



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1024

1. Project Title

Morikami Museum and Japanese Garden Expansion - Morikami Amanohashidate Bridge

2. Senate Sponsor

Lori Berman

3. Date of Request

10/20/2025

4. Project/Program Description

The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens is an internationally celebrated and locally loved attraction that will celebrate its 50th anniversary in the near future. The Amanohashidate (bridge to heaven) garden expansion at the Morikami Museum will enhance the attraction of the facility and the experience of attendees, boosting the local economy in many ways. With over 200,000 annual visitors, the expansion will increase visitation from across the nation and internationally increasing tourism in the local economy. The garden expansion is consistent with the destination's master plan benefiting residents and visitors as the institution continues to build a bridge between Japan and South Florida.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

Department of State

State Agency contacted?

No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,500,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,500,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,500,000	50%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	3,000,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2025-26	0	500,000	1303	Yes

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

Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

2,000,000

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

County funds could be utilized to supplement project funding.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1024

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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

02/01/2027

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

03/01/2028

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

Local Ad Valorem maintenance funding

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.

The is a Palm Beach County owned facility

12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Consultant services for the construction of the Amanohashidate (bridge to heaven) garden expansion consistent with the county's mater plan.	1,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,500,000

13. Program Performance

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

Funding for the Amanohashidate Garden phase 1 expansion at the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens is essential as the museum approaches its 50th anniversary in 2027. With over 200,000 annual visitors, the expansion will enhance the visitor experience, attract national and international tourism, boost the local economy, and preserve the museum's century-old mission of fostering cultural understanding between Japan and Florida.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1024

Activity undertaken in this project would be the construction of the aforementioned infrastructure at the Morikami Museum and Japanese Garden.

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

The direct service provided by this project is enhanced infrastructure that would drive economic and tourism benefits, as well as provide a community with an increased cultural drive.

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

The target population for the project's outcome are citizens of Florida, including the 200,000 annual visitors that enjoy the unique Morikami site and gain a greater understanding of Japan and its relationship to South Florida. More specifically, the project targets visitors to Florida and Palm Beach County discovering this connection while supporting our local economy. The project will provide for an expansion that will allow for an increase in visitor capacity at the museum and gardens.

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

The expected outcome of the project would be a sizable increase in visitation to the Japanese garden that would drive provide positive economic benefits to the local community through tourism. Data collection surveys would be utilized to note several categories, including physical health, mental health, cultural experience. Additionally, the county would track visitation data as it relates to increased tourism and economic activity.

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 meet deliverables would result in a return of funding to the state.

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:



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1024

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

- ☐ 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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1024

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

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