



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT | March 2024
STATE ADVOCACY RESULTS

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



FINAL APPROPRIATION FOR ARTS FUNDING



NAME	FULL FUNDING RECOMMENDATION	FINAL APPROPRIATION	PERCENTAGE/ RANK
Cultural & Museum	\$54,436,991	\$26,000,000	47% Funding
Cultural & Facilities	\$14,095,214	\$6,047,838	Funds first 15 grants in the ranked list
TOTAL	\$32,047,838		

Released March 5, 2024

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

On March 5th, the final recommendations from the House and Senate were confirmed. A total of **\$32,047,838** was appropriated for Cultural & Museums & Cultural & Facilities line items. **For Leon County, this funding may cover 23 grants at \$907,859.** Funding distribution is contingent on approval from the governor and distribution recommendations from the Division of Arts & Culture.

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. The plan has been resubmitted twice and is currently under review.

OTHER FEDERAL: ARTS + SOCIAL IMPACT EXPLORER <https://ww2.americansforthearts.org/explorer>
Ongoing Creative Economy Legislation:

- **AEAF/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

2024 LEGISLATIVE RESULTS

Leon 33 Grants \$2,141,119 requested

Leon 23 Grants \$ 907,859 recommended (not confirmed)

(47% of \$1,931,614 for Cultural & Museum)

Cultural and Museum Grants- funded @ 47%

	Requested
621 Gallery,	\$26,755
Inc.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
Tallahassee-Leon County Cultural Resources Commission	\$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 – recommended @ 0%~~

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 | MARCH 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 40th 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*

