

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT | February 2024**  
**STATE ADVOCACY UPDATE**

**ARTS ADVOCACY for the FY25 Legislative Session**  
*The Arts & Culture Build Florida: Every District, Every Day*

For the State of Florida’s FY25 budget cycle, there are **864 programs and projects** recommended for funding through the Division of Arts & Culture totaling **\$77,343,303**. This includes arts & culture funding for organizations, individual artists, capital projects and endowments. **Leon County has 33 recommended grants at \$2,141,119 (see attached)**

**FY25 legislative session dates: Jan 9- Mar 8, 2024**

**Advocate!** Send an email, write a letter or call your legislators with this message:  
*“Fully fund the Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture’s vetted, recommended list of grants”.*

Capital City region legislators

HOUSE: Representative Franklin Gallop | franklin.gallop @myfloridahouse.gov & (850) 717-5009  
 Representative Allison Tant | allison.tant@myfloridahouse.gov & (850) 717-5009

[LETTER TEMPLATE FOR THE HOUSE](#)

SENATE: Senator Corey Simmon | taylor.devonique@flsenate.gov (aide) & (850) 487-5003

[LETTER TEMPLATE FOR THE SENATE](#)



**THE LATEST DEPT OF ARTS & CULTURE  
 GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS**



NAME	FULL FUNDING RECOMMENDATION	SENATE BUDGET BILL SB2500	HOUSE BUDGET BILL HB5001
Cultural & Museum	\$54,436,991	\$9,877,749 (Line 3260A)	\$35,306,453 (Line 3260B)
Culture Builds Florida	\$4,251,098	N/A	\$ 4,251,098 (Line 3260A)
Cultural & Facilities	\$14,095,214	\$14,095,214	\$0 (Line 3266A)
Cultural Endowment	\$4,560,000	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$77,343,303</b>	<b>\$23,972,963</b>	<b>\$39,557,551</b>
# of Grants	864 Programs & Projects	Released February 8, 2024	

When you communicate by phone, email, letter or in-person, **say what's important in a positive way.**

**The Arts & Culture Build Florida: Every District, Every Day**

- **Say thank you for past support.**
- **Say what's important in a positive way.**  
Share statistics & stories of the positive impact arts & culture has on you, your family and community.
- **Be consistent** and ask to *"Fully fund the Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture's vetted, recommended list of grants"*.
- **Share how valuable a fully funded grant is** in helping maintain, deepen, increase that impact.
- **Say thank you again.**

Full platform book is [here!](#)

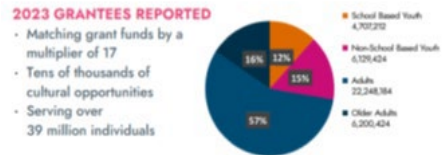
If you have any questions or need help preparing for advocacy, contact the **Council on Culture & Arts (COCA)** at [info@tallahasseearts.org](mailto:info@tallahasseearts.org) and 850-224-250 x2 or the **Florida Cultural Alliance (FCA)** at [info@fca.net](mailto:info@fca.net) and 850-296-8079.



**VETTED • ACCOUNTABLE • IMPACTFUL**

All 864 Arts and Culture Grants are:

- Screened for eligibility by Department of State staff.
- Scored and ranked by peers, subject matter experts & non arts professionals.
- Reviewed by the Council on Arts and Culture after panel rankings.
- Required to Match Funds (from 1:1 to 10:1 depending on budget)
- Required to Report quarterly and annually



**9 : 1 ROI** In the recent economic impact study in partnership with Americans for the Arts, \$369 million in local and state taxes were generated as a result of this \$5.8 billion industry. The state's \$41 million in grants provided during that study period leveraged those tax revenues.

AEPD Florida Study

**FEDERAL & LOCAL ADVOCACY UPDATE**

**FEDERAL:** NEA, NEH & Funding for Arts Agency FY25 budget recommendations intact

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/news-room/americans-for-the-arts-news>

**LOCAL:** The City did not allocate additional funds for the FY24 Cultural Grant program in their FY24 budget. In September, as part of its annual program plan update, COCA submitted a request with the County, with the City copied, to use TDT for a portion of its general operating support, then re-grant that portion of general operating revenue through the FY24 Cultural Grant program. This request aligned with the County contract and the Cultural Plan. In late October, the County responded, requesting more information. COCA responded and continues to work with the County and City.

**OTHER FEDERAL: ARTS + SOCIAL IMPACT EXPLORER** <https://ww2.americansforthearts.org/explorer>

**Ongoing Creative Economy Legislation:**

- **AEOF/Arts Education for All Act (HR 5581)** supports universal arts ed from pre-K through 12th grade.
- **CREATE Act (HR 6381 / S.3521)** aligns policy to serve those that make our creative economy prosper.
- **PLACE Act (HR 6569 / S.3560)** bolsters local creative economies and workers in creative industries.
- **CERA/Creative Economy Revitalization Act (HR 5019 / S. 2858)** grants-creative workers/public projects.
- **PATPA/Performing Artist Tax Parity Act of 2021 (S. 2872)** for arts workers to deduct business expenses.
- **21CFWP/21st Century Federal Writers Project Act (HR 3054)** will authorize a new grant program & create a nationally administered archives for the commissioned writing.
- **STAR/Saving Transit Arts Resources Act (HR 2380)** local transit authorities control art/non-functional landscaping in federally funded transit projects and historical/heritage

## Leon 33 Grants \$2,141,119

### **Cultural and Museum Grants**

621 Gallery, Inc.	\$26,755
Enhanceability	\$18,400
Florida Art Education Association, Incorporated	\$40,000
Florida Association of Museums Foundation, Inc.	\$71,220
Florida School Music Association, Incorporated	\$64,958
Florida State University Museum of Fine Art	\$90,000
Goodwood Museum and Gardens, Inc.	\$90,000
John Gilmore Center for African American History and Culture	\$54,166
Lemoyne Art Foundation, Inc.	\$90,000
Making Light Productions	\$62,750
Opening Nights	\$146,684
Southern Shakespeare Company, Inc.	\$40,000
Tallahassee Little Theatre, Inc.	\$76,100
Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science, Inc.	\$150,000
Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, Inc.	\$145,115
<a href="#">Tallahassee-Leon County Cultural Resources Commission</a>	\$134,348
The District Board of Trustees of Tallahassee Community College	\$123,000
The Florida Music Education Association, Inc.	\$96,910
The Tallahassee Bach Parley, Inc.	\$31,656
The Tallahassee Ballet, Inc.	\$114,552
The Tallahassee Community Chorus Inc.	\$25,000
The Ringling at FSU	\$150,000
Young Actors Theatre of Tallahassee, Inc.	\$90,000

### **Culture Builds Florida**

Ben Gunter	\$25,000
Florida State Fiddlers Association	\$10,000
Haiqiong Deng	\$20,000
Meredith Lynn	\$21,855
Perdita Ross	\$7,650
Springtime Tallahassee Festival, Inc.	\$25,000
Tallahassee Urban League, Inc.	\$25,000
The Artist Series of Tallahassee, Inc.	\$25,000
The Southeast Review	\$25,000
Theater with a Mission, Inc.	\$25,000

- **To fully fund Leon County's Culture Builds Florida Grants, \$4,251,098 must be appropriated.**

## FY24 CHECK-IN | FEBRUARY 2024

### Highlights from the FY24 COCA Plan

#### ARTISTIC | Keep art at the center of who we are & what we do.

- COCA 101: Strengthen COCA's brand locally, regionally and nationally  
*Workshops, webinars, social media & website updates & improvements*
- Integrate the Bicentennial into standard programming  
*Exhibitions, educational programs, grant programs, task force initiatives, County-initiatives*

#### COLLABORATION | Deepen & broaden partnerships; build arts & culture across sectors

- CRA- Mural Matchmaking project
- Independence Landing – new gallery space
- College of Music, FSU – community music collaborations
- Domi, Visit Tallahassee, TFS & COCA- Stop @ The Station
- Division of Arts & Culture- Black History Festival
- Fund Your Idea workshop- cross-sector workshop
- AEP6 luncheon & site visits- cross-sector representation
- With BOD- Schedule Creating Spaces events

#### ORGANIZATIONAL | Staff & organizational management

##### Local Arts Agency (LAA) statute

- Continue to follow Local Art Agency statute (LAA)  
*LAA Summit- April 2024*  
*AEP6 presentation- with Division of Arts & Culture*
- Team building with COCA staff, board & community  
*Staff retreat; breakfast; shows*
- Continue to implement hybrid officing, modernizing operations & building co-working excellence  
*Ongoing improvements based on programming and staff needs*
- Develop KPI reports (ongoing)
- With Board of Directors- Continue to active DEI plan
- Advocacy:  
NATIONAL: Expanded grant programs from other federal depts & FY25 budget  
STATE: Ask for full funding for FY25 DAC grant cycle @ \$77,343,303 for 864 grants  
LOCAL: AEP6 & long-term plan for non-TDT funding pool for FY25 & beyond

#### FACILITY | Activate hybrid officing; explore various office uses to best meet COCA/community needs

- More general storage space is needed to expand office use

#### FINANCIAL | Continue diversifying revenue; seek new funding for programs, services & operations

- Find resources for new Cultural Plan & COCA Cultural Grant (community programs)

#### PROGRAMS & SERVICES | Align implementation to strategies & priorities

- Launch AEP6 Arts & Economic Prosperity results  
*October 2023 residency with Randy Cohen*
- New Public Art & Art in Public Places, Arts Education activities - City Hall/Artport Gallery; pop-ups;  
*Exhibitions- see "Artistic" and "Collaborations"*
- Broaden & develop new workshops, webinars, consultations & programs that align with community need  
*COCA 101; Bicentennial workshops; Fund Your Idea workshop;*
- Activate COCA Bicentennial plan; participate in Bicentennial committee, task force & events
- Develop COCA's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary plan for 2025  
*Program and special initiatives brainstorming Jan 2024*

#### MEMBERSHIP | Reach 300 members; improve incentive packages

- *Sach Media internship project- recommendations for program growth*
- *Maintaining 300 members*
- *Board of Directors: Build out membership & recruit new board member*