



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

1. **Title of Project:** Deering Estate - Field Station Research Center

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Jose Rodriguez

3. **Date of Submission:** 11/21/2017

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Funds are requested to bring a 10,700 sf facility, originally built in 1982 and located within an 8.75 acre gift of property (\$4.9M value) donated in 2015, up to current accessibility and fire codes with limited reconfiguration to the interior, so it can be brought on-line in service to our community as a field study research center; housing an archival library, field staff office, and temporary living quarters for up to 14 researchers at any one given time to conduct their research at the Deering Estate. Through a series of public meetings, the property has been successfully rezoned for this purpose. The project has full support of the Miami-Dade County Commission, R-1093-17, a partnership agreement in the form of an MOU with FIU, and letters of support from: U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, Office of the Mayors of Palmetto Bay, Cutler Bay and Pinecrest, Beacon Council of MDC, GMCVB, and more. Architectural drawings are complete, and the project is shovel-ready.

5. **State Agency Contacted?** No

a. If yes, which state agency?

b. If no, which is the most appropriate state agency to place an appropriation for the issue being requested?
Department of Economic Opportunity

6. **Amount of Non-recurring Requested for fiscal year 2018-19:**

Amount Requested for Operations	Amount Requested for Fixed Capital Outlay	Total Amount of Requested State Funds
	1,250,000	1,250,000

7. **Type, amount and percent of matching funds available for this project for fiscal year 2018-19:**

Type	Amount	Percent
Federal	0	0.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.0%
Local	0	0.0%
Other	5,050,000	80.2%
TOTAL	5,050,000	80.2 %

8. **Total Project Cost for fiscal year 2018-19 (including the Total Amount of Requested State Funds):** 6,300,000



The Florida Senate

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9. Previous Year Funding Details:

- a. Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? Yes
- b. In the previous 5 fiscal years, how many years was funding provided? (Optional) 2
- c. What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded? 2017-18
- d. Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed? Yes
- e. Complete the following Worksheet.

FY:	Input Prior FY Appropriation for this project for FY 2017-18		
	(If appropriated in FY 2017-18 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)		
Column:	A	B	C
Funds Description:	Prior Year Recurring Funds *	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds *	Total Funds Appropriated (Column A + Column B)
Input Amounts:		1,200,000	1,200,000

10. Is future-year funding likely to be requested?

No

11. Program Performance:

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

The specific goal is to bring this donated facility up to public accessibility an fire codes with limited reconfiguration to the interior so it can be brought online as a functioning research center promoting and advancing the conservation of Florida's natural resources through expanded programming and new audiences at the Deering Estate (DE) - benefitting the general public, fulfilling critical field study needs of schools and universities, and driving economic development through public access, programming participation, advanced studies and eco-tourism. The research center will provide for the expansion of the DE's environmental education field study programs in STEM related curriculums and targeted professional research, while also providing enrichment opportunities for DE's existing K-12 experiential learning programs. Additionally, the project will support the advancement and achievement of Goal 2, Objective A.5 and C.7 of the adopted DE's General Management Plan (GMP) 2013-2023.

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

Completion of this project will enable the Deering Estate to: 1) pursue collaborations with universities, researchers, and conservation organizations to improve research and data collection that engenders public support for preserving and protecting the Estate's natural and cultural resources; 2) support regional and statewide partnerships with universities and investments in industry readiness for STEM related careers; 3) continue to develop, enhance and promote use of the site as a center for research to better understand site resources and improve site management practices through adaptive management techniques; 4) drive new



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local, national and international audiences to the Deering Estate generating new revenue streams essential to sustaining this state-owned heritage site.

c. How will the funds be expended?

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs		
<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Salary and Benefits		
<input type="checkbox"/> Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs		
<input type="checkbox"/> Salary and Benefits		
<input type="checkbox"/> Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	\$1,150,000 to support a one time fixed capital outlay, including project management, engineering and permitting, to make required improvements to meet public access and safety codes and renovations reconfiguring the interior to provide for office operations, an archival library and temporary housing for up to 14 researchers; \$100,000 for interior design and furnishings.	1,250,000
TOTAL		1,250,000



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d. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

Expanded engagement opportunities and access to the Deering Estate, a state-owned heritage site and 444-acre coastal public park containing one of the most diverse collections of native habitats (8) and archaeological history combined in a single site, including the Deering Flow Way/Cutler Slough Rehydration Project, funded by Florida RESTORE - a Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan to ensure quantity, quality, distribution and timing of water for natural systems and a growing population.

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

The Deering Estate presently welcomes and serves over 80,000 visitors and program participants each year. This project will greatly expand the Estate's local, regional and international audiences through outreach to and engagement of environmental, cultural, and ecological enthusiasts, universities and academia, professional researchers, eco and archaeological tourists and the general public. Additionally, publications of research being performed on site will penetrate broad media markets and audiences significantly expanding the public's general awareness of this unique site being preserved and stewarded for the public's benefit by the Florida Department of State, Miami-Dade County and the Deering Estate Foundation.

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

Outcome fully leverages this \$4.9M gift of property by expanding the DE natural areas and activating the facility in support of new programming, public engagement and revenue generation advancing economic development, eco-tourism, environmental and archaeological field study and research. Local businesses benefit from the economic impact of related residencies, visiting academia, faculty, eco-tourists and conservationists. Universities benefit by leveraging DE for advanced studies and STEM related career development. The broader public and over 18,000 K-12 students and educators in existing DE learning programs benefit from accessing these high-level research students and professionals. Related research publications will greatly expand awareness of this state-owned heritage site, driving new audiences to DE. Outcomes will be measured by the number of statewide, regional, national, int'l partners/groups/individuals served; and the number of research publications and data sets generated.

g. 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 current standard penalties for non-compliance are adequate.

12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.

The Deering Estate Foundation, Inc. is a charitable 501(C)3 Florida Corporation established in 1989 exclusively serving as the philanthropic arm of the Deering Estate under a formal Operating Agreement with Miami-Dade County. Section 7 of the agreement, entitled Assets, establishes that "All assets, personal property, or real property of the Foundation that were acquired pursuant to this Agreement... shall be held in trust for the use and benefit of the Estate..."

13. Requestor Contact Information:

a. Name: Mary Pettit



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

- b. **Organization:** The Deering Estate Foundation, Inc.
- c. **Email:** mpettit@deeringestate.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (305)235-1668 Ext. 263

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** The Deering Estate Foundation, Inc.
- b. **County:** Miami-Dade
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College
 - Other (Please specify)
- d. **Contact Name:** Mary Pettit
- e. **E-mail Address:** mpettit@deeringestate.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (305)235-1668 Ext. 263

15. If there is a registered lobbyist, fill out the lobbyist information below.

- a. **Name:** Diana Ferguson
- b. **Firm:** Rutledge Acenia
- c. **Email:** dferguson@rutledge-ecenia.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (850)681-6788