

WORLD MONUMENTS FUND

JEWISH HERITAGE PROGRAM

Since 1988, the World Monuments Fund (WMF) has supported the conservation of historic synagogues and advocated for the protection of Jewish cultural heritage sites around the world. In addition to financial support and technical assistance for individual projects, WMF has sponsored exhibitions and professional symposia related to Jewish cultural heritage preservation.

The Jewish Heritage Program (JHP) is dedicated to preserving the material and cultural history of the Jewish diaspora, and helping Jewish heritage sites serve as catalysts for contemporary community building. With recent developments in property restitution, Jewish communities throughout Europe are in a position to create programs focused on the restoration and reuse of Jewish properties.

The four major objectives of the Jewish Heritage Program (JHP) are:

- Restore significant synagogues and other important Jewish heritage sites around the world;
- Strengthen the capacities of local Jewish communities around the world to act as stewards for these sites;
- Raise public awareness of and interest in the preservation of Jewish cultural heritage sites; and
- Attract funding to the cause of preserving Jewish heritage.

In 2000, WMF formally initiated the Jewish Heritage Grant Program (JHGP) and has since awarded more than \$1 million in 56 grants to 49 sites in 24 countries. In the past, these grants have ranged from \$3,000 to \$75,000 and helped local communities to undertake urgent stabilization and/or structural repairs, conduct conservation surveys, create conservation management plans, and carry out interior and exterior restoration projects.

As part of WMF's commitment to strengthening contemporary Jewish communities, the Jewish Heritage Program entered a new phase of activity in 2006 via a working relationship established with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). The JDC has a long history serving as the overseas arm of the American Jewish community and this collaboration with WMF will help to achieve long-term goals. WMF is working closely with the JDC to identify projects that reflect the priorities of Jewish communities and their stakeholders, to communicate with these communities, and monitor progress of individual projects.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

With renewed funding from leadership donors, including The Rothschild Foundation (Europe), WMF has been able to substantially enhance its support for Jewish Heritage projects:

Project Grants

Each year, WMF will support projects following a two-tier structure:

- Small grants (approx. \$25,000 each) for initial conservation planning and/or emergency repairs to sites that face urgent risk, serving as start-up funds for more substantial projects in the future; and
- Larger awards (\$50,000 - \$100,000 each) for implementation projects that will substantially improve the condition of a site.

The JHP supports conservation and technical assistance for Jewish heritage sites that are architecturally and/or historically significant, with a focus on historic synagogues. The program does not support the conservation of cemeteries or sites in the United States, and funding cannot be provided to sites that are privately owned.

REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE JEWISH HERITAGE PROGRAM

If you meet the above criteria and are interested in applying for assistance from the Jewish Heritage Program, please send a letter of inquiry to the World Monuments Fund. This letter (maximum three pages) will be used to determine eligibility for the program and should include the following:

1. A brief description of the building or monument, including its history, location, date(s) of construction, and current status (public access, abandoned, in use, etc.).
2. A short summary of any research, conservation planning, or restoration work completed to-date.
3. A brief description of the project for which funding is being requested. Please include the project's goals, and the work that will be completed with such assistance.
4. An estimate of the amount of financial support being requested and a budget.
5. A brief description of the applicant and its nonprofit, charitable, or tax-exempt status, including ownership status of the building.
6. A summary of any community involvement in the project and/or the status of the Jewish community in the town, region, or country in which the building is located.
7. Photographs of the site to be considered. Please include prints or high-resolution digital photos, including at least one general view of the site and images that illustrate key features as well as damage/threats.

If a project described in the initial inquiry is deemed eligible for consideration, you will be invited to apply and sent the necessary application materials. Inquiry letters may be submitted at any time.

Inquiries

Please address inquiries to:

World Monuments Fund
 Attn: Jewish Heritage Program
 95 Madison Avenue, 9th Floor
 New York, NY 10016

Ph: +1-646-424-9594

Fax: +1-646-424-9593

email: jhp@wmf.org (Subject line: Jewish Heritage Program)