



U.S. National Science Foundation
Office of Budget, Finance and Award Management

May 3, 2024

Dear Dr. Pantoja,

Thank you for your continued interest in the Arecibo site. The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) is actively engaged in preserving the site's history and preparing for potential future scientific use while, in the near-term, ensuring that the site transitions successfully into a vibrant and robust Center for STEM Education and Research that is inspired by the legacy of the Arecibo Observatory. To facilitate this transition, NSF is actively making property disposition decisions to better prepare the site for continued use.

Under the terms and conditions of the Arecibo operations awards, NSF had either title or conditional interest in all NSF-funded property and equipment. NSF currently retains such property and equipment, including property donated to the Observatory. Evaluation of appropriate options for this property is ongoing, including transfer of significant equipment that has continued scientific value, use of property for the Center for STEM Education and Research, other potential uses on site, and disposal. NSF will make determinations regarding the disposition of federally owned property and equipment following applicable property requirements. NSF plans to release a list of equipment available for potential use under existing and future awards as part of this process.

Any property funded via an NSF research award to an individual institution must be administered in accordance with the terms and conditions of the original award. This includes maintenance and repair, keeping track of the property's location, and shipping to other locations. Requests to locate and return property from the Arecibo site in which NSF has no interest will be considered, but please be advised that property left on site may have been considered abandoned. Requests should be routed through the institution's property office and directed to AskDACs@nsf.gov with the subject "Arecibo Recipient-titled Property Request". The request must include the original proposal number, and a detailed description including model, serial number, or inventory tracking number. NSF will make a good faith effort to locate and return the property at the requestor's expense, and on a timeframe that is not unduly disruptive to current site activities.

NSF has engaged an external consultant to assist in determining the historical value of hard copy documents, including library materials and electronic files stored on site. This work will inform decisions identifying materials for the planned Arecibo Observatory legacy exhibit on site or for transfer to another collection for preservation and use. This process is ongoing.

The Record of Decision regarding the transition of the Arecibo site is available at:
https://www.nsf.gov/mps/ast/env_impact_reviews/arecibo/arecibo_rod.jsp

More information about accessing federal records can be found at: <https://www.archives.gov/>.

NSF will consider future support of instrumentation for science and education endeavors through existing awards and future merit-reviewed proposals. Funding opportunities are published on the NSF website at: <https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities>.

Unsolicited proposals may be accepted per the guidance in NSF's *Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide* at: <https://new.nsf.gov/policies/pappg>.

We appreciate your patience as we move through this exciting transition period.

Kind Regards,

Janis Coughlin-Piester
Chief Financial Officer and Office Head
Office of Budget, Finance and Award Management

C/c: Dr. Anne Johansen, GEO/AGS
Dr. Monya Ruffin, EDU/DRL
Dr. Robert C. Smith, MPS/AST
Dr. Shelby Walker, GEO
Eric Mulch, OD/OGC
Robert Moller, OD/OLPA
Patrick Breen, BFA/DACS
Matthew Hawkins, BFA/RIO