

The U.S. Embassy in Skopje was one of 41 U.S. diplomatic posts selected for funding in this year's competition held by the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation, which is administered through the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Proposals for cultural preservation projects in nearly 100 countries were reviewed in the competition. The total amount of funding made available by the U.S. Congress was U.S. \$1 million.

This is the third year in which Macedonia has been awarded funds through this program. Previous grants were for conservation and restoration of the "Stoa" public building in Vardarski Rid, Gevgelija; excavation and restoration of the Roman Forum at Stobi; preservation of the double-winged door that stood at the entrance of the Faik Pasha Mosque in Skopje; and for repair of ceramic tiles at the Ilinden Monument in Krushevo.

The U.S. Congress established the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation in 2001. It is the only U.S. Government program to provide direct small-grant support to cultural preservation projects in developing countries. The fund seeks to assist countries in preserving and maintaining their important national cultural sites, and to demonstrate that the United States of America values the contributions of cultures throughout the world, as part of our common heritage.