



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2369

1. **Project Title** Fernandina Beach 200th Anniversary Beautification and Preservation Improvements

2. **Senate Sponsor** Clay Yarborough

3. **Date of Request** 12/12/2023

4. **Project/Program Description**

Fernandina Beach is a 200-year old city located on Amelia Island between the Atlantic Ocean and the Amelia River. The Fernandina Beach Downtown Historic District consists of a flourishing downtown commercial district bustling with shops, restaurants, breweries, cultural sites, and 60 blocks of expertly-preserved Victorian-era homes. In 2021, 77%, or 513,000, of Amelia Island's 662,900 overnight visitors ranked the Historic District as a "Top Activities Enjoyed", scoring higher than even the beaches. Fernandina Beach's downtown Historic District has an aging street-scape with deteriorating landscaping, failing lighting, and insufficient ADA components. Additionally, multiple prior renovations have resulted in inconsistent sidewalk and street materials. The 200th Anniversary Beautification and Preservation Improvements project will enhance pedestrian access to the downtown Historic District, while also beautifying and revitalizing Fernandina Beach going into her next 200 years.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** Department of Commerce

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

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)	1,000,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,000,000	50%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	2,000,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific 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.**

Local Revenues.



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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.

\$6,595,742 which was allocated to City police and fire department first responders' salaries and benefits, as allowed by the American Rescue Plan Act Agreement Final Rule stipulations. An additional \$2,067,172 used for three Water projects (Area 5 Storm water, Water Projects on Broome Street and Wastewater Infrastructure at Citrona Drive and Amelia Road.)

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.

All fixed capital outlay funding will be for construction on property fully-owned by the City of Fernandina Beach

13. 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: Other		
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 and Design, permitting and construction improvements in Historic Fernandina Beach to preserve and renew the downtown through installation of historically-accurate sidewalk patterns and materials, landscape and lighting upgrades, and ADA-compliant components.	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000



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14. Program Performance

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

Travel publications consistently rank Amelia Island one of best island and beach destinations in the U.S. Statistics that Amelia Island's tourism generated more than \$1 billion 27 million dollars in 2021. In 2022, Amelia Island tourism contributed nearly \$1 billion in economic impact, and employed over 1/4 of Nassau County, FL residents. Historic Downtown Fernandina Beach, a business and residential district populated with Victorian-aged business structures and homes, hosts cultural events and festivals that attract hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. The Downtown is also home to the Port of Fernandina, the CSX railroad, and WestRock and Rayonier Mills, which generate over 1,000 jobs. The 200th Anniversary Beautification and Preservation Improvements project will enhance pedestrian access to the downtown Historic District, while also beautifying and revitalizing Fernandina Beach going into her next 200 years.

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

The revitalization effort will provide more uniform and consistent walking areas, safer avenues for pedestrians and vehicles, more efficient and better lighting of walking areas, and landscaping/streetscapes for residents and tourists to enjoy the historic areas in the downtown Fernandina Beach and protect businesses and citizens located in this popular, densely-populated business, residential, and tourist location.

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

This project will provide physical protection of persons and property. Additionally, this project will preserve specific immediate job opportunities for local residents. Tourism is Nassau County's largest job creator, creating 32% of all jobs and paying 38% of all sales taxes. Given that 77.4% of Amelia Island visitors ranked visiting the historic Fernandina Beach downtown as one of their favorite activities when visiting, protection of the Historic District through beautification and improvements to the downtown area will benefit residents and visitors alike.

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

The City of Fernandina Beach has 13,401 residents and Amelia Island, on which Fernandina Beach is located, attracted 758,000 visitors (2022 data). Travel publications consistently rank Amelia Island one of best islands and beach destinations in the U.S. The Amelia Island Tourism Development Council estimated that Amelia Island's tourism generated more than \$1 billion, 27 million dollars in 2021. Historic downtown Fernandina Beach has popular festivals including the Shrimp Festival (May) and Dicken's Christmas (Dec.) that attract thousands of visitors each year. Given that 77.4% of Amelia Island 662,900 annual visitors in 2021 ranked visiting the historic Fernandina Beach downtown as one of their favorite activities when visiting, protection of the Historic District through capital improvement and beautification equates to significant job creation.

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

The benefit of this project will be preservation and construction improvements of historic Downtown Fernandina Beach, a business and residential district populated with Victorian-aged business structures and homes which hosts cultural events and festivals that attract hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. Additionally, the Downtown is also home to the Port of Fernandina, the CSX railroad, and WestRock and Rayonier Mills, all of which generate over 1,000 local jobs. The outcome of this impact can be measured through pre-and-post comparative data about tourism and citizen satisfaction surveys.

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?

Failure to fully-satisfy each deliverable of the "Historic Fernandina Beach 200th Anniversary Beautification and Preservation Improvements" project would make Fernandina Beach ineligible for reimbursement from the State of Florida.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address



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d. Phone Number (904)415-5181 Ext.

16. 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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number