



May 20, 2019

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

Dear Florida Arts Council Members:

On behalf of the City of Fort Pierce, 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 2020-2021.

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 of the world.

Funding from the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs will enhance MOEC's ability to establish locally-engaging citizen science programs and partnerships, further-integrate the arts community into exhibit development and environmental programming, 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