



THE SUNRISE CITY
FORT PIERCE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
AND CITY COMMISSION
Florida

May 21, 2018

Florida Division of Cultural Affairs
R.A. Gray Building
500 S Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Dear Sir/Madam:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter in support of the Manatee Observation and Education Center (MOEC), endorsing its grant application to the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs for general operating support for 2019-2020.

MOEC is a fixture in our community as St. Lucie County's first non-profit, environmental learning center – teaching, guiding and inspiring stewardship of the Indian River Lagoon and its fragile inhabitants, including the Florida manatee. With the visionary partnership of the Florida Inland Navigational District (FIND), Main Street Fort Pierce, City of Fort Pierce, Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, Indian River State College and local business and community donors, MOEC became a cultural community gathering place and a catalyst for ecological education. Today, MOEC continues as an anchor in the economic revitalization of Fort Pierce, contributing to the local economy through cultural eco-tourism and attracting visitors from all over the world.

Funding from the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs will enhance MOEC's ability to expand their reach to include more of the scientific community and local partners, upgrade the species and habitats exhibited in the Center, and develop additional robust and engaging environmental education programs. Best of all, MOEC remains accessible to all who enjoy historic downtown Fort Pierce and its waterfront.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to express support for, and the desire to promote this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Linda Hudson
Mayor