



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2913

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The East Coast Zoological Society of Florida is in the process of developing a world-class aquarium on a second site in Port Canaveral. The Aquarium and Conservation Campus will be located on a 14-acre parcel perched on the shore of the Banana River with direct access to Route 28, the major beach and cruise tourism access route. There is no major aquarium on the I95 corridor south of Charleston South Carolina.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,000,000	86%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	336,635	14%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	2,336,635	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	950,000	2286A	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Local and privately raised funds.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes



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Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2913

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

Two SBA Loans related to the PPE for a total of \$2,503,518 plus Brevard County cares funds for \$1,000,000 all going for operating expenses, including payroll.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

October 1, 2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

December 1, 2026

12. List 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.

East Coast Zoological Society of Florida will receive the funds for construction of the aquarium.

13. 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	Funds will be used for the first phase of construction of the Dr. Duane Defreese Coastal Conservation Hub at the Brevard Zoo Aquarium.	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

14. Program Performance

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

The East Coast Zoological Society of Florida is in the process of developing a world-class aquarium on a second site in Port Canaveral. The Aquarium and Conservation Campus will be located on a 14-acre parcel perched on the shore of the Banana River with direct access to Route 28 the major beach and cruise tourism access route. There is no major aquarium on the I95 corridor south of Charleston South Carolina.

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



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The Aquarium and Conservation Center's largest building will be the three-story, 23,565-square-foot Dr. Duane De Freese Coastal Conservation Hub. This building will serve as a center for coordinating and facilitating regional restoration, research, and education efforts across Central Florida.

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

Citizens who visit the aquarium will learn about sea life, conservation, and their role in protecting and restoring the Indian River Lagoon and other coastal ecosystems.

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

Over 525,000 people will visit the aquarium annually, including 30,000 students.

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

Construction of a world class facility, jobs created, and increased tourism revenue for Brevard county.

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?

Funding will be returned to the state.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

16. 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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information



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a. Name	<input type="text" value="Scott L. Ross"/>
b. Firm Name	<input type="text" value="Capital City Consulting LLC"/>
c. E-mail Address	<input type="text" value="scott@cccfla.com"/>
d. Phone Number	<input type="text" value="(850)222-9075"/>