



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1797

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

MUSE is a pioneering initiative by Florida Grand Opera (FGO) designed to integrate patriotic songs, such as the National Anthem, into a comprehensive curriculum aligned with state and local education standards. The program provides a structured framework encompassing historical context, language, ELA skills, melody, rhythm, notation, harmony, group singing, performance practice, and cross-curricular connections. Through engaging lessons and activities, students explore the cultural significance of patriotic music while honing musical skills and deepening their understanding of civics.

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	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
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	33%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,000,000	67%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,500,000	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.



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Florida Grand Opera (FGO) will pursue diverse and strategic funding sources that align with the program's goals and objectives. Private funding such as grants, special events and individual giving: Arts and Cultural Foundations: Organizations that prioritize arts education, therapy, and innovative programming. Health and Wellness Foundations: such as Baptist Health, focused on mental health, trauma recovery, and Corporations: such as Home Depot for vets and brands that align with our mission.

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	Project oversight and leadership and direction.	25,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Susana Diaz Chief Financial Officer for financial reporting and Tanya Byng Chief Advancement officer for fundraising and corporate & foundation partnership.	26,600
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel and lodging for partner development in state	9,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Joanna Black Project consultant (Marketing, Partner Development, Community Awareness)	20,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Staff: Project Manager, Vocal Director, Pianist, Wellness Mental Health advocate \$22,500 employees salaries and benefits and \$22,500 est 1099	135,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Venue expense \$15,000 -3 workshops per area(First responder, nursing & veterans) 9 total+ \$45,000: Service areas South Florida (South East and West) Central Florida (East & West) and Northern Florida (East, West includes Panhandle) Supplies and Materials, Program supplies such as food, art supplies, music supplies, communication devices and set design. Marketing & Promotion \$16,600 each \$149,400	194,400



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Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Training and certification in Crisis work for artists \$90,000 - 9 artists	90,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
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?

Goals:
 Education through Music: Utilizing opera's emotional depth and storytelling, Florida Grand Opera will support education initiatives to enforce factual story-telling of our nation's history through the music that signifies it, like the National Anthem. Opera's emotional depth and storytelling to inspire hope and support mental and emotional well-being while reconnecting healthy neuropathways through diverse exercises and workshops.
 Empowering Communities: Engage communities in through civics and historical education workshops, performances, and interactive programs.
 Training Artists for Impact: Provide FGO artists with specialized training allowing ensuring they provide factual accounts of our nations history as taught through significant historical musical repertoire.
 Celebrating Heroes: Expand offerings for veterans, first responders, and medical professionals to honor their service and sacrifices.

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

The project will provide music education workshops teaching participants the history of American through historical music pieces, including supporting veterans, and their families, as well as trauma-affected communities. FGO will also train artists in mental health and cultural competency, Training Components Mental Health Education Training on recognizing trauma, managing emotional dynamics, and offering compassionate engagement, led by mental health professionals. Cultural Competency Sessions on understanding diverse backgrounds and tailoring performances to resonate with unique community needs. Crisis Management Techniques Strategies to create safe and supportive environments during workshops and performances. Artistic Integration Using voice and voice technique, storytelling, and opera to create meaningful and therapeutic interactions.

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

This initiative will deliver historical education workshops, free performances, cultural enrichment, and recognition events using America's historical musical repertoire as a backdrop. Artists will be trained to connect with vulnerable populations, and heroes like veterans and first responders and their families will receive exclusive benefits, including backstage experiences and workshops to foster emotional well-being.

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

The program serves students, first responders, veterans, medical personnel, their and communities. Over 1500 individuals will directly benefit first year, with an additional 5,000+ reached through free tickets, performances, beginning with South Florida communities. There are estimated 512,698 first responders in the State of Florida (44.1 per 10,000 people) and Florida has the third largest veteran population in the country. The program aims to serve a broad and diverse audience, focusing on those in need of education, healing and empowerment: Students, First Responders: Police officers, firefighters, EMTs, and disaster response personnel. Veterans and Military Personnel. Active and retired service members, and their families.

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



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The project will ensure students are provided factual education about our nation's history and civic using America's historical music repertoire, seeking to improve history and civics awareness while at the same time improving emotional well-being, resilience, and community connection. It will also foster greater access to cultural experiences, enhance artist skills in community engagement, and strengthen the connection between the arts and mental health.

Methodology for Measuring Outcomes

Participant Surveys: Collect feedback on emotional and therapeutic benefits.

Attendance Data: Track participation in workshops, performances, and events.

Qualitative Feedback: Gather testimonials from attendees and stakeholders.

Partner Reports: Assess collaboration impact with hospitals, community centers, and veteran organizations.

Artist Evaluations: Monitor progress in artist training and community engagement effectiveness.

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 addition to standard penalties, the contracting agency may consider the following:

Corrective Action Plans: Mandate a detailed corrective action plan outlining steps to address deficiencies within a defined time-frame.

Reporting Requirements: Impose stricter reporting and oversight requirements to ensure compliance and progress in subsequent project phases.

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



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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

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