Alice Ross Carey Preservation Fund

The Alice Ross Carey Preservation Fund, administered by San Francisco Heritage, supports the preservation of places that make San Francisco unique and help to tell the history of our city.

Through the fund, Heritage provides small grants for preservation initiatives including planning, capital improvements, public outreach, and interpretive programs or projects. Eligible programs or projects include those that support the sustainability of heritage resources, including historic buildings, neighborhoods, and intangible cultural heritage assets. See “Project Eligibility” section for more details.

“We must always remember that each resource’s raison d’etre is for the people it serves. A perfect restoration is worthless if the building cannot be used.”

Alice Ross Carey (1949–2013) dedicated her life to historic preservation in San Francisco. As founder of Carey & Company, one of the country’s first woman-owned architectural practices specializing in historic preservation, she helped extend the life of many of the city’s most treasured landmarks including City Hall, the Palace of Fine Arts, Metropolitan Club, and Spreckels Temple of Music. Alice was a lifelong and generous supporter of San Francisco Heritage, where she served on the board of directors from 2001 to 2007. In addition to an unwavering commitment to maintain the best of the city, Alice brought skill, style, spark, and wit to all she touched. She gave of herself to the city she loved through her professionalism and integrity, but ultimately by being a citizen advocate for including the past in the city’s future.
Award Amount(s)
- Two application deadlines per year: **February 1st** and **August 1st**.
- Grants generally range from $1,000 to $5,000, or under special circumstances up to $10,000.

Applicant Eligibility
- Eligible applicants include public agencies, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, 501(c)(6) business leagues, and unincorporated associations that are fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit applicant.
- No more than three grants will be awarded to the same organization within a two-year period.

Project Eligibility
Grants must support architectural, cultural, and/or historical conservation efforts in San Francisco:
- Grants may support “soft” preservation costs such as preservation planning, interpretive, and public outreach projects.
- Grants may also support “bricks and mortar” capital costs for designated historic resources. Unlisted but historically or culturally important sites may be considered for funding on a case-by-case basis.
- Up to 20% of grant funds may be allocated towards staff salaries and organizational overhead costs related to the project.

Examples of the types of projects we fund:
- Public history projects and interpretive programs
- Landmark and historic district nominations
- Historic structures reports
- Cultural/social heritage district planning
- Public events and programs that foster appreciation of the city’s cultural heritage
- Place-based intangible cultural heritage programs (i.e. apprenticeship, mentoring, and/or training programs that help sustain arts, language, and traditions)
Eligible Expenses
- Fees for consultant services
- Speaker/faculty costs (honoraria, travel, and lodging), room rental for meetings, workshops, conferences
- Mailing costs for distribution of materials
- Web site development
- Printing, photographs, telephone, and supplies

Ineligible Activities and Expenses
- Academic research
- Acquisition of real property or objects
- Expenses incurred prior to award date
- Catering, food, and beverage

Evaluation Criteria
Applications will be reviewed for the following:
- Significance of the resource(s) that will benefit
- Demonstrated need for the project
- Expertise and experience of project team
- Clarity of budget and fiscal management experience
- Sensitivity of treatment to historic resources
- Community and stakeholder support

Projects that incorporate the following elements are encouraged to apply:
- Tangible product(s) such as capital improvements, reports, plans, printed materials, websites, web-based applications, etc.
- Projects that aim to preserve women’s history and/or cultural heritage resources reflective of underrepresented groups within the field of historic preservation
- Matching funds (not required)

Application and Selection Process
- Applicants have the opportunity to submit proposals during two grant cycles each year.
- The grant period is up to one year.
- San Francisco Heritage staff and a review panel made up of representatives from local historical, preservation, and cultural organizations will review applications and make award decisions within six (6) weeks of the application deadline.
- Applicants will be notified of their award status within six (6) weeks of the application deadline.

Potential applicants are required to contact San Francisco Heritage to determine project eligibility before submitting an application.

415-441-3000 • sfheritage.org

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