



U.S. DEPARTMENT
of STATE



“The United States is committed to empowering Ukraine to write its own future.”

— U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE ANTONY J. BLINKEN

The United States supports Ukraine’s efforts to combat Russia’s brutal attempts to undermine and erase Ukrainian culture. Through robust educational and cultural exchanges and programs, the U.S. Department of State engages Ukrainians in a range of sectors to protect and preserve their cultural heritage, showcase the richness of Ukrainian culture, and ensure creative professionals have what is needed to sustain their industries.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

For more than two decades, the United States and Ukraine have worked together to preserve and protect Ukraine’s cultural heritage. Through the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP), which provides grants to non-profit organizations to support Ukrainian protection and preservation efforts, the United States has awarded \$1.7 million for 19 cultural preservation projects, from the manuscripts of 19th-century Ukrainian writer Taras Shevchenko to the Black House in Lviv. Building on two decades of collaboration, and in response to Russia’s brutal war against the people of Ukraine and its cultural identity, the Department launched the Ukraine Cultural Heritage Response Initiative in February 2023, and will provide \$9 million in addition funding to support Ukrainian efforts to protect and preserve its cultural heritage.

The Department’s Ukraine Cultural Heritage Response Initiative provides \$5 million in grants to support exchanges and other activities that build or strengthen the capacity of Ukraine to protect and preserve

its culture and identity. In addition, the Department will provide \$3 million in grants to non-governmental organizations to assess, stabilize and repair damage to cultural heritage in Ukraine, starting with sites previously preserved projects through the AFCP, including:

- CyArk, a pioneering U.S. non-profit, will partner with Archaic, a Ukrainian NGO, to document conflict-affected cultural heritage objects in Ukraine, including 19th-century Cossack boats and stone stelae that are thousands of years old.
- The World Monuments Fund, a frequent partner of AFCP will document, stabilize, and repair an early 20th-century landmark damaged during a Russian missile attack.
- The Agency for Cultural Resilience, a new Ukrainian NGO, will conduct damage assessments in liberated areas of the country and prioritize damaged cultural sites for emergency stabilization.



CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

In addition to cultural heritage, the Department continues to use cultural diplomacy as a tool to support the United States' broader efforts to support Ukraine. U.S. cultural institutions have welcomed artists, filmmakers, dancers, writers, musicians, preservationists and museum professionals, and have provided opportunities for the American people to see, hear, and learn firsthand about Ukrainian culture. The Department continues to use cultural diplomacy in a host of ways, including through:

- The International Writing Program, Arts Envoy Program, and the Department of State's film diplo-

macy program have sponsored workshops, films, and musical engagements to highlight support for Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees, combat disinformation, and sustain Ukrainian culture and artists; and

- Through the Arts Envoy program, American documentary filmmaker Chip Warren is creating a series of short videos showing a mix of traditional and newer Ukrainian artists. The project aims to counter attempts to erase Ukrainian culture by giving Ukrainians a forum to project some of their unique cultural traditions and by showing surprising connections between those traditions and American ones.



INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) provides current and emerging foreign leaders in a variety of fields the opportunity to experience the U.S. firsthand through a short-term exchange, with a focus on professional meetings that help cultivate lasting relationships between the emerging foreign leaders and their American counterparts. More than 500 current or former heads of state and government officials are alumni of the IVLP.

- Through small grants, the IVLP Impact Awards Initiative enables selected IVLP alumni to implement innovative solutions to challenges facing their home communities. This year, seven IVLP exchange alumni from Ukraine will participate. These impact projects focus on themes such as promoting media literacy,

documenting the stories of Ukrainians, small business development, and tactical medicine, which provides emergency medical support to military and law enforcement for personnel and others.

- In February 2023, while on the IVLP, seven professionals from the Holodomor Memorial and Museum in Kyiv collaborated with U.S. traumatic history memorialization experts. They looked at U.S. best practices in organizing large exhibition projects; managing, storing, and digitizing museum collections; and creating educational programs on complex social topics. One of the program highlights was a visit to the memorial for Japanese-Americans, who were interned in the United States during World War II.

[Learn more about the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at eca.state.gov.](https://eca.state.gov)