



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1353

**1. Title of Project:** South Florida Museum Facility Upgrades to the Parker Manatee Aquarium

**2. Senate Sponsor:** Joe Gruters

**3. Date of Submission:** 01/31/2019

**4. Project/Program Description:**

The requested funds will be used for capital improvements at the South Florida Museum’s Parker Manatee Aquarium. Funds are needed for continued modernization of this 26-year-old Stage 2 Manatee Rehabilitation facility for safer and better care of the wild manatees during their rehabilitation from effects of red tide, boat strikes and cold stress.

- South Florida Museum (SFM), is home to sick and injured manatees in our Parker Aquarium, a Stage 2 rehabilitation facility where sick and injured manatees continue to recover after their condition is stabilized at one of the state’s 4 critical care manatee hospitals.
- The current 60,000-gallon Aquarium opened in 1993 and SFM joined the Manatee Rehabilitation and Rescue Partnership in 1998. Since then, 36 young manatees have been rehabilitated at the Museum before returning to the wild. Manatees stay between 6 months and 2 years and can weigh more than 800 pounds when released.

**5. State Agency to receive requested funds :** Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

State Agency Contacted? No

**6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

| Type of Funding                    | Amount         |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Operations                         | 162,200        |
| Fixed Capital Outlay               | 250,000        |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested</b> | <b>412,200</b> |

**7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)**

| Type of Funding                                      | Amount         | Percent       |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)       | 412,200        | 100.00%       |
| Federal  | 0              | 0.00%         |
| State (excluding the amount of this request)         | 0              | 0.00%         |
| Local  | 0              | 0.00%         |
| Other  | 0              | 0.00%         |
| <b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020</b> | <b>412,200</b> | <b>100.0%</b> |

**8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes**

| Fiscal Year<br>(yyyy-yy) | Amount    |              | Specific<br>Appropriation # | Vetoed |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
|                          | Recurring | NonRecurring |                             |        |
| 2016-17                  |           | 250,000      |                             | No     |



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9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? No

10. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

| Spending Category  | Description   | Amount         |
|--|---|----------------|
| <b>Administrative Costs:</b>   |   |                |
| Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits                    |   |                |
| Other Salary and Benefits  |   |                |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                |   |                |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  |   |                |
| <b>Operational Costs:</b>  |   |                |
| Salary and Benefits  |   |                |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                | Generator to run skeletal filtration, refrigeration, heater/chiller for pool water when power is out. Portable ultrasound and pit tag equipment, mammal rescue vehicle. | 162,200        |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  |   |                |
| <b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>                    |   |                |
| Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering                      | Habitat renovation with modernization of life support infrastructure, Reroof with skylight addition as recommended by USDA.   | 250,000        |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b> |   | <b>412,200</b> |

11. Program Performance:

a. What is the specific purpose or goal that will be achieved by the funds requested?

As a partner in the state-wide Manatee Rehabilitation Partnership (MRP) since 1998, we are committed to continuing that role on into the future. Our facility has a strategic location on the SW coast of Florida as a holding facility with staff expertise. We ask for funding to purchase a manatee rescue vehicle and health assessment equipment (PIT Tag scanner and Portable Ultrasound) for use in this region to support manatee rescues and releases, adding to the resources that Sea World and Clearwater Marine Aquarium already provide. Manatee care will benefit from a generator to continue life support systems, pool temperature and food refrigeration during power outages and a new roof (old one is 26 years old) to shelter the Manatee pool with the addition of skylight to meet USDA recommendations for natural light for enhanced manatee care. Habitat renovation will allow us to expand our capacity to care for more manatees at one time allowing expanded support to the MRP care system.

b. What are the activities and services that will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

SFM will continue its service to the state of Florida by increasing our value as an MRP partner. Increasing the capacity of our habitat allows us to take more manatees at any one time. A generator to support life support and food preservation will allow uninterrupted quality care for animals when power is out due to storms (the Museum is on the west coast of Florida next to the mouth of the Manatee River and the Gulf). A new roof with skylights will allow us to better meet the USDA criteria for manatee habitats in providing natural light thus



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providing better care for the animals. A Manatee Rescue Vehicle will be a welcome addition to the MRP to help rescue animals especially in critical and sensitive environmental conditions, such as increased occurrences of red tide in SW Florida. Animals and their human caregivers will be safer, and we will be better equipped to handle these large animals. Health assessment and identification equipment will help the general manatee population.

**c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?**

SFM will be able to care for more rehabilitating manatees concurrently, increasing the capacity of the statewide manatee rehabilitation network. We will be able to support the work of the MRP outside of our facility with staff expertise and an appropriate manatee transport vehicle built for both human and animal safety. SFM's manatee exhibit is both a tourist attraction and environmental education provider. Tourism is Manatee County's largest revenue-producing industry with 3,100,000 visitors having a total economic impact of \$1.2 billion and over 19,800 local resident jobs connected to tourism in 2017. Visitors to our aquarium come from all over the state, the US and overseas to learn about manatees. More than 10,000 school children from 10 counties visit every year to learn about manatees and Florida's natural resources.

**d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?**

Manatees in rehabilitation rescued from the wild due to red tide events, boat strike, cold stress, being orphaned or from illness will benefit from these enhancements for many years to come. The Manatee Rescue Vehicle will be able to serve the manatee population at large in Florida as a whole as needed and directed by the Manatee Rehabilitation partnership. The South Florida Museum has served 36 manatees over the last 20 years, taking in 3 or more animals at any one time. These facility upgrades and transportation improvements will help facilitate more moving of manatees from state hospitals to SFM for rehabilitation and release and also the rescue of manatees during times of great environmental concern, such as increased red tide events.

**e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?**

Manatees in rehabilitation rescued from the wild due to red tide events, boat strike, cold stress, being orphaned or from illness will benefit from these enhancements for many years to come. The Museum will be able to care for more manatees at one time with this habitat renovation, adding capacity to the system of care. The entire system for manatee care is enhanced by adding a vehicle for manatee transport with health assessment equipment to the South Florida region. School children in 10 counties will be able to see manatees first-hand and learn about Florida's wildlife and environment in addition to our over 80,000 visitors annually. Manatee County residents will benefit economically through the Museum's role as a tourist attraction.

**f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?**

N/A

**12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.**

The South Florida Museum is a private nonprofit run by a volunteer Board of Trustees.

**13. Requestor Contact Information:**

a. **Name:** Brynne Anne Besio



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- b. Organization:** South Florida Museum and Bishop Planetarium, Inc.
- c. E-mail Address:** bbesio@southfloridamuseum.org
- d. Phone Number:** (941)216-3464

#### 14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. Organization:** South Florida Museum and Bishop Planetarium, Inc.
- b. County:** Manatee
- c. Organization Type:**
  - For Profit
  - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
  - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
  - Local Entity
  - University or College
  - Other (Please specify)
- d. Contact Name:** Brynne Anne Besio
- e. E-mail Address:** bbesio@southfloridamuseum.org
- f. Phone Number:** (941)216-3464

#### 15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. Name:** Greg Black
- b. Firm Name:** Gunster
- c. E-mail Address:** gblack@gunster.com
- d. Phone Number:** (850)509-8022