



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1474

1. Project Title Leon County Southern Shakespeare Company

2. Senate Sponsor Corey Simon

3. Date of Request 11/10/2025

#### 4. Project/Program Description

Southern Shakespeare Company is seeking state appropriations to expand the reach of our Free Shakespeare in the Park Festival to an event recognized state-wide and to fulfill our mission to maximize reach to the underrepresented students throughout the state of Florida. Our focus remains on delivery of educational resources and performing arts experiences that support the Florida BEST standards (English Language Arts).

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	350,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>350,000</b>

#### 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)	350,000	46%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	114,000	15%
Other	292,400	39%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>756,400</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.

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)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

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

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.

#### 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	Salary for a full-time Education Director and full-time Artistic Director	85,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Additional teaching artists and educational/performing staff	40,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Temperature controlled storage services for costumes and electrical equipment -Marketing study and consultation services	45,000
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel for expanded Education Programming including vehicle rental, cast and crew travel costs, production equipment hauling expenses, Lighting and Sound Equipment for our Free Shakespeare in the Park event, Set and costume purchases for inventory building, including armory and set equipment.	180,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>350,000</b>

#### 13. Program Performance

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

Southern Shakespeare Company is seeking state appropriations to expand the reach of our Free Shakespeare in the Park Festival to an event recognized state-wide and to fulfill our mission to maximize reach to the underrepresented students throughout the state of Florida. Our focus remains on delivery of educational resources and performing arts experiences that support the Florida BEST standards (English Language Arts).



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

Southern Shakespeare Company will produce multiple theatrical events which are made widely accessible to the community and attractive to visitors. We will also develop and provide a multitude of educational resources such as workshops, camps, field trip opportunities, and training sessions for teachers, students, and members of the community.

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

With shuttles to and from handicap parking areas, a designated American Sign Language interpreted performance, free entry to our Festival and our newest endeavor to include a described performance for the visually impaired, Southern Shakespeare Company continues to work to foster the accessibility and availability of our programming to the entire community. We work year-round in title I schools.

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

Southern Shakespeare Company engages with over 50,000 individuals yearly including those from the elderly community, economically disadvantaged, at-risk youth, physically disabled individuals, students, and incarcerated persons.

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

Improved mental health, enrichment from cultural experiences, improved quality of education, increased economic activity and tourism - measured through Downes & St. Germain Economic Impact Reports, post-event surveys and focus-groups held with educators and students.

**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 will result in the return of the funds.

**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#:**



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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
- ☐ 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



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b. Firm Name

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.*