



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1227

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Construction of a scene and design shop at the Ritz Theater to provide space for set construction and storage. A dedicated space for set construction will reduce the amount of time the theater has to be dark due to set construction that currently occurs on state. Thus, this will increase the capacity for shows at the theater.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	250,000
Total State Funds Requested	250,000

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)	250,000	58%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	180,000	42%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	430,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

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?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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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?

3/1/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

9/30/2026

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

Ongoing ticket and rental revenue from shows at the theater fund the ongoing operations and maintenance. Set construction is funded through our annual budget and scene shop will make set construction more economical through reuse of material that can be stored, and revenue will increase from additional data available for shows.

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.

Ritz Community Project, Inc. d.b.a. The Ritz Theater at the Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center

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	The full cost will go toward the construction cost of the building including but not limited to blueprints, material, engineering and construction.	250,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		250,000

13. Program Performance

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

The theater will construct a dedicated design and scene shop to provide space for set construction and storage. Currently sets are built on stage (preventing use of the theater), off site, or outside. Shows will have more time for construction since it will not close the theater, and more elaborate sets can be constructed. The shop will also provide an educational component for our student performers.

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



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Construction of the approximately 1,000 square foot shop with room for construction and storage of sets.

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

Improved set design, additional access to theater performances, education of youth and adult set designers.

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

Both the performers and crew and the show patrons will be served by the project. The theater currently has over 30,000 patrons attend shows throughout the season.

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

Improved set design and construction improved revenue through additional show date availability. Results will be measured through post event surveys for set quality, and increased revenue and increased number of shows for date availability.

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?

Refund of appropriation.

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)?

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received



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☐ 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.