



THE COBY FOUNDATION, LTD.

### **Request for proposal from Upstate New York Museums**

The Coby Foundation, the country's leading source of funds for exhibitions in the field of textiles and needle arts in museums and related non-profits, is requesting proposals from New York State institutions north of Westchester and Rockland counties for exhibitions of textiles or fashions by makers from Upstate New York. Exhibitions may be historical or contemporary. The Foundation invites applications from art, history and cultural museums and similar institutions. Having received few inquiries over the years from upstate—vs. New York City, downstate and Long Island—institutions, the Foundation hopes this RFP will help rectify the imbalance.

Preference will be given to exhibitions that document artists or other makers with at least a regional impact. These could feature a sampler tradition with roots in a particular school, a quilter or group of quilters whose works were owned by many families, or fiber artists who exhibit regionally and beyond. Exhibitions could document a seamstress or a fashion designer with many clients for her designs. They could document traditions of a particular ethnic or religious group or a particular life-cycle event.

The Foundation is seeking exhibitions with a strong curatorial perspective, combining excellent scholarship and effective interpretation. Juried exhibitions will not be considered. A lasting record of the exhibition, online and/or in print, is expected.

The Foundation is expecting to support up to three planning grants of up to \$30,000 and three implementation grants of up to \$50,000. Funding from other sources—government and private—is welcome and encouraged. Planning grants may include, among other expenses, the services of a guest curator, catalogue essayists, travel funds and conservation. Implementation grants may include the latter plus preparation, installation, editing and printing costs. As with all Coby grants, funds for salaries and overhead are excluded.

Institutions may apply for implementation grants without first seeking a planning grant. Institutions applying for planning grants are not required to seek implementation grants but, if they receive a planning grant, must mount the exhibition for which planning funds were received.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a short letter of inquiry including a project description, dates and a budget with projected income and expenses. Please see the Foundation's website for additional instructions: [www.cobyfoundation.org/inquiry](http://www.cobyfoundation.org/inquiry). The deadline for inquiries is January 6, 2017.

Ward L.E. Mintz, Executive Director  
The Coby Foundation, Ltd.  
511 Avenue of the Americas, #387  
New York, NY 10011  
e-mail: [ward@cobyfoundation.org](mailto:ward@cobyfoundation.org)