

TEFAF

MUSEUM RESTORATION FUND (TMRF)

Terms, Conditions & Guidelines

July 2026

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Eligibility: The TMRF is exclusively available to public museums.
- Application Limit: Museums may submit one project application per year.
- Ongoing Projects: Funding may be requested for projects already in the process of restoration.
- Application Form: All applicants must complete the TEFAF Museum Restoration Fund application form, which will be provided via email.
- Language Requirement: Applications and all supporting documents, including restoration reports, budget forms, and documentation, must be submitted in **English**. Applications in other languages will not be considered.
- ***Celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2027, the Fund continues to support the conservation and restoration of significant museum artworks. To mark this milestone, the selected project will be celebrated at the 2027 fairs, with preference given to a conservation project that can be presented on-site at TEFAF Maastricht and/or TEFAF New York.***
- Qualified Restorers: Funds must be used for restoration and related research conducted by a qualified and professional restorer or team.
- Exhibition Requirement: Upon completion of the restoration, the object must be displayed in the museum for a minimum of two years or in a public space for the same duration. For works on paper, a minimum of two months in each of two consecutive years applies.
- Acknowledgment: A label indicating TEFAF Museum Restoration Fund's support must be displayed with the restored item while on exhibition. Additionally, a statement of TEFAF's support should be featured on the museum's website when discussing the project.
- Participation & Media: TEFAF may request the museum's participation in VIP/ Partnership/Programming events, including panel discussions, lectures, or studio visits. TEFAF may also arrange exclusive editorial coverage with media partners.
- Exhibition Opportunity: If the project allows, TEFAF is interested in potentially showcasing the artwork at one of its art fairs. Further details to be discussed with the museum of the winning projects.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY TEFAF

- Funding Allocation: TEFAF may allocate the total fund of €50,000 to a single project or distribute it among multiple projects. Typically, two projects are selected to receive €25,000 each.

- **Fixed Contribution:** TEFAF provides a one-off fixed lump sum and is not liable for any additional costs. Museums must submit invoices for the granted amount to invoice@tefaf.com.
- **Promotion:** TEFAF will promote the winning projects through dedicated presentations at either the Maastricht or New York fair of the application year, as decided by the fair organization. Promotion will also include press releases, features on TEFAF Stories, TEFAF Talks programming, dedicated events and social media posts.
- **Event Participation:** TEFAF will offer the museum to host an event at the fair for the museum and its stakeholders, with details arranged in consultation with TEFAF.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE WINNING MUSEUM

- **Document Submission:** All requested documents must be uploaded via the application form by the deadline.
- **Budget Plan:** A comprehensive budget plan must be provided, covering restoration costs, research, and publicity, including a restoration video for TEFAF.
- **Fair Partnership:** The museum collaborates closely with TEFAF leading up and during the allocated fair on various activations, such as a presentation of the project, TEFAF Talks participation of at least one team member and hosting events for the museum's stakeholders.
- **Fair Representation:** The museum must work with TEFAF to determine the best way to represent the museum and artwork at the fair. This includes providing high-resolution images and a 500-word description of the project's status.
- **Image Quality:** Images submitted must be of high quality (minimum 300 dpi) with a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 images of the object in need of restoration.

ACTIVATION AND DIGITAL DOCUMENTATION BY THE MUSEUM

- **Progress Tracking:** The museum is asked to document and report the restoration progress, including photographs and, if possible, videos. This documentation may be used for the promotion on TEFAF's website and social media.
- **Promotional Materials:** If funded, the museum must provide TEFAF with:
 1. High-quality photographs (minimum 300 dpi) during the restoration project, including at least 10 different images from early stages to completion.
 2. Clear 'before' and 'after' images of the object from the same angle and lighting.
 3. An informative article (approximately 800 words) about the restoration.
 4. Promotion of the project on the museum's website and social media, including:
 - a. Announcement of TEFAF's support.
 - b. Update on the restoration process.
 - c. Reveal of the completed artwork.
 5. **Proper Mention:** TEFAF must be properly mentioned or tagged in any social media posts or third-party communications about the project.
 6. **Additional Promotion:** Museums are encouraged to further promote the funded project through blogs or additional social media posts beyond the requirements.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Application Timeline: Applications are due by Wednesday, September 30, 2026, end of day CET. **The official deadline is Thursday, October 1st 2026.** Notification of results will be communicated by second half of November, 2026.
- Contact Information: For questions or assistance, please contact Coco Bannenberg via coco.bannenberg@tefaf.com or +31 20 303 64 02.
- Selection Criteria: The TMRF Committee favors projects that offer educational opportunities for emerging conservators, demonstrate collaboration, or utilize advanced restoration techniques that further develop the field.
- Examples of Previous Projects and Selection Committee: For examples of previously funded projects and the members of the TMRF Selection Committee, please visit www.tefaf.com/foundation/museum-restoration-fund.
- Budget Guidelines: The TMRF Committee values project budget plans that fully focus on the restoration and related research.

LEGAL AND COMPLIANCE MATTERS

- Ownership: The museum retains ownership of the restored object and any related intellectual property rights. However, by accepting the grant, the museum agrees to provide TEFAF with non-exclusive rights to use images and documentation of the restoration project for promotional purposes, including but not limited to TEFAF's website, social media channels, and press releases.
- Permissions: The museum must ensure that all necessary permissions are obtained for the use of any third-party materials included in the application or promotional activities. This includes obtaining copyright clearances for images, texts, and other media.
- Responsibility: The museum assumes all responsibility and liability for the restoration process and related activities. TEFAF is not liable for any damages, losses, or costs incurred during the restoration or due to the project's outcome.
- Insurance: The museum should carry adequate insurance to cover the restoration work, including coverage for any potential damage to the object being restored.
- Compliance: The museum must ensure that the restoration work complies with all applicable local, national, and international regulations, including those related to conservation standards, environmental impact, and labor laws.
- Permits: Any required permits or approvals for the restoration process or the display of the restored object must be obtained by the museum prior to commencing the project. The museum is responsible for meeting any regulatory requirements related to the restoration and exhibition of the object.
- Legal Notices: In the event of any legal disputes or issues related to the restoration project, the museum agrees to inform TEFAF promptly and cooperate fully in resolving such matters.
- Ethical Practices: The museum must conduct restoration in accordance with accepted ethical practices and standards in the field of conservation. Any deviation from these standards should be reported to TEFAF immediately.