



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1103

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

4. Project/Program Description

Requested funding will be utilized by Florida Humanities in 2025-2026 to present a variety of humanities-rich programs and resources developed in partnership with cultural organizations statewide as well as with the Library of Congress Center for the Book and the Smithsonian Institution. Collectively these projects are designed to share Florida's rich history and heritage, promote civic engagement, and provide opportunities for reflecting on the future of our state. Additional public programming will be developed to help commemorate the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	675,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	675,000

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)	675,000	64%
Matching Funds		
Federal	381,900	36%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,056,900	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	500,000	3266A	No

9. Is future-year 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.

Florida Humanities annually receives federal funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities as well as unrestricted and restricted support from individuals, corporations and foundations. State funds and private contributions are used to help match our federal funding which requires a minimum 1:1 match.



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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
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Executive Director is responsible for oversight of the full project and agency.	19,905
Other Salary and Benefits	Chief Financial Officer is responsible for all aspects of grant administration, assuring accurate expenditure of funds, and preparing all financial reports required by the State.	37,775
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Program Officer is responsible for the creation and oversight of all agency developed public programs with support from a Program Assistant and a Program Coordinator. Communications staff develops and coordinates all programmatic marketing and outreach including social media.	201,320
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Includes photo licensing, permission fees, printing and mailing services related to the production of four issues of FORUM magazine; venue rental and supplies for the annual Humanities Festival; and, general marketing and advertising for all programs.	132,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Includes contracted personnel required for the production of FORUM magazine including editorial services, graphics and design, and contributing writers; content creation services for the Florida Stories walking tour app; honoraria for Florida Talks speaker programs; contracted services for public library summer programming; Smithsonian exhibition fabrication services; and contracted event coordination for the Humanities Festival.	284,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		675,000

13. Program Performance

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

As the independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Florida Humanities annually supports and facilitates the development of programs and resources that share Florida’s rich history, promote civic engagement, and provide opportunities for reflecting on the future of our state. Funding requested will be utilized to administer a variety of free public humanities programs with cultural partners statewide as well as programs developed in partnership with the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution. Funding will also support programming to complement our new statewide initiative, We the People: America 250, designed to commemorate the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026.

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

In partnership with public libraries, museums, historical societies, and other non-profit cultural organizations statewide, Florida Humanities annually implements a wide range of free public programs. 2025-2026 activities will include public programming developed through Florida Humanities’ ongoing partnerships with the Library of Congress Center for the Book and the Smithsonian Institution’s Traveling Exhibition Services Program. Funding will also support programming developed as part of our new statewide initiative, We the People: America 250, designed to commemorate the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. In addition to Semiquincentennial programming associated with our Center for the Book and Smithsonian partnerships, 250th-themed programs and resources will include a special edition of our award-winning FORUM magazine, new virtual walking tours, and a statewide Humanities Festival to be held in our country’s oldest city, St. Augustine.

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

Center for the Book programs will include Semiquincentennial-themed displays in public libraries offering books on U.S. and Florida history for all ages; new additions to our speakers bureau roster of expert historians and authors who will present free public programs statewide on a variety of topics related to Florida history; and public programs featuring winners of the annual Florida Book Awards. Up to 10 communities statewide will create and host local exhibitions utilizing Smithsonian-curated content from the National Museum of American History and five communities will be selected to host a new traveling exhibition about our country’s indigenous peoples. Additional programs to complement our America 250 initiative will include a special edition of FORUM magazine; new virtual walking tours of two of our state’s oldest cities, St. Augustine and Pensacola; and the hosting of our annual Humanities Festival in St. Augustine.

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

Our programming serves a wide variety of constituents including the adult general public, residents in rural and under-served communities, senior citizens, tourists, and families with young children. Last year more than 160,000 people engaged in in-person programs hosted by Florida Humanities and our statewide cultural partners. This included nearly 2,000 children and families served by public library programs; 8,300 attendees at 130 speaker bureau programs; and more than 29,000 visitors to Smithsonian exhibitions. Florida Humanities’ media resources also provide extended reach to the general public statewide. FORUM magazine reaches more than 10,000 readers with each print issue. Digital editions of the magazine can also be freely downloaded from the Univ. of South Florida’s online archive where more than 4,500 downloads of the magazine are recorded annually. Our free Florida Stories walking tour app is annually downloaded more than 8,000 times from the Google Play and Apple Store.

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

New programming associated with our America 250 initiative will be designed to deepen Floridians’ understanding of the principles that shaped our nation. The Smithsonian exhibitions and Florida Stories walking tour app are designed to expand organizational capacity for cultural agencies in under-served and rural communities as well as to increase local and statewide tourism. Public library programs are designed to improve basic literacy skills, promote critical thinking, and raise awareness of valuable library resources. Speaker programs and FORUM magazine aim to increase knowledge of Florida history. Program specific evaluation tools will be completed by program attendees as well as by partnering organizations. Ongoing monitoring of these responses will allow Florida Humanities to make adjustments to program design and implementation in order to enhance programmatic success.



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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?

In order to receive contracted payments on a reimbursement basis and to avoid penalties, Florida Humanities is required to electronically submit to the Department of State quarterly project progress reports that document deliverables and tasks completed and expenses occurred to date.

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
- 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**



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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)

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.