



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1234

1. Project Title MOSI's Digital Dome Theatre Classroom Expansion

2. Senate Sponsor Jay Collins

3. Date of Request 1/28/2025

#### 4. Project/Program Description

MOSI's new Digital Dome Theatre and Planetarium opens in 2025 as the 2ND largest planetarium in the US, bringing an educational and economic development driver to the USF/Uptown Region of Tampa. While the dome and public areas have been renovated using a combination of private and local funds, MOSI seeks state funding to renovate former gallery space into adjacent classrooms so that visiting school groups can benefit from a planetarium show and an educator-led classroom experience during the same field trip. Accessibility issues, including additional bathrooms and wayfinding/lighting are also needed in this space.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Education

State Agency contacted? Yes

#### 6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	476,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>476,000</b>

#### 7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	476,000	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 2025-2026</b>	<b>476,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

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

9. Is future-year 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.



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## Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

### 10. 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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

06/01/25

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

11/30/25

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

General operating revenues generated through admissions and group sales.

11. 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.

Hillsborough County, which owns the building and leases it to MOSI.

### 12. 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</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	Planning and construction to convert former gallery space into classrooms so visiting school groups can benefit from a planetarium show and an educator-led classroom experience during the same field trip.	476,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>476,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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

Planetarium-adjacent classrooms will allow MOSI to host field trips from all Hillsborough (and neighboring) School District schools for space science education, wherein the schools can visit the Planetarium and participate in educator-led programming in one visit. Without these expanded classrooms and amenities, many groups would have to choose between these distinct, yet equally beneficial, educational opportunities.



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

Existing vacant gallery space will be converted into modular classrooms for group teaching, summer and break camps, computer labs, and other group assembly.

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

MOSI will be able to expand the level and scope of its group educational programming to all student groups through this expansion.

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

All MOSI visitors will now have access to this Planetarium and the adjacent spaces, with an expected 250,000 visitors in year one alone.

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

Expanded classrooms will allow MOSI to see more than three times the number of students on field trips daily, allowing all Hillsborough schools to attend in a given year, while still accommodating growth in neighboring counties.

**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 in the contract?**

Failure to spend the funds for the described purpose could result in the funds being recalled.

**14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?**

**a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?**

- ☐ Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- ☐ Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- ☐ Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

**b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):**

**15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?**

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:**

**b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:**

**16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?**



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LFIR # 1234

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

#### 17. Requester Contact Information

- a. First Name  Last Name
- b. Organization
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 18. 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  Ext.

#### 19. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. Name
- b. Firm Name
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number



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*The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.*