



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3152

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

4. Project/Program Description

The William Daniel Mills Theatre Company (WDM) in Central Florida operates the Daniel Mills Apprentice Program, dedicated to developing the arts and theatre workforce. This program offers acting and vocal training, apprenticeship opportunities, and paid work with industry professionals. High school students receive scholarships for camps and college funding. WDM not only trains its own apprentices but also extends its services to other theatre organizations, fostering collaboration and skill development. They also provide funds for apprentices from other theatres to attend training sessions. WDM's program caters to diverse theatre interests, from musical theatre to Shakespearean acting, choreography, costume design, stage management, and more. Open to ages 13-21, it empowers aspiring artists to pursue theatre careers while building essential job skills.

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	750,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	750,000

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)	750,000	47%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	850,000	53%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,600,000	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

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	Theater and location rent. State dollars would be instrumental in providing funding for facility rent, ensuring the sustainability of our theatre program's operations.	165,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Scholarship funds. The additional dollars would play a crucial role in bolstering the scholarship program, ensuring more aspiring young artists can access quality theatre education and training.	585,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		750,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The primary objective is to provide comprehensive training and education in the field of theatre arts. The goal is to equip young artists with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in the theatre industry. A portion of the funds will be allocated to provide scholarships for promising high school students. These scholarships will enable talented individuals to attend theatre camps and receive financial support for their college education. The specific goal is to remove financial barriers that may otherwise hinder these students from pursuing a career in theatre. The funds will also be used to provide paid work opportunities for apprentices on stage and behind the scenes. This "earn while you learn" approach allows young artists to gain practical experience.

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

Acting and Vocal Training: Comprehensive training in acting and singing techniques.
 Apprentice-Type Activities: Hands-on experiences in various theatre roles.
 Paid Work Opportunities: Apprentices earn while gaining professional experience.
 Scholarships: Financial support for high school students to attend theatre camps and college.
 Training Services: Sharing expertise with other theatre organizations.
 Diverse Training: Tailored programs for a wide range of theatre interests

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

This project directly serves citizens by offering acting and vocal training, hands-on apprentice activities, scholarships for high school students attending theatre camps and college, paid work opportunities on and offstage, training services for other theatre organizations, financial support to enable apprentices from other theaters to attend camps, and inclusive programming for individuals aged 13 to 21. This comprehensive initiative aims to nurture young artistic talent, enhance job skills, and enrich the theatre workforce in Central Florida while fostering collaboration within the regional theatre community. It also helps to provide a space to improve positive mental health through it collaboration and theatre work.

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

The program is designed to serve individuals aged 13 to 21 who are passionate about theatre and seeking careers within the industry. While the exact number of participants may vary annually, the program is expected to accommodate a diverse group of exceptionally talented young adults. Additionally, the program's expansion plans aim to create space for an additional 60 students, further enhancing its impact on the growth and development of the theatre workforce in Central Florida while providing opportunities for both apprentices and aspiring theatre professionals in the region.

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

The program encompass comprehensive skill development, paid work opportunities in theatre, scholarships, and the expansion of the theatre workforce in Central Florida. These outcomes will be measured by evaluating participants' skill development and career progression, tracking the number of program graduates who secure paid roles or continue their education, and assessing the impact of collaborations and financial support provided to other theaters in the region.

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?

Reversion of Funds

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?



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- 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

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



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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.