

Beijing +20 History/Herstory -Request for Proposals

In 1995, the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing. This was in some ways a turning point for women's movements internationally. Unprecedented international governmental commitments were made to gender equality with the Beijing Platform for Action. An unprecedented number of activists and advocates came together to discuss, debate and mobilize around gender issues. Chinese governmental and non-governmental participants played a central role in this forum. The Beijing women's conference had a lasting impact in China.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the conference, the Ford Foundation's Beijing office is offering 10 grants of up to **US\$25,000** each for individuals or organizations to tell their stories of the impact of the Beijing conference. The stories may vary in terms of content, timespan, format, and target audience. They may focus on preparations for the conference in the early 1990s, or they may be about contemporary trends or phenomena that are influenced by the legacy of the conference, or they may cover the whole period. The stories may be told through new media, documentary, fiction, academic or popular writings, theatre, art, oral history, multimedia or other formats. The intended audiences for these stories may be primarily Chinese or international. The stories may seek to attract broad popular interest, or may focus on a particular group; for example, they may seek to generate reflection or change in the women's movement or other social sector grouping, or target a particular institution with an advocacy message.

The key criteria for selection will be that the stories are creative and speak effectively to their audience.

Applicants may choose to focus on any of the areas connected to the current portfolios of the Beijing office (sexuality education, education more broadly, governance and public policy, natural resources, law and rights, and civil society). However, we equally welcome proposals for stories unconnected with these domains.

Priority consideration will be given to Chinese applicants; however, proposals from non-Chinese applicants will also be considered.

Award winners will take part in a one-day preparatory workshop at the inception of the project. They will be provided with a degree of mentoring and guidance from a consultant and/or a Ford Foundation program officer while working on their stories. The stories will be launched at a workshop to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the conference.

How to apply

If you wish to apply, please submit a short concept note, in Chinese or English, which includes:

- A one-page explanation of what you want to do, why and how, including dissemination channels and how your story will reach your desired audience. Be as concrete as possible
- One paragraph about your organization
- One paragraph bio about each of the key people involved in the proposed project, and a one sentence description of their role in the project
- A brief estimated budget (If the costs exceed **US\$25,000**, please explain where you would find additional funding from)

If you are proposing an artistic/film/new media/fiction product, please include short extracts/examples of your previous art/film/media product/writing etc.

Written proposals should NOT exceed the required lengths. If you submit additional materials, we may not be able to watch the entire video/read the whole writing sample. If you submit a DVD, please give us an extract of 10 minutes' duration, or tell us which 10 minutes to watch. If you submit a writing sample, tell us which one-page extract we should read.

Timeline

Please submit applications by **June 15, 2013** to Gong Yali, y.gong@fordfoundation.org, Ford Foundation Beijing Office, International Club Office Building Suite 501, 21 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Beijing 100020, China.

A number of applications will be shortlisted by **July 15, 2013**. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for further information at that time.

The final 10 grant-winners will be selected by **September 15, 2013**.

The inception workshop will take place in the *autumn of 2013*.

Communications products supported by the grants will need to be completed by *end 2014*.