the time to pursue it.
2. Detailed information on all Federal grants can be found at www.grants.gov. You can also search Federal programs at www.cfda.gov.
3. The time period between a grant availability being announced and the deadline for submitting a grant application is getting shorter.
4. Learn to determine which programs offer the best funding opportunities – watch total funding, number of applications received, number funded.

State Government

1. Some state agencies and their programs are in better shape than others, despite reliance on Federal funding streams.
2. Get to know leaders and staff at appropriate state agencies; follow them on Facebook; subscribe to their online newsletters and publications.
3. Be aware of and attend workshops and information sessions on funding opportunities.
4. Get to know your local legislators and enlist their support in seeking state funding.
5. Most state programs have annual funding cycles.
6. Some programs have specific set-asides for small communities.

Local Government

1. County and municipal governments can be potential partners for your work, particularly if you can link your work to economic or community development, tourism, or some other public interest in your community
2. When thinking about local government as partners, don't forget to include schools, universities, Main Street programs, tourism agencies, and economic development agencies
3. While cash contributions are hard to come by from local governments, in-kind services are sometimes possible.

Private Funding - Foundations

1. You can search national foundations at www.foundationcenter.org
2. Most of Mississippi's largest grantmakers are members of the Mississippi Association of Grantmakers (MAG), whose membership list is at www.msgrantmakers.com, and contains links to each member's website.
3. While foundations provide a relatively small percentage of funding for arts, culture, heritage and historic preservation projects, many are stepping up their investments to offset the perceived threat of the loss of Federal support for such work.
4. Think locally – community foundations and United Ways each serve slightly over half of Mississippi's counties.
5. The key to securing foundation funding is to establish and maintain a network of contacts and relationships within the foundation world.
6. Understand that each foundation sets its own funding priorities, application processes and requirements, and criteria for funding. You must tailor your proposal to each funder.
7. Turn-around time between submittal of a proposal and hearing the result varies widely.

Private Funding – Corporations

1. Corporations most often give in the form of sponsorship of events
2. Some corporations have a formal corporate giving program (and some don't); some have a separate corporate foundation; the funding priorities of each may not be the same.
3. In some instances, a short proposal letter will do; in others, a formal proposal is needed.
4. Corporations are more likely to give to programs in which their employees actively serve as volunteers.
5. Corporations are also great sources for in-kind contributions of products and services.

Private Funding – Individuals and Families

1. Giving by individuals and families represents over 80% of all private giving, four times as much as foundations and corporations combined.
2. Giving by individuals and families is best accessed through organized giving programs such as annual funds or membership programs.
3. Mississippi has long been recognized as a state in which individual donors are more generous than in other states.
4. Potential donors exist in every community, and donor lists are usually accessible.
5. One of Mississippi's most underutilized resources are potential donors who grew up in Mississippi but no longer live here.