



Committee Scoring for the Alachua County Nature and Culture Destination Enhancement Grant Program

Alachua County Administration Building, 12 SE 1st Street, Second Floor

Grace Knight Conference Room

September 30, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

Scoring committee members:

- Gina Peebles, Assistant County Manager/Chief of Staff; Liaison to the Alachua County Arts Council
- Carol Velasques Richardson, Cultural Affairs Manager for the City of Gainesville
- Mark Sexton, Communications Director and Evaluation Team Leader

2. Grant Scoring – Committee members read their scores for grant submittals.

Gina Peebles moved to approve:

- a. Committee scores and funding recommendations totaling \$1,395,403.67.
- b. Recommend that staff work with the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute on an Event Sponsorship in place of a grant this year.
- c. Recommend that the balance of the \$1.6 million in funding (\$204,596.33) be used to assist with budget impacts created by State of Florida funding cuts for organizations that meet the following criteria: recommended for a FY25 Nature and Culture Destination Enhancement Grant; private (non-educationally based) arts and culture non-profit; and approved for a FY25 State funding appropriation which was vetoed in the current State of Florida budget. The amount was calculated to provide each of the 8 qualifying groups 32.5% of their lost state funding.

The motion was seconded by Carol Velasques Richardson; and unanimously approved.

3. Scoring Committee Comments

Scoring committee members thanked the applicants for their on-going efforts in producing arts, nature and cultural programming in our community.

4. Public Comment

Multiple members of the public spoke and thanked the Board of County Commissioners, Visit Gainesville, Alachua County staff, and the scoring committee members for their ongoing support of the Nature and Culture Destination Enhancement grant program.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.