



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1104

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

4. Project/Program Description

Dance Alive National Ballet (DANB) is set to revolutionize the arts scene with its new Center for the Arts, breaking ground in April 2025 and expected to be completed by summer 2026. The Center will be centrally located in Alachua County, easily accessible via I-75, and will serve nearby counties including Marion, Lake, and Columbia. The Center will provide both a new performance venue and also offer dance and music studios for both professional and student artists and musicians, fostering a vibrant arts community.

BXP has designed a state-of-the-art 22,422 square feet building featuring 3 dance studios, 3 music studios, a 200-seat studio theater, an art gallery, a physical therapy room, dressing rooms, a green room, set and costume storage, and administrative support spaces.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	3,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	3,500,000

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)	3,500,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	500,000	7%
Other	3,000,000	43%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	7,000,000	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		

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.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1104

Upon completion the Center will be self-sustaining through rental, instruction, and performance fees.

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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

04.01.2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

06.30.2026

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

The 5.61 acre land purchase and design phases are complete with all permitting expected to be completed in January of 2025 for Scherer Construction to begin building in April 2025. The Center will be self-sustaining through rental, instruction, and performance fees.

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.

Dance Alive, Inc., dba Dance Alive National Ballet is the owner of the facility and the entity submitting the Local Funding Initiative Request.

12. 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		
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	Designed by James Blythe of BXP, the Dance Alive National Ballet Center for the Arts will be a 22,422 square foot building featuring 3 dance studios, 3 music studios, a 200-seat studio theater, an art gallery, a physical therapy room, dressing rooms, a green room, set and costume storage, and administrative support spaces.	3,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,500,000



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1104

13. Program Performance

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

The requested funds will be used to construct the Center in North Central Florida. This project aims to address the growing needs of the area by increasing the capacity for dance and music instruction and serving as a new performance and event venue for the local and surrounding communities.

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

Training and Rehearsing: Both professional ballet dancers and students of all ages will benefit from expanded educational programming for dance and music. This includes large and small group dance instruction, private and small group music lessons, rehearsals, and public performances.

Event Rental Space: The Center will offer event rental space for small businesses, providing a venue for various events and activities.

Ticketed Performances: Dance Alive will host 3 to 4 ticketed studio performances each year. Additionally, the space will be available for other performing arts groups to rent for ticketed performances and events. The goal is to have 6 to 8 performance weekends (2 to 3 shows per weekend) in the first year, including Dance Alive National Ballet's (DANB) performances. This number is expected to double as operational capacity increases.

Art Gallery Exhibitions: Works from local and regional visual artists, as well as nationally and internationally renowned visual artists.

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

Dance Studios: These studios will be used for dance instruction and rehearsal space for performance groups, supporting both professional and student dancers.

Music Studios: These will be available for private and small group music lessons, offering a space for aspiring musicians to hone their skills.

200-Seat Studio Theater: This versatile venue will host a variety of performing arts, including musical acts, dance, theater, and other activities such as poetry readings, literary conventions, and lectures/presentations on various subjects.

Art Gallery: The gallery will provide space for local artists to display and sell their work, fostering a vibrant arts community.

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

The project aims to serve four main target populations:

1. Families with children who are interested in participating in dance and music instruction;
2. Audiences who enjoy attending performances of dance, music, theater, and other performing arts;
3. Small performing arts organizations, groups, and individuals who will use the space for performances and presentations; and
4. Under-served groups such as veterans, children with disabilities, and the elderly.

Once fully operational, Dance Alive National Ballet (DANB) will reach an estimated 12,000 individuals annually in the new facility. Approximately 75% of this will be from performance attendance, 15%-20% from outside performers, and 5%-10% from students. This is in addition to the 30,000 individuals currently served through performances at the Phillips Center, touring performances, and educational outreach.

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

The new Center for the Arts will provide an increased revenue base that will:

- Provide dance instruction to twice the number students.
- Offer scholarships for under-served youth to attend classes.
- Host more out-of-town students for two-week intensives.

The increased revenue base will also enable DANB to expand its outreach efforts to under-served populations in all North Central Florida counties through our programs such as Danceabout, Discovering Dance, Dance Partners, and Senior Moments.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1104

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?

Penalties could include forfeiture of funds received and one year of ineligibility to receive grants from the contracting agency.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No

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**

b. Organization



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1104

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.