



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2593

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

4. Project/Program Description

Built in 1969, the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall lacks modern flood defenses, making it vulnerable to storm surges and rising sea levels. The project includes: Installation of flood barriers around the building. Implementation of wave-absorbing breakwaters. Upgraded drainage and pumping systems to prevent infiltration. Backflow prevention devices and waterproofing for critical systems. Accessibility and ADA compliance enhancements.

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	70%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,500,000	30%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	5,000,000	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.
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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)? No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction? 12/31/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 06/30/2027

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

Enterprise fund through the City of Sarasota

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.

City of Sarasota is the owner and 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	Engineering design and procurement and implementation of flood mitigation measures, including breakwater construction and drainage upgrades.	3,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,500,000

13. Program Performance

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

This project ensures the resilience of an economic and cultural cornerstone for Sarasota. It safeguards public safety, preserves a critical landmark, and supports the tourism-driven economy, contributing millions annually to local and state revenues.

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



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Public Safety: Reduces risks of flooding and storm damage, ensuring visitor safety.
 Cultural Preservation: Protects a landmark that serves as a cultural and economic driver for the region.
 Economic Impact: Supports local tourism, contributing millions annually to the local economy.
 Environmental Compliance: Enhances resilience while aligning with state and federal flood mitigation standards.

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

Cultural space for resident and tourism use.

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

The City of Sarasota and surrounding cities and counties.

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

Cost Avoidance: Prevents costly repairs and closures due to storm damage.
 Revenue Generation: Ensures continuity of performances and events, supporting the local economy.
 Community Impact: Protects the cultural and historical significance of the Van Wezel, enhancing Sarasota's quality of life and appeal as a tourist destination.
 Long-Term Sustainability: By addressing immediate risks, the project reduces future financial and environmental costs.

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 for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures would include: a) a return of funding and, b) a report explaining why the deliverables or performance measures were not met.

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

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):

Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton

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)?



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- 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):

Please complete questions 17 through 21 for Water Projects only.

17. Have you been awarded or applied for alternative state funding for this project?

- Water Quality Improvement Grant Program
- Resilient Florida Grant Program
- Wastewater Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify, ex. Alternative Water Supply Grants)
- N/A

18. What is the population economic status?

- Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Rural Area of Economic Concern
- Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- N/A

19. What is the status of construction?

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

22. Requester Contact Information



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a. First Name Last Name
b. Organization
c. E-mail Address
d. Phone Number Ext.

23. 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.

24. 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.