



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1005

**1. Project Title**

**2. Senate Sponsor**

**3. Date of Request**

**4. Project/Program Description**

The state's investment in a state-of-the-art projection system for FSC's restored Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Planetarium will allow programming to once again benefit: K-12 partnerships advancing science instruction for current and future generations of Florida students through updated field trip experiences; and Frank Lloyd Wright architectural tourism program, increasing annual visitation to the Wright campus and boosting the local economy. The Planetarium has been closed to the public for over 20 years, and desires to reopen for Florida residents, students, and visitors.

**5. State Agency to receive requested funds**

**State Agency contacted?**  No

**6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>500,000</b>

**7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	500,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
>5 years	0	0		No

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

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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### Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

**10. Status of Construction**

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning    
  Design    
  Construction    
  N/A

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

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

**11. 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.**

**12. 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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Digital full dome planetarium system with dual projectors, real-time planetarium software, dome casting feature, science on a sphere datasets, installation and one-year warranty, 3 full dome movies, STEM teaching assets, 20+ astronomy live lessons, cove lighting, and stereo system.	500,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>500,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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



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

It has been twenty years since the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Planetarium was open for visitors including K-12 and college students. With the addition of the new project, including a state-of-the-art projection system and software to complement the 30-foot dome, the Planetarium will be fully operational again for advanced science instruction including Astronomy and other STEM lessons.

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

The Planetarium will provide local and regional K-12 students and visitors a unique opportunity to experience learning in the only Planetarium in central Florida. The new equipment will enable for hosting K-12 field trips, programs for college students, visitor tours, and other educational activities benefiting Polk County and other regional school systems, undergraduate students, and the public.

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

Florida Southern College serves a wide population of visitors, tourists and learners of varied ages (college students, preschoolers and 1st - 8th grade students from the Roberts Academy). With the needed equipment updates, the Planetarium will be able to open the Planetarium (after a 20 year absence) to Polk County Schools and other regional school systems for experience science instruction in fun and educational ways.

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

With the new Planetarium equipment, FSC will resume offering on-site educational programs, including STEM instruction and FLW related programs, for K-12 students in Polk County and other regional school systems, college students, and the general public. Progress will be measured toward achieving these outcomes by cataloging the programs developed and tracking the number of participants. Participants will be surveyed to gather feedback on program content and quality and input to inform future program development.

**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?**

If the new equipment is not purchased and installed in FY 25-26 Florida Southern College will return the funds to the State.

**14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?**

**a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?**

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

**b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):**

**15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?**

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received



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- No
- No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:**

**b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:**

**16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?**

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):**

**17. Requester Contact Information**

**a. First Name**  **Last Name**

**b. Organization**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**  **Ext.**

**18. 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)



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d. First Name  Last Name   
e. E-mail Address   
f. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name   
b. Firm Name   
c. E-mail Address   
d. Phone Number

*The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.*