

City of Palm Coast, Florida Agenda Item

Agenda Date: October 13, 2026

Agenda Item: E.2

Department	PARKS AND RECREATION	Amount	\$85,392.00
Division	PARKS AND RECREATION	Org/Account #	10016016-082003
Subject:	RESOLUTION 2026-XX APPROVING THE CULTURAL ART GRANTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027		
Presenter:	Brittany McDermott, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Julia Truilo, Flagler County Cultural Council Treasurer		
Attachments:	1. Presentation 2. Resolution 3. Applications (8), available in the Clerk's office for review		
Background:	Since 2002, the City of Palm Coast has offered the Cultural Art Financial Assistance Matching Grant program to support Flagler County organizations that provide history, arts, and cultural programs and events within city limits. The program enhances the quality of life for residents and visitors and strengthens the City's reputation as an innovative cultural center. In 2022, the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners designated the Flagler County Cultural Council (FC3) as the countywide Arts Council, also known as a Local Arts Agency. FC3 serves as an umbrella organization supporting and promoting arts, history, and culture throughout Flagler County. In 2024, the City of Palm Coast partnered with FC3 to administer the Cultural Art Grant program. Through this partnership, FC3 coordinates the application and review process and provides funding recommendations for City Council's consideration. For Fiscal Year 2026–2027, eight applications were submitted for review. An FC3 committee evaluated each application to ensure it met the program's eligibility criteria. All eight organizations, listed in the attached presentation, have been recommended for funding to support history, arts, and cultural programs and events within Palm Coast. The grant funding recommendations are attached for City Council's review.		

Recommended Action:

APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-XX APPROVING THE CULTURAL ART GRANTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027



FLAGLER COUNTY CULTURAL COUNCIL

flaglerartsandculture.org

OUR MISSION

ADVOCACY

Present a strong, unified voice for the interests of the arts and humanities in Flagler County.



FOSTER COLLABORATION

Serve as the connecting entity to encourage arts and humanities partnerships in the community.



SUPPORT

Provide financial, promotional, and marketing support.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Maintain engagement with local and state officials.



Be the trusted source for information, resources, and promotion of the arts and humanities in Flagler County.



Establish a Granting Program



Provide promotional and marketing support.



Award scholarships and sponsorships for arts and humanities education.

Flagler County Cultural Council
120 Airport Rd. Ste. 3
Palm Coast, FL 32164
386-313-4229
www.flaglerartsandculture.org

Board of Directors



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Danielle Anderson, Chair
Denise Garcia, Vice Chair
Julia Truilo, Treasurer
Ken Bryan, Director
Lawson Glasergreen, Director
Greg Feldman, Director
Priscilla Humay, Director
Jay Scherr, Director
Sarah Ulis, Director
Kathy Wilcox, Director

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

BOCC APPOINTEES

Commissioner Pam Richardson
Commissioner Leann Pennington (alt)

CITY OF PALM COAST APPOINTEE

Vice Mayor Theresa Pontieri

CITY OF FLAGLER BEACH APPOINTEE

City Commisioner Scott Spradley

CITY OF BUNNELL APPOINTEE

Mayor Catherine Robinson

CITY OF PALM COAST PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD APPOINTEE

Julia Walthall, PARB Vice Chair

Mission

**To Advocate, Support, and Foster
Collaboration for the Arts and Humanities**

CITY OF PALM COAST CULTURAL GRANT



To encourage and provide funding to community arts, history, and cultural organizations for programs and events.

Eligibility Criteria

These grants are designed by the City of Palm Coast to be awarded on a competitive basis to nonprofit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) Florida organizations that meet the eligibility criteria and provide arts, history, heritage, and cultural events and programs in the City of Palm Coast during the upcoming fiscal year.





All applicant organizations must meet the following eligibility criteria at the time of application.

- Events and programs must take place within the City of Palm Coast.
- All applications must be led by an active nonprofit Florida corporation registered with the Florida Division of Corporations. Preference is given to those organizations with a principal address in Flagler County.
- Only nonprofit arts, culture, education, history, humanities, and heritage organizations with documented 501(c)(3) status may apply.
- For-profit businesses qualified to do business in the State of Florida and located in Flagler County may apply in partnership with a local non-profit organization for funding of arts, culture, or heritage special events.
- Grant awards will be based solely on the program/event expense budget, not on the organization's overall budget. A single application may be submitted for multiple events.
- Programs, services, and events must be open to the public and of benefit to residents of Flagler County.
- Organizations must show in their application that they are capable of at least a dollar-for-dollar match for the grant amount requested from the Council. In-kind contributions to this project may be considered as up to 30% of this match.
- Nonprofit organizations must provide a copy of their most recently filed IRS Form 990, IRS Form 990EZ, or 990 postcard. (Filing must be dated within 18 months before the application deadline date.)
- Organizations that have not fulfilled contractual agreements with FC3, the City of Palm Coast, or Flagler County in previous years are not eligible for funding.

Reaching Out to Applicants

The Flagler County Cultural Council promotes the City of Palm Coast Cultural Grant program through its website and via local advertising. FC3 sent out a media release and placed ads announcing the 2026-2027 grant cycle in The Palm Coast Observer. Additional media promotion included feature articles in Sun and Surf, Evolve, and Coastal Neighbors magazines. FC3 worked with the City's Parks and Recreation department to create a video about the grant. Grants and workshops were also announced via FC3's enewlsetter and its social media channels.



The Flagler County Cultural Council announces 2026-2027 City of Palm Coast Cultural Arts Grants

The City of Palm Coast and the Flagler County Cultural Council are pleased to announce a new round of grants for arts, culture, and history organizations and events taking place in the City between October 1, 2026, and September 30, 2027.

The window for FY2026-2027 grant applications opens on June 1, 2026, and closes on August 21, 2026. All applications must be submitted through the Flagler County Cultural Council website at <https://flaglerartsandculture.org/granting-program/>.

Workshop Dates: July 17 at 2 PM and July 20 at 9:30 AM
Location: Flagler County Tourism Office
120 Airport Road, Suite 3
Palm Coast, FL 32164



Grant application is available at:
flaglerartsandculture.org/granting-program
Questions?
Email info@FlaglerArtsandCulture.org

Congratulations to our 2025-2026 City of Palm Coast Cultural Grant awardees.

Look for these events and organizations this year as they make an impact on the arts, culture, and history of Flagler County!

Organization

- City of Palm Coast Historical Society
- City Repertory Theatre of Palm Coast
- Community Chorus of Palm Coast
- Flagler Auditorium/Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center
- Flagler County Education Foundation/Josh Crews Writing Project
- Hispanic American Cultural Society
- Palm Coast Songwriters Festival

2026-27 Application Process

- Grant window opens and grant application becomes available – May 29, 2026
- All those interested in applying are required to attend a grant workshop. Workshops were held on July 17 and July 20. Twelve organizations attended.
- Grant window closed – August 21, 2026. Eight organizations chose to apply.
- Grant review panel meeting – Sept 4, 2026

GRANT AWARDS ARE APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW FISCAL YEAR, BUT NO FUNDS ARE DISTRIBUTED UNTIL THE PROJECT IS COMPLETED AND REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS ARE SUBMITTED. REIMBURSEMENT CAN ONLY BE REQUESTED FOR EXPENDITURES DELINEATED IN THE GRANT.

- Organizations move forward with their projects on the timeline submitted in their grant proposals
- Each applicant has 60 days after project completion to submit reimbursement requests to the City of Palm Coast for grant expenses that were approved during the application process.
- All reimbursement requests must be received by September 15, 2027
- Organizations that fail to seek timely reimbursement or who fail to provide the proper paperwork may not receive grant funds.

Scoring Criteria



- The project has high merit with the potential for participants and audience to develop knowledge, skills and understanding of arts, history, and/or culture

- Excellent (25 points)
- Well-Done (20 points)
- Good (15 points)
- Needs Attention (10 points)

- The organization demonstrates the experience and capacity to make this project a reality

- Excellent (25 points)
- Well-Done (20 points)
- Good (15 points)
- Needs Attention (10 points)

- The organization demonstrates the importance of the project to the community and meets the needs of the community

- Yes (5 points)
- Need Improvement (3 points)
- No (0 points)

- The project shows growth for the organization and/or the community, building on the organization's mission and previous programming.

- Yes (5 points)
- Need Improvement (3 points)
- No (0 points)

Scoring Criteria



- The application illustrates a clear plan with reasonable timelines
 - Yes (10 points)
 - Need Improvement (7 points)
 - Needs Considerable Improvement (4 pts)
 - No (0 points)

- The applicant completed all requirements and provided clear answers to all questions
 - Yes (5 points)
 - Need Improvement (3 points)
 - No (0 points)

- There is community involvement and support for the project through collaborations, financial support, or in-kind contributions
 - Yes (10 points)
 - Needs Improvement (7 points)
 - Need Considerable Improvement (4 points)
 - No (0 points)

- The marketing and publicity plans are appropriate for the project, organization, and community
 - Yes (10 points)
 - Needs Improvement (7 points)
 - Need Considerable Improvement (4 points)
 - No (0 points)

- There is a clearly defined budget that will meet the needs of the project
 - Yes (10 points)
 - Needs Improvement (7 points)
 - Need Considerable Improvement (4 points)
 - No (0 points)

Maximum Possible Score= 105
Minimum Qualifying Score = 80

Grant Recommendations

Organizations	Average Score	Funding Request
African-American Cultural Society Inc	100.0	\$ 12,000.00
City Lites Inc	94.0	\$ 7,800.00
City Repertory Theatre Inc	100.0	\$ 11,469.00
Community Chorus of Palm Coast Inc	98.0	\$ 10,080.00
Flagler Auditorium Governing Board	99.3	\$ 12,000.00
Flagler County Education Foundation	99.8	\$ 11,000.00
Hispanic American Cultural Society	97.5	\$ 9,043.00
Palm Coast Music Festival/Songwriters Festival	100.0	\$ 12,000.00
Total requested		\$ 85,392.00

All eight grant applicants received more than the minimum score of 80 points and are eligible for funding.



African American Cultural Society

Grant Purpose: During FY 2027, AACS will present a coordinated calendar of twelve public cultural programs and presentations celebrating American and African Diaspora history and culture, artistic expression, foodways, entrepreneurship, documentary storytelling, and living heritage. The project combines annual commemorations with performances, exhibitions, lectures, youth showcases, film-based learning, and participatory cultural experiences. Together, the programs will connect history to contemporary life, create paid and visible opportunities for artists and cultural presenters, encourage dialogue across generations, and expand access to meaningful arts and humanities programming in Palm Coast and Flagler County.

The project is designed as one cohesive cultural initiative rather than a collection of unrelated events. Each program advances AACS's mission through one or more cultural disciplines, including visual art, music, dance, spoken word, theatre, documentary film, public history, heritage interpretation, culinary traditions, and community storytelling. Grant support will help AACS engage qualified artists and speakers, provide project-specific production and educational materials, rent event-related equipment, create required signage, and market the programs to broader and more diverse resident and visitor audiences

Average Panel Score: 100

Funding Request: \$12,000

City Lights, Inc

Grant Purpose: City Lites will present its 2026 Motown & Mo' cultural program on October 17, 2026, at the Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center/Flagler Auditorium in Palm Coast. 'Motown & Mo' is a live musical and theatrical production celebrating the artists, songs, choreography, history and cultural influence of Motown while incorporating complementary music from other periods and genres. The production combines vocal performances, choreographed dance, dramatic interpretation, period-inspired costumes, professional sound and lighting, multimedia elements and audience engagement.

The production will feature a multigenerational community cast supported by an MC, DJ, makeup artists, costume and production personnel, student event workers and technical staff. Professional videography will document the performance for program records, educational workshops, archival preservation and future promotion of City Lites' cultural programming.

Average Panel Score: 94

Funding Request: \$7,800

City Repertory Theatre, Inc

Grant Purpose: CRT is requesting support for its 16th season of theater. Grant monies received will be used to underwrite production and marketing expenses between October 2026 and August 2027. The selection of plays reflects the breadth and variety of CRT's program and ambitions and includes Broadway classics, great American plays and works exploring facets of modern life.

The season includes: *Company*, a Tony-Award winning musical by Stephen Sondheim; *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck's classic tale; *A Christmas Carol*, an audience favorite reimaged with only five actors; *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, Christopher Durang's modern mashup of Chekhov; *Loving*, the story of the Lovings and their Supreme Court victory over the Virginia law that separated them; *How I Learned to Drive*, a Pulitzer Prize-winner by Paula Vogel; and *The Apple Tree*, a trio of rarely performed mini-musicals.

Average Panel Score: 100

Funding Request: \$11,469

Community Chorus of Palm Coast, Inc.

Grant Purpose: The requested grant funding will support CCPC's 2026–2027 concert season, which includes two major concert programs presented in Palm Coast: our annual 2026 Holiday Concert, December 4th and 6th, and our 2027 Spring Concert, April 16th and 18th.

Rehearsals begin in August and continue weekly through each season, allowing volunteer singers to develop their vocal skills while preparing performances that are accessible and enjoyable for audiences of all ages. Funds will primarily be used for marketing, music acquisition, accompanist and director support, and other allowable direct program costs that ensure professional-quality performances.

Average Panel Score: 98

Funding Request: \$10,080

Flagler Auditorium Governing Board

Grant Purpose: We strive to be an anchor institution for the Arts community by leveraging our partnerships to improve the community around us. Grant funding will be used to present entertaining and high-quality live performances that attract audiences from the North Central Florida area, provide performing arts and educational programming that connects our community with the performing arts, create the "Ultimate Classroom for the Arts", and collaborate with other arts organizations, historical and cultural institutions, and businesses. We present a season of performances appealing to all preferences and ages, serving the community and supporting arts education. This includes 21 touring shows and over 75 community and school performances, reaching at least 25,000 people

Average Panel Score: 99.3

Funding Request: \$12,000

Flagler Education Foundation

Grant Purpose: The Josh Crews Creative Writing Project (JDC), now in its 15th year, is a district-wide literary and visual arts program that provides students in grades 4–12 across Flagler County Public Schools—including the virtual academy—with a dedicated, structured outlet for creative expression. Operating through free weekly after-school clubs led by 14 trained teacher-sponsors and 2 district coordinators, the program guides young creators through crafting, editing, and illustrating original works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and visual artwork. By enabling students to participate as both authors and illustrators, the program integrates literary arts with visual storytelling. The program culminates in the publishing of an annual, professionally bound, 297+ page physical anthology titled "Write On!" and a celebratory community JDC Book Launch and signing event on March 31st. The book launch is free and open to the public.

Average Panel Score: 99.8

Funding Request: \$11,000

Hispanic American Cultural Society

Grant Purpose: The Hispanic American Cultural Society (HACS), Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to preserving, promoting, and celebrating Hispanic heritage through cultural, educational, and community events in Flagler County. One of our signature annual events is the Hispanic Food & Arts Festival of Palm Coast, which brings together residents and visitors to experience the rich traditions, music, dance, food, art, and culture of Hispanic communities from across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Now in its fifth year, the festival continues to grow in both participation and community impact. The event is free and open to the public, ensuring that individuals and families of all backgrounds—including underserved and low-income residents—can enjoy a day of cultural enrichment at no cost. The festival features live musical performances, authentic folkloric dance groups, local artists and artisans, cultural exhibits, and a diverse selection of Hispanic and non-Hispanic food vendors. These activities provide educational opportunities that encourage cultural awareness, appreciation, and community engagement.

Average Panel Score: 97.5

Funding Request: \$9,043

Palm Coast Music Festival/Songwriter's Festival

Grant Purpose: Entering our 9th year, our festival is considered among the best ALL-STAR Singer/Songwriters Festival in the Country with over 45 HIT Songwriters with over 200 #1 songs to their credit along with hundreds (if not thousands) more of charted hits. The songwriters tell the stories behind their songs and perform them for the audience. We hold a total of 8 different shows over the course of 5 days, plus we hold a Songwriters Workshop for aspiring songwriters.

This event has also made Palm Coast and Flagler County a destination for years to come for many out of state and other cities across Florida who lodge here over the course of 5 days or more and support many local businesses. Google search recently listed the Palm Coast Songwriters Festival as one of the top 4 songwriters festivals in the United States.

Average Panel Score: 100

Funding Request: \$12,000

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT



FLAGLER COUNTY CULTURAL COUNCIL
flaglerartsandculture.org

RESOLUTION 2026-____
CULTURAL ARTS GRANTS FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM COAST, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE ELIGIBILITY LIST FOR THE CULTURAL ARTS GRANTS; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS AND PAYMENTS WITH GRANTEEES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, historical, cultural, and arts organizations have expressed a desire in receiving grant funding from the City of Palm Coast to support programs and events held within the City; and

WHEREAS, the Flagler County Cultural Council, as the designated Countywide Arts Council, is committed to supporting historical, cultural, and arts organizations throughout Flagler County in partnership with the City of Palm Coast; and

WHEREAS, the Flagler County Cultural Council possesses the expertise and capacity to administer the Cultural Art Grant program effectively; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Palm Coast recognizes the importance of providing monetary assistance to historical, cultural, and arts organizations that deliver high-quality and innovative programs and events for the benefit of residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, historical, cultural, and arts organizations contribute to the enrichment and vibrancy of Palm Coast, enhancing the quality of life for the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM COAST, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. APPROVAL. The City Council of the City of Palm Coast hereby approves the recommendation list for the Cultural Arts Grant, as attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit “A.”

SECTION 2. AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE. The City Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized to execute agreements and payments between the City of Palm Coast and the Grantees.

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY. If any section or portion of a section of this Resolution proves to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, it shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force, or effect of any other section or part of this Resolution.

SECTION 4. CONFLICTS. All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with any of the provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS. The City Manager is hereby authorized to take any actions necessary to implement the action taken in this Resolution.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the City Council.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Palm Coast, Florida, on this 20th day of October 2026.

ATTEST:

CITY OF PALM COAST

KALEY COOK, CITY CLERK

MICHAEL NORRIS, MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

MARCUS DUFFY, CITY ATTORNEY

Attachment: Exhibit "A" Cultural Arts Grants Eligibility List

Cultural Art Grant Applications FY27

Organization Name	Funding Request	
African-American Cultural Society Inc	\$	12,000.00
City Lites Inc	\$	7,800.00
City Repertory Theatre Inc	\$	11,469.00
Community Chorus of Palm Coast	\$	10,080.00
Flagler Auditorium	\$	12,000.00
Flagler County Education Foundation	\$	11,000.00
Hispanic American Cultural Society	\$	9,043.00
Palm Coast Music Festival	\$	12,000.00
TOTAL REQUESTED	\$	85,392.00