



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2966

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

A new Town Square at the Bay Park Conservancy in conjunction with Phase 2 of the Master Plan. The Town Square will serve as a central gathering place that enhances community engagement and programming. It will feature accessible pathways and a large shade structure to support the goal of increased participation in the free programming provided to all visitors at the park. The design will also incorporate storm water management elements, aligning with the goal of improving the ecological health of Sarasota Bay.

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	1,800,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,800,000</b>

**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)	1,800,000	18%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	8,200,000	82%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.

**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?** 05/01/2026

**d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?** 10/31/2026

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

The city of Sarasota and the Bay Park Conservancy. All land and buildings on the grounds of the Bay Park are owned by the city of Sarasota which has entered into a public/private partnership with the Bay Park Conservancy to design, build, manage and operate the park.

**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.**

The city of Sarasota and the Bay Park Conservancy. All land and buildings on the grounds of the Bay Park are owned by the city of Sarasota which has entered into a public/private partnership with the Bay Park Conservancy to design, build, manage and operate the park.

**12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended**

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	construction	1,800,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,800,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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

The funding will assist with the building of the new Town Square within The Bay Park Conservancy in Sarasota.

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



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The Bay has a stringent design & construction management process that is approved by the management team, Board of Directors and The Bay Park Improvement Board (which is a combination of elected officials from the City of Sarasota and Sarasota County).

This oversight will lead directly to successful completion of Phase 2 as demonstrated by the success of Phase 1 of the park.

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

With the construction of the Town Square, The Bay Park Conservancy will be able to expand the number and type of free events that are provided on a monthly basis. In particular, the Town Square will allow for larger gatherings that include markets, music, health & fitness, and arts & culture.

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

The Bay is truly "One Park for All" and thus serves all ages, races, economic groups, etc. Our visitors and program participants are extremely diverse in their background and interests.

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

The new Town Square will serve as an anchor for the Cultural District project within Phase 2 of The Bay's master plan. It will help tie together four buildings that are on the Historic Register (The Sarasota Garden Club, Blue Pagoda, Chidsey Library Building and the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium). The Town Square will benefit the community as a whole serving as a central gathering place and expanding the offering of free programs. The increased number of visitors, number of events and type of events will serve as a key metric for success. Other success metrics will be satisfaction surveys and the growth pattern of multi-year annual events.

**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?**

The standard penalties for compliance of deliverables and performance are adequate and appropriate for this contract.

**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#:**



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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

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



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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.*