

MEMORANDUM

September 24, 2019

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners

VIA: Kenneth Fields, City Manager

FROM: Jennifer D'hollander, Museum Director

RE: Florida Humanities Council Speaker Series Grant

SYNOPSIS:

A grant application to the Florida Humanities Council for \$1000. The grant would require a 1:1 matching city contribution of \$1,000 in fiscal year 2019-2020. The Museum will cover the cost of the match from monies allocated towards museum programming, marketing, museum supplies, and staffing in its 2019 – 2020 budget.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Commission approve a grant application to the Florida Humanities Council for funding that will be allocated to the new 2019 – 2020 Speaker Series. The FHC Speaker Series will feature five engaging talks with expert historians, storytellers, researchers, and authors. The program provides funding, promotional support, and capacity-building opportunities for organizations interested in hosting. The grant will provide funds to underwrite speaker fees, travel, mileage, and a portion of advertising.

BACKGROUND:

The Florida Humanities Council sponsors community based projects, facilitates important conversations among Floridians, and shines a spotlight on Florida's history, art, and culture. Established in 1973, FHC is an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For over forty years we have developed and funded public programs that tell the stories of both Florida and those unique individuals that call this state their home. FHC is funded by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs.

If our application is approved, the grant money will be used to help underwrite a portion of the speaker fees for the series. Earlier this year, state funding was cut 100% to fully underwrite these grant programs, however; a portion of funding is now available to help support the museum's programmatic expenses.

The grant program is a renewable annual award with an approved application. Any grant funds received from this application would be applicable from January 1 – June 1, 2020. The grant requires a minimum 1:1 match of funds. The Museum will cover the cost of the match from monies allocated towards museum programming, marketing, museum supplies, and staffing in its 2019 – 2020 budget.

OTHER OPTIONS:

Do not apply for this grant. No appropriations needed.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Staff is requesting to host a series of speakers at the Lake Wales History Museum in 2019 – 2020. A portion of funds to carry out the speaker series would come from the Florida Humanities Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

Draft grant application
Fiscal impact statement