



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1869

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Peck High School was built in 1927 as part of the Rosenwald Schools program which constructed approx. 5,000 schools in the south from 1912-1932, primarily for the education of African American children. Called Peck Center today, the school is one of the few remaining Rosenwald Schools in Florida and its stately "ensemble architecture" makes it one of the most significant remaining nationwide. The school was named after William Peck, a Principal at the school and champion of African American education in Fernandina Beach, who the University of Florida decreed among the great Floridians of the state. Today, Peck Center's original 94-year old exterior brick façade is deteriorating, leaking, and needs repair/replacement. Given that Peck Center is a large building with an almost 65,000 lineal feet exterior façade, the exterior restoration must, for financial reasons, be completed in phases. This local funding initiative request would provide sufficient funding to complete all repairs.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?**

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,000,000	80%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	250,000	20%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	1,250,000	100%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	500,000	3081A	No

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?**
- a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**
- b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**
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10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Of CARES Act funding of \$743,082 awarded to Nassau County and passed through to the city, or awarded directly to the city, funds were directed to local non-profits, first-responder overtime, COVID-related supplies, airport COVID-related expenses, and emergency paid sick leave for those stricken with COVID. The city will receive \$6,595,742 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, of which approximately \$3,000,000 has been received, but not expended. ARPA funding can't be used for this project.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Peck High School was built in 1927 as part of the Rosenwald Schools program which constructed approx. 5,000 schools in the south from 1912-1932, primarily for the education of African American children. Called Peck Center today, it's now a community center and an important component of African American heritage. Funds will be used to finalize renovation of the 94 year old structure.	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

12. Program Performance

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

Peck High School was built in 1927 as part of the Rosenwald Schools program which constructed approx. 5,000 schools in the south from 1912-1932, primarily for the education of African American children. The two-story red brick Peck Center (formerly Peck High School) was built in 1928 and was designed in the Colonial Revival style. After serving as Fernandina Beach's African-American high school for more than 40 years, and today serving as an active community center, Peck Center remains an impressive and inspiring edifice. However, the wear of its original 94 year old brick exterior and mortar requires expensive repairs. Today, Peck Center is a vital community center with an auditorium, gymnastics, martial arts, youth and adult team sports, a gym, a library, and non-profit offices. The project goal is to finalize improvements to Peck's 94 year old exterior to stop water intrusion into Peck Center through its aged and deteriorating mortar, bricks, and roofing.

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



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Peck Center's entire exterior façade is 64,757 lineal feet. Peck Center's original 94-year old exterior brick façade is deteriorating, leaking, and needs repair/replacement. Given that Peck Center is a large building with an almost 65,000 lineal feet exterior facade, the exterior restoration must, for financial reasons, be completed in phases. Phase 1, which was for repairs of Peck Center's east side, was funded in Fiscal Year 2020/2021. This local funding initiative request seeks \$1 million, which the city will match with \$250,000, to complete all the remaining necessary repairs to Peck Center's south, north, and west sides and roof. Specifically, the repairs to Peck Center will include brick tuckpointing (replacement of aged and porous mortar), pressure washing, replacement or repair when possible of exterior window shelf angle/lintels and bricks, and window perimeter joint sealant replacement and control joint sealant. Additionally, Peck's leaking roof will be replaced.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

While no direct services are provided through this construction project, completion of this project will allow the non-profit services, educational services, recreational services, educational services, and cultural events provided at Peck to continue. The center houses multiple functions including the Willie Mae Hardy Ashley Auditorium, the Ernie Tyson Albert Library, city offices, the Episcopal Children's Services (Headstart), Big Brothers and Big Sisters and other non-profit offices, community activities such as art and CPR instruction, recreation including basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer, and weight-lifting, and special events, including the Friends of the Library book sale, lectures, musical offerings, and community meetings. The center's library, which emphasizes children's literature, offers year-round reading programs.

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

The Fernandina African American community centered around their local school and churches. By 1900, an African American community also had grown up on the southeast side of Fernandina. (2018 Brocking FB Historic Survey, pages 34-35). Today, the Peck Center continues to be located in a neighborhood populated largely by a minority demographic, and Peck Center provides cultural, educational, and indoor recreational opportunities to an under-served, largely minority, population. Peck Center is located in U.S. Census Block 4, an area which 2010 U.S. Census data shows continues to be a largely-minority demographic, with 63.84% black (or African American), 25.04% Hispanic, and 13.93% white, while Fernandina Beach has a demographic of only 10.70% black, 6.6% Hispanic, and 83.5% white. Additionally, Peck Center is wheel-chair accessible and has an elevator. Fernandina Beach estimates that over 40,000 people are served by Peck Center each year.

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

A review of 127 Florida Rosenwald school photos in the Fisk University database reveals few rival the beauty and majesty of Peck High School. Fernandina Beach and the Florida Department of State partnered to save Peck in the 1990's when repairs exceeded the capability of the small city, and Fernandina Beach needs state partnership again to help with the significant costs of ensuring preservation of this large landmark. The city expended \$120,000 on average each of the past 5 years to maintain Peck Center and remains committed to continuing to fund its maintenance in the future. The expected outcome of this project will be that Peck Center will receive the repairs necessary to allow it to continue to serve as a community center and source of state and local pride. The methodology to ensure this outcome will be that the work will be completed under the supervision of a historic preservation architect and have engineering and city engineering certificates of completion.

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 the contract?

The standard penalties seem pretty adequate, in that the state will not (and should not) reimburse if performance measures are not met.

13. The owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

City of Fernandina Beach.



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14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

15. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number