



The Martin County Tourist Development Council stands behind the "FUND the A List" advocacy campaign as we recognize the economic value and important element that arts organizations bring to our region. "Fund the A List" is designed to inform and educate about the vital role the arts play in our communities and how the arts contribute to Florida's economy and tourism.

Tourism is the number one industry in Florida, and the opportunities created by arts organizations help us attract a larger visitor base, resulting in an increase in tourism expenditures. This increase in tourism dollars helps create new jobs and improves the quality of life for our county, region and state.

Florida's investment in Division of Cultural Affairs Matching Grants has declined by 93 percent in the past five years. Investment by the state is of paramount importance to the sustainability of the arts community, as well as the positive economic impact the industry, as a whole, brings to our county and the entire region. Developing strong cultural programs helps communities create a sense of place, generating a positive impact on tourism retention and growth.

The legacy of old Florida lives on in Martin County, where dance, music, theatre, visual arts and historic preservation embody the timeless character of our area. The Martin County Tourist Development Council commends and supports the arts organizations across the Treasure Coast that have joined together to create the "Fund the A List" initiative. If you need further assistance, please contact me at (772) 288-5445.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a horizontal line that loops back under itself and then extends to the right.

Commissioner Doug Smith  
Chair, Martin County Tourism Development Council