



November 5, 2018

Position Statement in Support of Funding Arts and Culture in Florida

The Economic Council of Martin County strongly supports fully funding Arts and Culture in Florida.

The mission of the Economic Council of Martin County is to ensure Martin County is a sustainable, quality community. Restoring full funding of the matching grants which receive full vetting and approval through the Division of Cultural Affairs will help us accomplish our mission. Arts and culture provide a strong and irreplaceable contribution to the social, economic, built and natural environments that make up a sustainable community.

Along with top rated-schools and outstanding healthcare, arts and culture is consistently a key factor for businesses and residents seeking to relocate in Martin County. Our vibrant arts community creates a destination for visitors, an economic engine for our region and a rich quality of life for residents. The new era of environmentally-friendly “Eco-Art” has brought a new sensitivity to one of our largest, political issues; the natural environment.

Florida’s investment in the Division of Cultural Affairs Matching Grants has declined 93% in just five years, as the Florida economy has grown 35%. Investment by the state is critical to the sustainability of the arts community and the positive impact it has on our entire community and economy. Investing in arts and culture is clearly a good decision with a return of \$9.00 for every \$1.00 spent.

The Economic Council of Martin County commends and supports the arts organizations that have come together to create “**Fund the A List**”, the statewide campaign to petition the Florida Legislature to restore full funding of the matching grants vetted and approved by the Division of Cultural Affairs.

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