



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1512

1. Project Title Expansion of Manatee Rehabilitation at The Bishop Museum of Science and Nature

2. Senate Sponsor Jim Boyd

3. Date of Request 12/02/2021

#### 4. Project/Program Description

The Bishop Museum of Science and Nature has been a leader in manatee care and rehabilitation since 1998 and was a founding member of the Manatee Rescue and Rehabilitation Partnership in 2001. In conjunction with the current crisis Florida manatees are experiencing with a record number of deaths in 2021 and the expectation for the situation to persist for years, FWC and USFWS have asked The Bishop to expand its program. This funding will support that effort and leverage The Bishop's specific expertise with rehabilitating young manatee calves, which in turn expands the overall capacity of the rehabilitation network. Successfully rehabilitating calves is key to the long term recovery of the species which is currently listed as a Threatened Species under the Endangered Species Act.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

State Agency contacted? Yes

#### 6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	372,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	175,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>547,000</b>

#### 7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	547,000	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 2022-2023</b>	<b>547,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 171,000

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

The Museum would need to raise this from private individuals or funding sources.

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



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Yes

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

Manatee County CARES Act: \$27,453.19 for COVID safety supplies (reimbursement for face masks, shields, hand sanitizer, technology for online programs for period of Dec. 2020 to July 2021) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP 1): \$263,100 for employee wages, salaries, and benefits in Nov 2020  
Paycheck Protection Program (PPP 2): \$338,366 for employee wages, salaries, and benefits in March 2021

Shuttered Venue Operators Grant: \$113,732.60 for employee wages, salaries, and benefits in Oct. 2021

#### 11. 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	Lease for off-site facility 12 months @ \$8,000 per month; legal fees of \$20,000	116,000
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Animal Care Staff - 1 full time and 1 part time for 1 year	75,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Radiograph machine for veterinary use @ \$50,000; Temporary calf pool, heater & filtration totaling \$30,000; supplies including skimmer poles & nets, Rubbermaid Totes, feeding materials totaling \$1,000	81,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Veterinary services for 1 year	100,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Upgrade and retrofit life support and facilities for 2 large pools at a licenses off-site facility	175,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>547,000</b>

#### 12. Program Performance

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

Florida's manatees are experiencing a crisis and The Bishop Museum of Science and Nature has been asked by FWC and USFWS to expand its manatee rehabilitation program. The Bishop has been caring for and releasing manatees since 1998 and has specific expertise in caring for young calves. By helping The Bishop expand its program, this funding will also expand the rehabilitation network's overall capacity and help the network strategically maximize use of facilities and resources.

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

The Bishop will either lease and retrofit a portion of an existing facility in Manatee County or retrofit space on the Museum campus, depending on funding. The Bishop will work with the Manatee Rescue and Rehabilitation Partnership to determine which animals will be cared for by Bishop staff and manage facilities accordingly. Additionally, Bishop staff will train and share their expertise with other organizations to enhance capabilities among all members of the rehabilitation partnership. The Bishop also raises awareness of the challenges manatees face and how members of the public can help manatees in need through presentations to Museum visitors and its outreach communications.

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



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A larger number of manatees will be rehabilitated than is currently possible due to increased physical capacity of the rehabilitation network. Training will be provided to less experienced organizations and individuals, enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of the network.

Students from 10 Florida counties visit the Museum annually and will learn about the manatee crisis and ramifications of the decline in seagrass around Florida. This real-life situation is difficult to include in textbooks or formal curricula because of its dynamic nature.

Manatees are a "sentinel species" so things that affect them can eventually affect people. We will show the public that we can help manatees during a crisis, demonstrating that environmental concerns can be addressed and they can make a difference with their individual actions. Human health is directly tied to environmental health so taking action to help manatees now will also enhance human health in the long run.

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

People and manatees in Florida will benefit from this project. Increasing the statewide capacity to rehabilitate more manatees benefits the manatee population in both the short and long term.

Nature-based tourism is a significant part of Florida's tourism economy and manatees are an important component, creating employment and economic opportunities for communities. A healthy manatee population is crucial to this industry. This kind of tourism also educates residents and visitors about the environment and its importance to human health and quality of life, encouraging environmentally friendly behavior to preserve Florida's natural resources.

Our collective cultural experience is enriched by increased awareness of manatees as Florida's state marine mammal, the challenges they face in the wild, the importance of preserving Florida's natural resources and appreciation of the interconnectedness of people, animals and the environment. What's good for manatees is also good for people.

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

More manatees will be rehabilitated and released during a crisis time for manatees, thereby contributing to recovery of this Threatened species as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible. Local citizens will be more aware of how to help manatees during this crisis and know that manatees found on local beaches will be helped.

**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?**

Withholding of recurring funds.

**13. 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.**

Squalus, Inc. is the owner of the facility; Bishop Museum of Science and Nature will lease the facility, manage upgrades/changes to the facility and operate it.



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#### 14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name  Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 15. 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

#### 16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number