



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2769

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This project will create curriculum for the Department of Education and exhibitions that tell the story of the search for freedom, the plight of communism, and engaging future generations in the historical and cultural significance of the building as well as the impact of communism. We will honor victims of communism, educating about the experiences of individuals affected by communist regimes -- this will include educational components, curriculum and videos that can be disseminated as a resource across the state and school districts. This project will preserve historical memory, promote understanding, and safeguard against the recurrence of oppressive ideologies at the Freedom Tower. To launch exhibition programming, MDC will partner with the nonprofit Colonial Florida Cultural Heritage Center and the historic Corpus Christi Catholic Church, whose mission is to acquire, preserve, and make available to the public the cultural and artistic patrimony of Florida.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?  Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

| Type of Funding                    | Amount           |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Operations                         | 2,500,000        |
| Fixed Capital Outlay               | 0                |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested</b> | <b>2,500,000</b> |

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

| Type of Funding                                      | Amount           | Percentage  |
|--|------------------|-------------|
| Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)       | 2,500,000        | 100%        |
| <b>Matching Funds</b>                                |                  |             |
| Federal  | 0                | 0%          |
| State (excluding the amount of this request)         | 0                | 0%          |
| Local  | 0                | 0%          |
| Other  | 0                | 0%          |
| <b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b> | <b>2,500,000</b> | <b>100%</b> |

8. Has this project previously received state funding?  No

| Fiscal Year<br>(yyyy-yy) | Amount    |              | Specific<br>Appropriation # | Vetoed |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
|                          | Recurring | Nonrecurring |                             |        |
|                          |           |              |                             |        |

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?  No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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

No other funding can be used.



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10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

### Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. 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?

12. 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.

13. 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                                | Funding is requested to support creation of victims of communism materials, exhibition fabrication, media production, installation, and evaluation of exhibition areas.  | 1,000,000        |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  | The project will contract content experts and a creative firm who will assemble content, design exhibition elements, curriculum development, videos and digital platform. This will including partnering with Colonial Florida Cultural Heritage Center, MDCPS, the Bay of Pigs Museum and National Association of Cuban American Educators. | 1,500,000        |
| <b>Operational Costs: Other</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                      |  | 0                |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b> |  | <b>2,500,000</b> |

14. Program Performance



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

The funding requested will enable Miami Dade College to create and launch new permanent exhibit related to Victims of Communism and rotating exhibitions in the galleries. As the site and visitor experiences are reimagined, the project is vital to connect local and national audiences to the experiences of Cuban and other Diasporas in Miami that arrive in search for freedom. This project will also create curriculum for school districts to use as educational materials on Victims of Communism.

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

This project will create a statewide curriculum and an exhibit on the Victims of Communism. Additionally, have the most dynamic repository of Miami’s story and stories of exile. Best-in-class experience design will guide visitors through the dozen-year history of refugee assistance provided in the Tower, known as the “Ellis Island of the South,” and reflect upon the waves of exiles that transformed our city. Leveraging the nimbleness of museum digital technology, Miami’s freedom stories will be gathered, presented, and celebrated - reinterpreting the Tower as a 21st century beacon of hope, courage, and opportunity.

This funding will also develop curriculum and educational materials to educate students in Florida on Victims of Communism.

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

A comprehensive education experience on the history of the Freedom Tower and the history and impact of communism. This will also include history and partnership with the Colonial Florida Cultural Heritage Center.

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

The target population of 2.7 million residents in Miami Dade County in addition all students throughout the State of Florida. The museum’s exhibitions, programs, and initiatives aim to enrich the cultural experiences of a diverse demographic, including national and international visitors.

For the Victims of Communism curriculum to strive to serve school age students across Florida.

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

Greater understanding of the importance of freedom. Understanding of the history of communism and the impact it has had. The story and the importance of the Freedom Tower. Curriculum, videos, instructional guides on the victims of communism.

**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 the contract?**

Mitigation of risk is built into the project’s timetable; smaller launch events can be presented prior to launch of full operations; exhibitions have a scalable interpretive model where expansions and updates of museum artifacts, ephemera, and collections can be made quarterly.

**15. Requester Contact Information**

**a. First Name**  **Last Name**

**b. Organization**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**  **Ext.**

**16. Recipient Contact Information**

**a. Organization**



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**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**

**17. Lobbyist Contact Information**

**a. Name**

**b. Firm Name**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**