



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1735

1. **Title of Project:** Deering Field Research Center

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Jose Rodriguez

3. **Date of Submission:** 02/07/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

The funds will retrofit and bring into ADA compliance a building donated to the Foundation to expand its current use by researchers, local, state and worldwide, to study the ecological, geological, archeological and historical features of the Deering Estate property, a 445 acre state-owned property in South Dade.

The Deering property is the only part of the Everglades Restoration Project located in an urban setting which is easily accessed by the public. The Miami Rock Ridge located on the property forms a barrier between Biscayne Bay and the interior of the of the south Florida peninsula and significant because it helps retain water and directs flow from Lake Okeechobee to the Everglades. The property is also home to more than 80 endangered or threatened species and has 26 known archeological sites where fossilized remains from nearly 10,000 years ago have been discovered.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds :** Department of Environmental Protection

State Agency Contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	
Fixed Capital Outlay	800,000
Total State Funds Requested	800,000

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)	800,000	17.7%
Federal	0	0.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.0%
Local	0	0.0%
Other	3,711,000	82.3%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	4,511,000	100.0%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2017-18		1,200,000		Yes

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



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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	\$800,000 to support one time fixed capital outlay, including project management, engineering, permitting and construction.	800,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		800,000

11. Program Performance:

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

The funds will assist in retrofitting a building currently used by worldwide researchers to study the ecologically, geologically significant features (including archeological and historical discoveries) of the Deering Estate property, a 445 acre state-owned property in South Dade. When completed, the expanded use of the building will include allowing for additional (20) researchers at one time to conduct important reserach and more space for additional educational programs. The property is an ecological scale model of the Everglades restoration efforts. Further, a recent archeological survey of this Florida Heritage sight which includes a coastal public park, found 11 new Paleo Indian, Tequesta and early Pioneer sites in need of investigation.

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

The facility will primarily be used to house researchers while they conduct important ecological, geological, archeological and historical research of worldwide significance. The research conducted at the building can significantly enhance ongoing Everglades protection activities. Further, the upgraded building can also expand the programs hosted to educate the community and policymakers about the significant role the environment of the Deering property plays in the future of our state;. Deering is designated as an Outstanding Florida Waters Class III by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The expansion will allow for visiting academics, scientists, researchers, students, and educators to engage in interdisciplinary, ground-breaking research.

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

N/A

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



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Current visitors to the property include the public, students (K-12 and post graduate) as well as researchers who are staying in the current building in order to be close to their study sites. The upgraded building will increase the number of academicians and researchers drawn to the property. Further, the general public as well as student will have access to the expanded educational programs provided on the property.

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

As research continues on the discoveries already made at the property, the awareness of this state-owned heritage site will grow worldwide through research-related publications. Additionally, educators, K-12 students and the general public will learn about the unique environmental aspects of the Deering Estate including 119 acres of globally endangered pine rockland (amongst 8 other South Florida natural habitats), the submerged resources of Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve and the 10+ acre Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands/Cutler Slough Rehydration Project which is part of the statewide CERP project and the only Everglades Restoration site accessible to the general public. Outcomes will be measured by the increased body of research conducted that will benefit the property, the Everglades and the state as a whole.

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?

Standard penalties for non-compliance are adequate.

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 Deering Estate Foundation, Inc.

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Larissa Siegel Lara
- b. **Organization:** Deering Estate Foundation, Inc.
- c. **E-mail Address:** LSiegelLara@DeeringEstate.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (305)235-1668 Ext. 266

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Deering Estate Foundation, Inc.
- b. **County:** Miami-Dade
- 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:** Larissa Siegel Lara



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e. **E-mail Address:** LSiegelLara@DeeringEstate.org

f. **Phone Number:** (305)484-4090

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. **Name:** Fred Karlinksy/Leslie Dughi

b. **Firm Name:** Greenberg Traurig, PA

c. **E-mail Address:** DughiL@gtlaw.com

d. **Phone Number:** (850)521-8571