

Ministry of Culture

Minutes of the 6th meeting of Expert Committee on Museum Grant Scheme held on 17.01.2014.

The sixth meeting of Expert Committee to consider applications received by the Ministry under the 'Museum Grant Scheme' was held on 17.01.2014 under the Chairmanship of Sh. K.K. Mittal, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Culture. List of participants is enclosed at Annexure-1.

2. At the outset, the communication received from Shri Ajit Koujalgi from INTACH, Pondicherry about enhancing grants for preparation of Detailed Project Report under the Museum Grant Scheme was discussed. The committee after due deliberation recommended that an amount of Rs. 10 lakhs for Category-I Museums and Rs. 5 lakhs for Category-II Museums may be released in deserving cases for preparation of Detailed Project Reports in future.

3. Thereafter, the issue regarding number of instalments for release of financial grant for projects involving civil construction work was discussed. In the revised Museum Grant Scheme, there is a provision for release of financial assistance to organization in three instalments of 50%, 25% and 25% of the Central Government's share out of the approved project cost. However as per the existing practice, grants are first released in three instalments of 50%, 25% and 25% of the 60% of the approved project cost towards civil construction. Thereafter, the remaining 40% of the approved project cost is released in three instalments of 50%, 25% and 25% for the remaining components of the project. Thus, in effect the grants are being released in 6 instalments instead of 3 in cases wherever civil construction work is involved. Keeping in view the guidelines of the scheme, the committee recommended that the approved grants may be released in three instalments of 50%, 25% and 25% in those cases also where civil construction work is involved, in future. However, in order to ensure that the organization does not utilize more than 60% of the grant for civil construction, the committee recommended that a provision in this regard may be made in the sanction order for compliance of the organization and this may be monitored in the Ministry on receipt of Utilization Certificate from the organization.

4. Thereafter, the agenda items on the proposals received for financial assistance under the Scheme were taken up for discussion as given below.

4.1 Discussion on the evaluation report of the Consultant

The reports of the Evaluator alongwith report of the Sub-Committee were placed before the Expert Committee. The Expert Committee deliberated upon the reports and based on further discussion held during the meeting, the following recommendations were made.

4.1.1 Parashwanath Vidyapeeth Museum of Indian Art, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. (Project Cost: Rs. 199.88 lakh)

The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee and the evaluation report and found that the organization is having total collection of 1789 objects. However, the proposal is silent about the availability of trained personnel to manage these collections. Therefore, the committee desired that the proposal may be approved in principle as recommended by the sub-committee subject to reply of the organization on the following issues:-

- a) Whether the proposed new construction would require any municipal approval and if yes, the status thereof should be furnished by the organization
- b) The organization will furnish the details regarding drawings, display plans and estimates in respect of each item duly endorsed by a Govt. Engineer/Agency
- c) The organization has mentioned the equipments for their conservation laboratory for oil paintings, textiles and wooden objects. However, these objects are not found in their collection. The organization will submit a proper plan with tools and equipments for conservation laboratory in consultation with NRLC, Lucknow
- d) The organization will inform whether they have trained personnel to manage their collections.

4.1.2 Khurseed Manzil Museum at La Martiniere Girls' College, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (Project Cost: Rs. 281.01 lakh)

The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee and the evaluation report and observed that as per the instructions of the Ministry, the organization has now submitted estimates approved by Government engineer and has also corrected the estimates of the project. It has also submitted the sustainability plan informing that the electricity and water charges will be paid through college funds, Librarian of the college will be given the charge of Curator of the museum whose salary is already being sourced from college fund and the other staff will be engaged on contract basis whose salary will be met from the college funds. However, the portion on which the museum will be developed has not been mentioned clearly in the proposal. The committee desired that Dr. B.V. Kharbade, Director, NRLC should be deputed to visit the college to examine and submit his report to the Ministry about the location of the proposed museum. The committee recommended that the proposal with regard to items of conservation including Civil, Electrical & Plumbing and Development of Landscape may be placed in the next meeting alongwith the report of Dr. Kharbade for its consideration. Regarding other components of the proposal viz Development of Museum and Conservation of artifacts & establishment of site Laboratory, the committee recommended that 80% of project cost of Rs. 58,25,838/- may be approved and released to the College as per the norms.

4.1.3 Vastuvidya Gurukulam Aranmula, Kerala Heritage Museum, (Kerala Govt. Institution –Department of Culture), Pathanamthitta (Distt.), Kerala (Revised Project cost: Rs. 409.80 lakhs)

The organization was called for making presentation before the Committee. However they did not turn up. Therefore this proposal could not be discussed.

4.1.4 Shantinath Museum, Shri 1008 Digambar Jain Siddha Kashetra Ahar Ji, District Teekam Garh, Madhya Pradesh (Project cost: Rs. 142.00 lakh)

The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee and evaluation report and agreed with the report of the sub-committee that the recommendations of the evaluator may be accepted and the observations of the evaluator may be conveyed to the organization for compliance. Further, the museum may be asked to prepare an Accession Register and also to provide a detailed list of the art objects along with photographs available with it. The committee found that the proposal submitted by the organization is not in the prescribed format and appeared to be prepared by an inexperienced professional. However considering the collection of the museum comprising of stone sculpture and metallic objects related to the Jain religion, the committee recommended for providing initial assistance of Rs. 5.00 lakhs to enable the organization to prepare a proper DPR incorporating the compliance on the observations of the evaluator by engaging a trained and experience professional.

4.1.5 Shivappa Nayaka Museum and Historical Research Bureau, Bekkinakalmatha, S.J.M. Circle, Shimoga, Karnataka (Project Cost: Rs. 360.00 lakh)

The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee and evaluation report and agreed with the observations of the evaluator and desired that the deficiencies regarding the details of art objects, design, plan of display and basis of their estimates as pointed out in the evaluation report may be conveyed to the trust for submitting the Revised DPR after factoring in the observations made by the evaluator.

4.1.6. Society for the Management of the State Museum (Tripura State Museum), Agartala, Tripura (Project Cost: Rs. 2338 lakh)

The Committee deliberated upon the report of the Sub-Committee and the evaluation report and agreed with the findings of the Sub-Committee that the proposal submitted by the State Government is not in proper format lacking details on artifacts, design, display plan, estimates with proper specifications. The committee found that the State Government had reported annual income of Rs. 20,000/- only by way of sale of entry tickets, guide books and postcard sets. It shows that the authority did not pay attention on collection, display etc. The committee found that the museum is having good collection but is unorganized. The committee therefore desired that the State Government may be requested to submit the proposal in the prescribed format keeping in view the maximum ceiling of Rs. 10 Crores that can be released for setting up of a new museum under Category-I

4.1.7 Sarod Ghar-Museum for Musical Heritage, Gwalior Ustad Haafiz Ali Khan Memorial Trust, Gwalior (Project Cost: Rs. 625 lakhs)

The Committee considered the report of the Sub-committee and evaluation report and found that almost 72% of the project cost as contained in the proposal is for salaries of personnel which would not qualify for financial assistance under the scheme. The proposal of the Trust for Capital costs qualifies for financial assistance however no details have been provided by the trust in this regard. Considering the uniqueness and rarity of the collections of the museum, the committee recommended for providing an initial assistance of Rs. 5.00 lakhs to enable the trust to prepare a proper DPR in the prescribed format after removing the inadmissible amount by engaging trained and experience professionals and submit the same to the Ministry for further consideration.

4.1.8 Museum of Kangra Art, Government of Himachal Pradesh, P.O. Dharmshala, Himachal Pradesh (Project Cost: 90.00 lakhs)

The committee considered the proposal of State Government and report of the sub-committee and found that the museum is having an exquisite collection of Indian Miniature and textiles of Himalayan Origin. Keeping this in view, the committee recommended that the proposal may be approved in principle and 80% of the project cost may be released as per the norms except Rs. 10 lakhs demanded by the Museum for conservation laboratory which may be released after the State Government submit the details after consulting NRLC, Lucknow. Dr. B.V. Kharbade, Director, NRLC, Lucknow was asked to suitably advise the Museum authorities in this matter.

4.1.9 Bhuri Singh Museum, Government of Himachal Pradesh, P.O. Chamba, Himachal Pradesh (Project Cost: 57.00 lakhs)

The committee considered the proposal of State Government and report of the sub-committee and found that the museum is having exquisite collection of Indian miniature paintings particularly Pahari miniature, textiles and bronzes of Himalayan origin. Keeping this in view, the committee recommended that the proposal may be approved in principle and 80% of the project cost may be released as per the norms except Rs. 10 lakhs for conservation of laboratory which may be released after the State Government submit the details after consulting NRLC, Lucknow.

5. Presentations

5.1 Indian Music Experience Trust, MLR Convention Centre, Brigade Millennium, JP Nagar, Bangalore (Project Cost: Rs. 1000.00 lakh)

A presentation on behalf of Indian Music Experience Trust was made by Dr. Suma Sudhindra and Ms. Mansi Prasad. It was told that it is India's first experimental (interactive) music museum. It aims to increase the understanding and appreciation of Indian music amongst the youth. It was informed that most of the civil construction work has been completed and 50% of the content development and exhibit design has also been completed. The concept of the proposed museum was appreciated by the members of the committee. However, they felt that this museum does not fall under the definition of traditional museum. This is a novel type of museum and perhaps there is hardly any museum of this kind in the country. The committee

desired that the trust should come with a fresh proposal for setting up/development of 2-3 galleries with the financial assistance of the Ministry instead of seeking grants for paintings, false ceiling, general interiors, flooring, door framings, windows and glazing etc. The committee desired that Shri G. Kishan Rao, Expert member of the Committee may be deputed by the Ministry to visit the site to guide them and to send a report on the proposed museum.

5.2 Sundarayya Vigana Kendram Museum, Baghlingampally, Hyderabad (Project Cost: Rs. 283.08 lakh)

A presentation on behalf of Sundarayya Vigana Kendram Museum, Hyderabad was made by Smt. Koely Mukharjee. The museum is a memorial of the renowned freedom fighter late Sri Putchalapally Sundarayya. It is conceived as a centre for dissemination of cultural and literary experience keeping in mind regional, national and global participation. The committee recommended that the observations of the evaluator may be communicated to the organization advising them to confine their proposal to the museum aspect only by engaging an experienced professional. The organization was advised that they should submit the proposal for re-organization of galleries. They should give details of each artefact, sustainability plan, estimate plan duly certified by government engineer. The committee recommended that the organization may be given initial assistance of Rs. 5.00 lakhs for preparing a proper DPR in the prescribed format by engaging trained and experience professionals.

6. The Chairman of the committee stated that the documentation of collections is an important aspect of the museum. He suggested that all museums should apply separately for financial assistance under the new scheme for "Digitization of Museum Collection". He also desired that the organizations provided with financial assistance for preparation of Detailed Project Report should digitize their collection and submit proof thereof while submitting the DPR alongwith a certificate about the ownership of the collections in the name of the organization.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.