



COUNCIL ON CULTURE & ARTS | TALLAHASSEE/LEON COUNTY

Robert Wiggins
Office of Resource Management
City Hall
City of Tallahassee
300 S Adams St
Tallahassee, FL 32301

DRAFT

April 18, 2024

Dear Robert,

Since 1985, the City of Tallahassee and the Council on Culture & Arts (COCA) have partnered to support and build an arts, culture and heritage community. As the designated local arts agency for the City, County and Capital City region, COCA has serviced residents, visitors, businesses, institutions and organizations, aligning with its statutory charter, the changing needs and designated priorities of the City and our community. COCA and its board of directors are grateful for the support the City has provided and proud of the work we've accomplished together.

The continuation of programs and services has crucial impact on economic development, tourism, education youth development other key City priorities. As the City of Tallahassee prepares for its FY25 budget cycle, COCA and its Board of Directors request the following considerations:

- Over the past 15 years, the administrative fee for service of \$192,036 has not changed. Accumulated inflation since September 2009 has been 45%. With this impact, plus the the rising costs of housing, insurance and other COLA factors, COCA requests at least a partial Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to inflation or 30% at \$57,611 to its FY25 contract.
- A return to a dedicated funding source for the Cultural Grant program- Local Community Grants. COCA requests \$300,000 over two years, with the option to allocate \$150,000 a year for FY25 and FY26. As COCA has demonstrated in the past, the agency will match this dedicated funding, in part, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

As COCA embarks upon its 40th year of service in 2025, we appreciate your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Spehar', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathleen Spehar, Executive Director
Council on Culture & Arts (COCA)
kathleen@tallahasseearts.org
850-224-2500 x2

Dan Taylor, Chair, Board of Directors
Council on Culture & Arts (COCA)

Council on Culture & Arts (COCA)
816 S. ML King Jr. Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32301

(850) 224-2500 office
info@tallahasseearts.org email
tallahasseearts.org website

