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MARTIN
COUNTY
REALTORS®
TREASURE COAST



Members of the Martin County REALTORS® of the Treasure Coast embrace our unofficial role as ambassadors for our great community.

From the beauty of our beaches and natural resources to the quality of our schools to our award-winning public-safety services, we enjoy introducing people to our wonderful community and watching them fall in love with its small-town charm.

A key aspect to our community's appeal—every community's appeal, frankly—is evident in its artistic and cultural expressions. But cultivation of the arts requires investment. Unfortunately, and due largely to understandable spending adjustments and fiscal belt-tightening following the economic downturn, Florida's investment in matching grants for the Division of Cultural Affairs has dramatically declined over the last five years, diminishing from \$43 million a year to less than \$3 million a year—a drop of more than 90 percent.

We are seeking your support for the Fund the A List effort to restore full investment in essential arts and cultural programs made possible through the Division of Cultural Affairs' grants and endowments. Such programs, which first undergo careful review not only from the Division of Cultural Affairs but also the Department of State and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, prove sound investments.

Each year, nearly 70 million out-of-state tourists and Floridians enjoy cultural events together. Studies show that the No. 2 motivation cited for both out-of-state and in-state tourism is credited to cultural interests. This benefits more than 58,000 arts-related businesses in Florida, supporting the more than 227,000 people these businesses employ. Overall, economic analyses show every \$1 invested in the cultural arts yield returns of \$9 to the local economy. Without question, in addition to cultural edification, homeowners across Florida reap the value of such programs in property-value increases—as do the tax bases of local governments.

We hope you agree with our assessment that by every standard this is sound economic development, worthwhile reinvestment of taxpayer resources, and well deserving of full restoration.

Thank you so much for your service and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Gonzalez". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a blue oval.

John Gonzalez
President