

"Untold Stories"

What is the Museum Alliance Grant Fund?

The Museum Alliance Grant Fund awards funds annually through a competitive application process open to Great American Treasures member museums. With a specific project focus selected each year, these grants support further preservation of our historic buildings, collections and landscapes, as well as enhance public programming.

The 2025 awards will total \$35,000, an increase of \$10,000 over the amount awarded during each of the past 3 years.

Initiated in 2021, the Grant Fund has already provided \$95,000 to 12 outstanding projects at Great American Treasures museum properties - large and small sites across the country, operated by state societies both large and small.

What is this year's theme for projects?

The 2025 Grant Fund will support projects which uncover and share the "untold stories" of people, events, material culture, and perspectives not yet featured in a museum's public programming.

Examples of such projects include, but are not limited to:

focusing on the unseen hands who constructed the building or made specific objects in the collections by adding to or augmenting existing interpretation such as gallery exhibits, docent presentation materials, or signage

- expanding the site narrative through new archeological and/or historical research
- enhancing visitation, in person and virtually, with historic re-enactors and innovative programs
- illuminating the women who preserved the historic site locally as part of NSCDA preservation efforts across the country
- partnering with another GAT site to reveal connections

How are applications reviewed?

Applications are initially read by one of several outside museum professionals to ensure a project has clear objectives, a logical plan, realistic budget, practical timeline, and defined evaluation tools. The museum reviewers then rank the proposals.

Proposals, considered well-reasoned and most likely to achieve successful outcomes, are forwarded to Dames readers from the Grant Fund and Museum Alliance Committees. Each project will then be evaluated on illustrating its relevance to the site, advancing public engagement with NSCDA's 250th activities, and demonstrating Dames involvement.

What is the 2025 grant timeline?

The fillable online application will be available beginning Monday, June 2 on the NSCDA website, with the deadline for submissions on Friday, July 16, 2025.

Awards will range from \$2,500 to \$12,500. The winners will be announced in October 2025 at the National Convention in Charleston, SC, with the projects unfolding during America's 250th Year - adding new depth to the presentation of our museum properties and, hopefully, a wider understanding by the public of the nation's history.

How may we get additional information?

For questions about project eligibility or the application requirements, please contact Augie Czeschin, NSCDA's Great American Treasures Coordinator, at augustczechin@nscda.org