



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 Ft. Pierce, please accept this letter of support for the grant application for General Programming Support for 2020-2021 submitted by Heathcote Botanical Gardens. One of the best returns that our community can receive is in its investment in the arts and culture. There is no denying the economic impact that organizations like Heathcote Botanical Gardens have on enriching and strengthening our city and county alike, with total arts-related expenditures of \$7.8 million. Last year, 23,000 visitors enjoyed the Gardens, with almost half visiting during the six-week holiday festival of Garden of Lights!

As a heritage garden, Heathcote has been a vital partner in educating children and families for thirty-three years with education and outreach programs such as Pioneer Days, Celebration of Insects and the Indian River Lagoon Science Festival. The City is proud to be a partner in their success and leverage the value-added services provided by close to 200 volunteers.

Your favorable consideration of this grant application is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Linda Hudson
Mayor