



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1303

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens is an internationally celebrated and locally loved attraction that will celebrate its 50th anniversary very soon. Over 200,000 visitors a year currently enjoy the Morikami Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach, FL. The funds being requested for a match to achieve design services of the "Bridge to Heaven" garden expansion. This garden expansion will increase tourism and boost the state and local economy.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	500,000
Total State Funds Requested	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)	500,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	500,000	50%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,000,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

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?** Yes

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

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

Partial local funding may be available.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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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		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	Design of Japanese Garden expansion consistent with approved Master Plan.	500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

13. Program Performance

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

The "Bridge to Heaven" garden expansion at the Morikami will enhance the attraction of the facility & the experience of attendees, boosting the local economy in many ways. With over 200,000 annual visitors, the expansion will increase visitation from across the nation & internationally, increasing tourism & benefiting our state.

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

Planning and completed design of the the Morikami Japanese Gardens Expansion "Bridge to Heaven" for recreation, eco-tourism and historic tourism purposes.

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



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Planning and completed design of the the Morikami Japanese Gardens Expansion "Bridge to Heaven" for recreation, eco-tourism and historic tourism purposes. The Morikami Japanese Gardens Expansion "Bridge to Heaven" design will directly benefit the citizens of Florida through positive economic impact and job creation via eco-tourism and historic tourism to this unique destination in Florida. Further benefits include expanded mental and physical health through recreation at the Morikami Japanese Gardens and historic Yamato farming colony location.

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

This project will serve the residents and visitors to Palm Beach County. The Morikami regularly has over 200,000 visitors a year that are expected to be served.

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

This project is expected to result in increased destination visitation to the Morikami and surrounding businesses in Palm Beach County thereby generating a positive economic impact to the area. It will also further enrich the cultural experience of residents and visitors who will experience the connection between Japan and Florida through the history of founder George Morikami, Yamato farming colony, and Japanese farmers in South Florida in 1908-1940s. This will be measured through the number of visitors to the gardens and programs.

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?

Unused funds will be returned 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
- 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



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- 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)

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



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