



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1671

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The project Miami Dade College submitted focuses on the historically designated Freedom Tower building at the Wolfson Campus in downtown Miami. The Freedom Tower was built in 1925, has 16 stories and roughly 90,000 SF opened a bold new chapter in our community's history when it served as the Cuban Refugee Assistance Center from 1962-1974.

Approaching a century in operation and service, the tower requires refurbishment and enhancements to perpetuate its primacy as a South Florida landmark and cultural destination. The project will correct critical life safety issues, improve several building systems and equipment, ensure compliance with building codes and with Americans with Disabilities Act, improve water and sewer infrastructure, and improve air quality to reduce the risk of viral and environmental health hazards.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	25,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>25,000,000</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)	25,000,000	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>25,000,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future 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.

N/A



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

Yes

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

MDC received \$52,161,213 in U.S. Department of Education (USDE), CARES Act, Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds. As mandated by USDE, \$24,537,369 of these funds were disbursed directly to students. Remaining funds provided financial incentives for enrollment.

#### 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		0
<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	This project can be broken out by various building systems as follows; Envelope \$6,900,000, Interior \$988,906, Mechanical \$28,948, Plumbing \$300,000, Special \$4,080,000, and Structural \$12,620,000.	25,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>25,000,000</b>

#### 12. Program Performance

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

The project is a restoration project of the Freedom Tower. This will include the correct critical life safety issues, improve several building systems and equipment, ensure compliance with building codes and with Americans with Disabilities Act, improve water and sewer infrastructure, and improve air quality to reduce the risk of viral and environmental health hazards. Architectural enhancements with museum-quality displays honoring the history of the Freedom Tower, Cuban American experience and other exiled Diasporas.

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

Perform major, urgent structural repairs, including life safety issues.  
Enhance ADA amenities for over 150,000 Miami residents with disabilities.  
Architectural enhancements for the ceremonial Mural Room floor with museum-quality displays honoring the Cuban American experience and other exiled Diasporas.  
Improve water and sewer infrastructure, including MEP enabling works for future revenue-generating F&B operation.  
Mitigate environmental deficiencies.  
Designed to publish a newspaper, building needs museum standard climate control and security enhancements.

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



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The historic Freedom Tower is the hub for arts and culture for Miami Dade College and the greater South Florida community - this includes Miami Dade College's over 120,000 students and over 100,000 community patrons annually. The Freedom Tower is a cultural destination featuring the Museum of Art and Design, MDC's Special Collections Galleries, the Cuban Legacy Gallery, Exile Experience, and the Kislak Center. The Miami Book Fair, Miami Film Festival, and Live Arts Miami performing arts series operate from the Freedom Tower, creating year-round exceptional cultural value throughout the city.

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

In all, Freedom Tower contains more than 30,000 square feet of museum-quality exhibition space, showcasing more than 2,800 artifacts and artwork. Through its events and programs, the tower reaches 120,000 MDC students and 400,000 residents who walk its hallowed halls annually.

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

These upgrades will continue the tower's mission of serving the community as a cultural destination that features the Museum of Art and Design, MDC's Special Collections Galleries, the Cuban Legacy Gallery, Exile Experience and the Kislak Center.

**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?**

None

**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.**

Miami Dade College is the owner and operator of the Freedom Tower.



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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