



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 2542

1. Project Title Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens Manatee Gateway Experience

2. Senate Sponsor Aaron Bean

3. Date of Request 01/24/2022

## 4. Project/Program Description

Funds will help construct the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens' (JZG) proposed \$30M Manatee Gateway experience entrance, which will include the Manatee River Exhibit, a "first and final impressions exhibit" featuring Florida's most iconic aquatic, threatened mammal. Through an engaging, immersive, naturalistic design, guests will be welcomed and awed by the unique beauty of manatees and fellow animal inhabitants, while they learn of the Zoo's critical regional role plays in conservation and preservation efforts. The world-class habitat further supports the optimal level of care offered to injured and orphaned manatees recovering under the watchful eye of the Zoo's Mammal and Animal Health teams. JZG is the premier conservation and education family destination for North Florida with more than 1 million visits annually. It is a valued community resource inspiring and connecting people to the value of plants and animals, and helping folk live better with their wildlife neighbors.

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

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	500,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>500,000</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)	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 2022-2023</b>	<b>500,000</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. 500,000

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

Unknown at this time



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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.

The JZG received 5,217,361.60 from the Covid Cares Act; 2,146,413.00 from the PPP Loan Forgiveness; 25,000.00 from the American Rescue Plan Grant; 8,163,913.68 from the SVOG Grant. These funds were used to upgrade and purchase items to mitigate the spread and keep the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens safely open and operable. These mitigation processes and purchases not only were for humans but also for our animals.

#### 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	Construction of Manatee Gateway and Manatee River Exhibit Entrance	500,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>500,000</b>

#### 12. Program Performance

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

A full-service, awe-inspiring entrance experience is both critical for setting the tone for our guests' visit as well as for the financial health of the Zoo. On average, more than 70 percent of operating revenue is generated at the entrance; therefore with increased visitors to the manatee experience, JZG will be able to educate more Floridians on how to better protect manatees and conserve their habitats. An engaging and thought-provoking arrival experience has proven to be a successful business strategy for other zoos and aquariums, and increased revenues translates directly to increased conservation support.

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

The new Manatee Gateway will create a more efficient, productive and satisfying and informed guest experience, ushering in Floridians to the Manatee River habitat that will be used in the progressive rehabilitation of injured and orphaned manatees in the Northeast Florida region who were rescued and transported to our Manatee Critical Care Center (MCCC). Following medical treatment, the manatees will be housed in the Manatee River habitat to convalesce and recover for release back to the wild. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the US Fish and Wildlife Service fully support JZG's additional capacity to save and protect one of Florida's most iconic heritage species and unique cultural treasures—the manatee.

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



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Citizens will be taught about the Zoo's critical regional role it plays in conservation and preservation efforts for the injured and orphaned manatees. Additionally, citizens will be educated on how to save and protect one of Florida's most iconic heritage species and unique cultural treasures—the manatee. Some main learning goals include: the legal protection of the manatee as an endangered species, their environment of freshwater, brackish, and saltwater habitats; food sources including vegetation and seagrass; and most importantly was actions these visitors can take to save the manatees now that they are educated and the experience has caused the visitors to care about these Florida treasures.

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

All Zoo visitors are expected to be served which include elderly, persons with poor mental and physical health, economically disadvantaged persons, at-risk youth (especially through field trips with local schools), developmentally disabled, preschool students, and grade/high/college school students. Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is the premier conservation and education family destination for North Florida with more than 1 million visits annually and growing.

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

The outcome of the project is an entrance for the Manatee River Experience that will draw visitors in as a gateway experience at at the Zoo. This experience will educate visitors and the ultimate goal is that more of Florida's manatees are protected, cared for, and saved. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the US Fish and Wildlife Service fully support JZG's additional capacity to save and protect one of Florida's most iconic heritage species and unique cultural treasures—the manatee.

**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?**

Return of the funds if not used.

**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.**

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, a non profit 501 (c) (3) will receive funding to build the entrance for the Manatee Gateway Experience.



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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