

CITY OF FORT PIERCE
ARTS AND CULTURE ADVISORY BOARD

Regular Meeting - Tuesday, February 23, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

City Hall - William D. Dannahower Conference Room, Second Floor, 100 North U.S. #1,
Fort Pierce, Florida

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Approval of the minutes from the January 20, 2026 Arts and Culture Board Meeting.

4. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Any person who wishes to comment on any subject on this Agenda may be heard at this time. Please sign the sign-up sheet in order to speak. Please limit your comments to no more than five (5) minutes, as this section of the Agenda is limited to thirty minutes. The Arts and Culture Advisory Board will not be able to take any official action under "Comments from the Public" section.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Treasures of St. Lucie Cultural Week, February 2027 - Cultural Alliance of St. Lucie County
- b. Call for Artist for new City Hall Sculpture
- c. Statues and Mural Restoration Project

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Arts and Culture Master Plan Discussion

7. **BOARD AND STAFF DISCUSSION**

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (772) 467-3065 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Arts and Culture Advisory Board - 10:00 AM

3. a.

Meeting Date: 02/24/2026

Re:

SUBJECT:

Approval of the minutes from the January 20, 2026 Arts and Culture Board Meeting.

Attachments

Minutes

Form Review

Form Started By: Brittany Meredith

Started On: 02/20/2026 08:23 AM

Final Approval Date: 02/20/2026

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, HELD IN THE 1ST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, 100 NORTH U.S. #1, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, AT 9:00 A.M. ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Lisa Kessler called the January 20, 2026, Arts & Culture Advisory Board meeting to order at 10:09 A.M.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Doretha Hair Truesdell, Vice-Chair; Ipyana Abayomi; Lisa Kessler, Chair; Victoria Bush

Absent: Emily Fingerhut

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of the minutes from the October 28, 2025, Arts and Culture Advisory Board Meeting.

Motion by Vice-Chair Doretha Hair Truesdell, seconded by Ipyana Abayomi to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2025, Arts and Culture Advisory Board meeting.

AYE: Ipyana Abayomi, Victoria Bush, Chair Lisa Kessler, Vice-Chair Doretha Hair Truesdell

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Any person who wishes to comment on any subject on this Agenda may be heard at this time. Please sign the sign-up sheet in order to speak. Please limit your comments to no more than five (5) minutes, as this section of the Agenda is limited to thirty minutes. The Arts and Culture Advisory Board will not be able to take any official action under "Comments from the Public" section.

No comments

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. New Member Welcome

The board welcomed Victoria Bush to the Arts and Culture Advisory Board.

- b. Board Vacancy

Special Projects Coordinator, Audria Moore, let the board know that Ginetta Bernard has resigned. The board reviewed the only application received for the vacancy and it was for Jessica Kadie Barclay.

Motion by Ipyana Abayomi, seconded by Vice-Chair Doretha Hair Truesdell to accept the application for Jessica Kadie Barclay.

AYE: Ipyana Abayomi, Victoria Bush, Chair Lisa Kessler, Vice-Chair Doretha Hair Truesdell

c. Zora Festival Sponsorship Request

Ms. Moore presented the board with the request for sponsorship for the Zora Festival. The board discussed it and determined they would be comfortable sponsoring \$15,000 for the event as it is important to the city culture.

Motion by Vice-Chair Doretha Hair Truesdell, seconded by Ipyana Abayomi to approve \$15,000 for the sponsorship request with a detailed budget submitted within 30 days after the event.

AYE: Ipyana Abayomi, Victoria Bush, Chair Lisa Kessler, Vice-Chair Doretha Hair Truesdell

d. Interlocal Agreement with the County for maintenance of Sculptures

Ms. Moore presented the agreement to the board that showed the County installed 10 sculptures on city property and 8 of them currently need repair or renovations. They have found an artist to do the repairs and renovations. The board asked Ms. Moore if this same artist would be able to repair the mosaic benches throughout the city. They would like to know what is involved with the \$20,000 repair and they asked that the blind date sculpture not be repaired until it is moved.

e. Making Arts & Culture Accessible for everyone — Jessica Kadie Barclay, Manatee Center

Jessica Kadie Barclay with the Manatee Center presented the initiative she has been promoting for Making Arts and Culture Accessible for everyone. This would help to get the city and the County on national maps for museums. The board thanked her for her efforts in this endeavor.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Field Trip Discussion

The board thanked Ms. Moore for taking them out to review the status of many of the parks and art installations throughout the city.

b. Mosaic Grave Caps Update

Ms. Moore let the board know the Grave caps will be unveiled on Friday February 20th at 10am at Pine Grove Cemetery at the corner of Avenue L and N 10th St.

c. Highwaymen Museum Update

The board discussed the museum and the progress that has been made for the soft opening scheduled for Friday, February 20th. They would like reusable graveyard signs to be installed at each of the Highwaymen's graves that are buried at Pine Grove Cemetery.

Motion by Vice-Chair Doretha Hair Truesdell, seconded by Victoria Bush to fund the cost of the reusable memorial graveyard signs to be installed at each of the Highwaymen's graves that are buried at Pine Grove Cemetery not to exceed the amount of \$500.00.

AYE: Ipyana Abayomi, Victoria Bush, Chair Lisa Kessler, Vice-Chair Doretha Hair Truesdell

7. BOARD AND STAFF DISCUSSION

The board discussed the option of creating a restrictive fund to fund the repairs and restoration of public art throughout the city.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson, Lisa Kessler adjourned the meeting at 11:28 A.M.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (772) 467-3065 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Arts and Culture Advisory Board - 10:00 AM

5. c.

Meeting Date: 02/24/2026

Re:

SUBJECT:

Statues and Mural Restoration Project

Form Review

Form Started By: Brittany Meredith

Started On: 02/19/2026 03:06 PM

Final Approval Date: 02/19/2026

Arts and Culture Advisory Board - 10:00 AM

6. a.

Meeting Date: 02/24/2026

Re:

SUBJECT:

Arts and Culture Master Plan Discussion

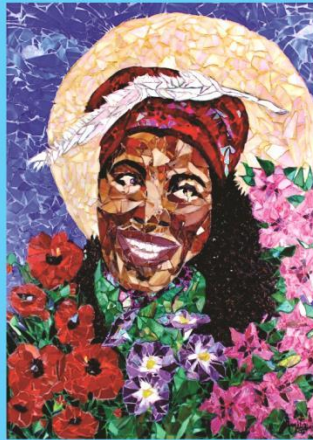
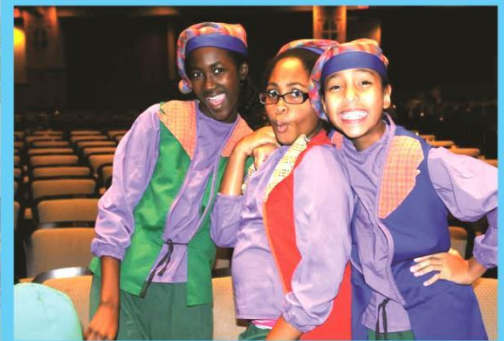
Attachments

Arts & Culture Master Plan

Form Review

Form Started By: Brittany Meredith
Final Approval Date: 02/19/2026

Started On: 02/19/2026 03:07 PM



Arts and Culture Master Plan



Arts and Culture

Master Plan

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I. Introduction

Arts, cultural heritage and creativity are essential keys to capitalizing on Fort Pierce's unique and distinctive identity. They each play a vital role in supporting community cohesion and well-being by enhancing community pride, fostering economic development and increasing tourism.

Arts - Arts are a diverse range of human activities that create visual, auditory or performing artifacts, intended to be appreciated for their beauty or emotional power. The arts create an economic engine that increases tourism, creates jobs and improves quality of life. Implementing arts and culture into a community is also proven to help boost economies.

Cultural Heritage - Cultural Heritage is an expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions and values.

Creativity – Creativity is participation in a range of activities that allow for imaginative expression, such as music, art, creative movement, and drama, which engage the mind, body and senses.



The Wizard of Oz – Missoula Children's Theater
Summer Camp – Sunrise Theater - 2013

The arts stimulate creative problem-solving and innovation within a community. Parents with youth involved in sustained, structured community-based arts programs show a positive increase in the perception of their neighborhoods. When the arts become central in a community, the learning environment improves and the culture transforms to become more positive, creative, and supportive.

Cultural heritage is important because it helps people connect with others who have similar backgrounds and provides a sense of unity and belonging. Cultural heritage also provides people with a link to traditions that might otherwise be lost.

Creativity is a powerful economic engine for Fort Pierce. The creative sector contributes directly and indirectly to community prosperity, by generating economic activity, providing employment, making our city attractive, and enhancing our overall quality of life.



Annual Highwaymen Art Exhibit
Fort Pierce City Hall

This Master Plan, built around a strong Creative Placemaking initiative, paves the way for the creation of the City's 10-Year Arts and Culture Strategic Plan, with input from City Commissioners, private citizens, staff, artists, arts organizations, nonprofits and business owners. The Strategic Plan will detail a course of action to enhance and capitalize on Fort Pierce's existing arts and cultural heritage amenities. The 10-Year Plan will also provide strategies to support artists, arts organizations and arts educational opportunities with programs and projects that positively transform our historic communities and downtown area.

Creative Placemaking - In creative placemaking, partners from public, private, nonprofit and community sectors strategically shape the physical and social character of a neighborhood, town, tribe, city or region around arts and cultural activities. Creative placemaking animates public and private spaces, rejuvenates structures and streetscapes, improves local business viability and public safety, and brings diverse people together to celebrate, inspire and be inspired.

A 10-Year Arts and Culture Strategic Plan, following the framework of this Arts and Culture Strategic Plan will increase the viability of the City's arts and culture grant applications and provide written guidelines for City and County AIPP funding oversight.

Government investment in public arts and cultural programs is typically based on the following:

- Enhancing the physical environment and its image
- Creating a sense of place and distinctiveness
- Contributing to community cohesion
- Enhancing social health and well-being
- Contributing to economic value through inward investment and tourism
- Fostering civic pride and confidence
- Raising quality of life
- Reducing crime

A. Vision The vision for the City of Fort Pierce Arts and Culture Master Plan and 10-year Arts and Culture Strategic Plan is to foster an environment where arts and culture flourish for the benefit, education, and well-being of all residents and visitors.

B. Mission The mission of the Arts and Culture Master Plan is to affirm the City of Fort Pierce's commitment to arts and cultural heritage and set into motion the development of a 10-Year Arts and Culture Strategic Plan to empower and support and sustain a strong and vibrant artistic atmosphere for Fort Pierce residents and visitors. The inspiration for this Arts and Culture Master Plan is the belief that arts, cultural heritage and creativity provide essential contributions to the quality of life in Fort Pierce.



Local Artist and Instructor Anita Prentice with Summer Art Students

Accomplishing this mission will fulfill the City's objectives to:

- Support and facilitate an increase in the development, preservation and promotion of the City's existing artistic and cultural heritage assets;
- Support and promote the development of artists, arts organizations, the school district and facilities that sponsor arts and cultural heritage programs, projects and educational opportunities;
- Encourage and facilitate opportunities for City residents and visitors to participate in arts, cultural heritage and creative educational activities;
- Stimulate greater governmental and public awareness and appreciation of the importance of the development, preservation and promotion of arts, cultural heritage and creativity within the City of Fort Pierce;
- Advocate and communicate factual information on local, state and national arts and cultural heritage issues to citizens and elected officials;

- Encourage and facilitate greater and more efficient use of City, County, State, Federal and private resources to develop and support arts, cultural heritage and creative programs and projects in Fort Pierce;
- Enhance everyday life throughout the City of Fort Pierce; and
- Further the recognition of Fort Pierce as an arts, cultural heritage and creative mecca and a destination of choice for investors, developers, tourists and current and future residents.



Zora Neale Hurston

C. Goals

1. Increase the development, visibility and marketing of Fort Pierce’s existing arts and cultural heritage assets, programs and projects to clearly identify and celebrate Fort Pierce as the “*Home*” of Zora Neale Hurston, the Florida Highwaymen, A.E. ‘Bean’ Backus, Navy Frogmen/Seals, Edwin Binney, Ais Indians, the Sunrise and Lincoln Theaters, etc., and a ‘Hub’ for arts organizations, up-and-coming artists, art exhibits, programs and projects;
2. Strengthen the capacity and sustainability of Fort Pierce’s artists and arts organizations;
3. Encourage participation of new artists – both professional and amateur;
4. Promote educational opportunities on Fort Pierce’s arts and cultural heritage;
5. Weave arts and cultural heritage into all aspects of life in Fort Pierce to build civic pride and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors, raise community perception and cultivate economic development opportunities;
6. Strengthen arts education and beautification opportunities to improve blighted areas; and
7. Identify ongoing revenue sources to support the growth and development of Fort Pierce’s arts and cultural heritage amenities.

D. Tasks to Reach Goals

- Engage private citizens, artists, arts and cultural heritage organizations, community activists, City and County leaders, staff, etc. in creating the 10-Year Arts and Culture Strategic Plan.

This will help:

- Identify important community issues where arts and cultural heritage activities can provide solace;
- Guide policy makers, commissioners, staff and volunteers as the Strategic Plan is implemented; and
- Provide a crucial resource to positively impress potential grant funders to support the development, growth, marketing and preservation of the City’s arts and cultural heritage assets, artists and arts organizations.

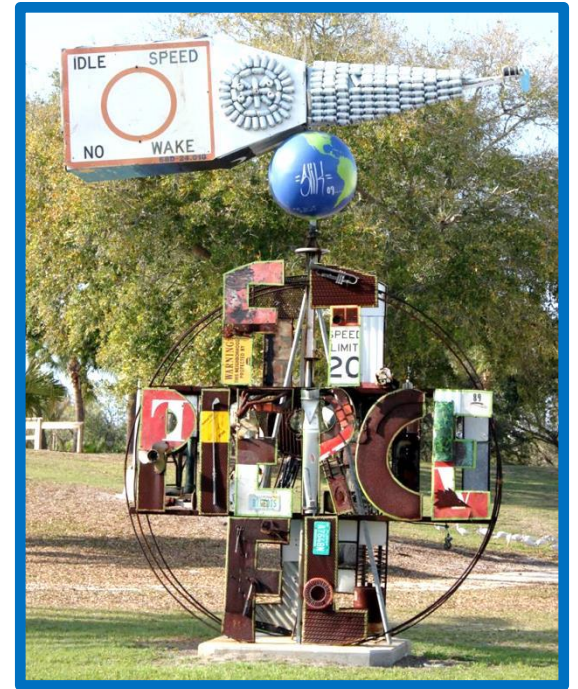


A.E. ‘Bean’ Backus

E. Priorities:

Priorities include, but are not limited to (in no specific order):

- **Establishing a Name and Logo for the Program:** A potential name for the program is “Arts & Culture Today” in Fort Pierce.
- **10-Year Strategic Plan** for the **ACT** program and its components including short (ACT 1), mid (ACT 2) and long term (ACT 3) program goals and benchmarks.
- **Marketing and Image:** The **ATTRACT** component will define and promote the diversity of the cultural assets and creative uniqueness of Fort Pierce by branding and marketing the City of Fort Pierce “Arts & Culture Today” **ACT** program and its components. Marketing will stress the authenticity of our culture, and the Icons of our cultural heritage.
- Designate the City of Fort Pierce as “*The Home*” of Zora Neale Hurston, the ‘Original’ and ‘2nd Generation’ Highwaymen artists, and landscape painter A.E. ‘Bean’ Backus, Navy Frogmen/Seals, Edwin Binney, Ais Indians, the Sunrise and Lincoln Theaters, etc. Platforms to promote marketing, promotion and public relations will include a website, social media, TV, mass media outlets, networking, workshops and fliers in FPUA bills, contacts, signage, etc.
- **Community Buy-In and Commitment:** “*Help Fort Pierce get its ACT Together*” could be the name of an essential kick-off program. Garnering initial verbal and conditional commitment and later “Buy in” by potential funders, businesses, artists, arts organizations, public and private schools, residents, current and prospective developers, investors, and employers, employees and visitors.
- **Space:** Expand and support spaces for art and cultural heritage activities and events, including affordable space for artists, performances, exhibitions, meetings, storage, rehearsals, and education.
- **Youth:** Enlighten young people with hands-on arts and cultural heritage opportunities through education, recreation and social settings intertwined in all aspects of their life.



“The Art of Living Green” – Downtown Fort Pierce



Jazz & Blues Society – Outdoor Concert – Downtown Fort Pierce

- **Business:** Engage businesses with Fort Pierce’s arts and cultural community.
- **Agency:** The Grants Administration Division, supported by an active Commission-appointed Arts and Culture Advisory Board will assist in the creation and implementation of the 10-Year Arts and Culture Strategic Plan.
- **Heritage:** Highlight our unique cultural heritage to inspire a sense of place and pride in Fort Pierce residents and businesses.
- **Potential:** Identify, strengthen, promote and broadcast Fort Pierce’s cultural heritage assets and artistic treasures.

- **Community**: Facilitate community involvement in the arts.
- **Capacity**: Increase the capacity of Fort Pierce’s creative sector through strategies such as public and private funding for arts agencies, artists, businesses, cultural heritage education, etc. Provide opportunities to disseminate information, promote networking and collaboration, technical assistance, and project and program coordination.



Annual Highwaymen Heritage Trail Art Show and Festival
Moore’s Creek Linear Park – Lincoln Park Neighborhood

- **Creative Climate**: Develop a climate that encourages the growth of creative enterprises, individual artists, arts organizations, economic development and tourism.
- **Lincoln Park**: Improve, promote and expound upon arts and cultural heritage assets in Lincoln Park. Promote artist live-work environment, creative enterprises, investments in small businesses, entrepreneurship, special events, restaurants, shopping, streetscape and façade development that will result in the creation of a safe, vibrant, lively atmosphere. Form collaborations with surrounding communities to cross-promote assets, including Eatonville (Zora Neale Hurston) Mount Dora, Pompano, Davenport, etc. (Highwaymen). Collaborate with A.E. Backus Museum, Treasure Coast Art Association, Jazz and Blues Society, individual Highwaymen and other artists to promote programs, projects and activities. Seek funding opportunities to assist artists, art and cultural heritage programs and projects and rehabilitation/ operation of the Lincoln Theater.

- **Orange Avenue Corridor – Peacock Arts District** – Seek grant funding, investors, arts organizations, artists, etc. and collaborate with property owners along the corridor to assist in the development and enhancement of the Orange Avenue Corridor/Peacock Arts District as walkable and encouraging for businesses, artist housing, arts and cultural heritage programming, attractions, office and open space.



Missoula Children’s Theater Summer Camp - Sunrise Theater

- **Sunrise Theater of the Performing Arts – and the Historic Lincoln Theater** - Seek grants for the theaters to help increase its self-sufficiency, capacity and sustainability. Bolster opportunities for youth and all Fort Pierce citizens to discover and participate in the performing arts.
- Survey and assess the needs of local artists, arts and community organizations and the school district, relating to arts and cultural heritage programs and projects;
- Promote artistic and cultural heritage offerings that reflect, engage and appeal to the ethnic, gender, and age diversity of the City, including all socioeconomic levels;
- Enhance arts education in area schools, so that every Fort Pierce child has access to comprehensive arts and cultural heritage learning, through school programs, artists and art organizations;

- Ensure residents and visitors have the opportunity to participate in arts and cultural heritage activities;
- Shape our environment to reflect the inspirational and creative spirit of who we are through cultural activities, public art, and easily-accessible, welcoming public spaces;
- Establish the City of Fort Pierce as a haven for artistic creators by establishing suitable, affordable space and opportunities for professional artistic development and networking;
- Ensure the promotion of arts and cultural heritage as a priority, as reflected in supportive policies, incentives, ongoing funding, and capital investments; and
- Maintain the program as financially stable and sustainable, based upon a diverse range of income sources.



Jazz and Blues Fest – Downtown Fort Pierce

II. Responsibilities

1. The Grants Administration Division, assisted by the Arts and Culture Advisory Board, will oversee the creation process and the implementation of the 10-Year Arts and Culture Strategic Plan that will contain the policies and procedures needed to accomplish the goals set forth by this Master Plan. The Division will:
 - a. Construct Annual Action Plans from the 10-Year Arts and Culture Strategic Plan containing specific projects, programs and tasks for consideration and approval by the Fort Pierce City Commission;
 - b. Create and oversee a grant application/award process for local Fort Pierce artists, agencies, etc. for projects and programs based on the Arts and Culture Strategic Plan and Commission-approved Annual Action Plans utilizing the City of Fort Pierce and a portion of St. Lucie County Arts in Public Places (AIPP) funding.

Note: The process to disseminate City and County AIPP funding for sub-awards for Fort Pierce-based arts and cultural heritage projects will be accomplished the same way the Grants Administration Division provides dozens of grant awards for public service and commercial façade improvements each year. This process includes: a competitive grant application process with review of applications and recommendations for funding of individual projects by an advisory board with final determination by the Fort Pierce City Commission.

Following grant awards, grantees will be required to adhere to award contractual agreements, based on their grant applications and also provide monthly progress reports that gauge timeline progress and expenses throughout the duration of the project.



Highwaymen Obelisk
Highwaymen Heritage Trail Stop #7
Avenue D and 15th Street

- c. Collect, arrange, record, preserve and disseminate arts and cultural heritage materials;
- d. Be well-informed on local, state, and federal laws relative to the arts and actively support and advocate local, state and national arts legislation;
- e. Act as a liaison between the City, various governmental agencies, private arts and cultural heritage groups, individuals, and organizations on related matters;
- f. Make recommendations for legislation to the City Commission and the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners in relation to arts and cultural heritage matters;
- g. Promote collaborations and facilitate the creation of artistic and cultural heritage programs, projects, events and facilities;
- h. Continue to build upon the City's arts and cultural heritage amenities by infusing the arts into the community as a whole;
- i. Strengthen the Grants Administration Division's 'Creative Placemaking' initiative through grant awards, partnerships and marketing, which will spur economic development, job creation and heighten civic pride in our historic neighborhoods;
- j. Attend area arts events;
- k. Research, write and submit grant applications to fund arts and cultural heritage projects; and
- l. Promote the City's diverse arts and cultural heritage offerings and aesthetic environment to the world.



**Summer Art Class
Treasure Coast Art Association**

End Result Positive, ongoing support for the development of arts and cultural heritage in Fort Pierce will increase economic vitality, investment, development, job creation, tourism, and quality of life, while enhancing artistic endeavors and encouraging academic growth through the arts.

III. Creation of the 10-Year Arts and Culture Strategic Plan

The Grants Administration Division will direct, with extensive citizen, artist, arts organization, City Commission, Advisory Board and staff input, the creation, development and implementation of the City's Arts and Culture Strategic Plan, which will include guidelines, ideas for programs, projects and services to support, preserve and strengthen Fort Pierce's existing arts and cultural heritage amenities and its diverse artistic community.



Historic Arcade Building - Downtown Fort Pierce

The purpose of developing an Arts and Culture Strategic Plan is to:

- Identify tasks, projects, timelines etc., as necessary, to implement this Arts and Culture Master Plan;
- Build upon long standing arts and cultural heritage assets and traditions;
- Foster emergent artists; and
- Celebrate and preserve Fort Pierce’s vibrant heritage.



Hooked on Music Festival – Downtown Fort Pierce

The intention of the Strategic Plan is to provide a framework for the inclusion of public art and cultural heritage programming in the daily life of Fort Pierce, to reinforce community identity and change outsider perceptions, capitalize on local assets, spur economic development and job creation, increase tourism, create places for human interaction and assure the preservation of our local cultural heritage.

The Arts and Culture Strategic Plan will include methods to implement this Master Plan within the Grants Administration Division, and to improve projects that are currently underway, including ‘creative placemaking` initiatives to enhance, preserve and promote existing cultural heritage amenities and venues.

IV. Methodology

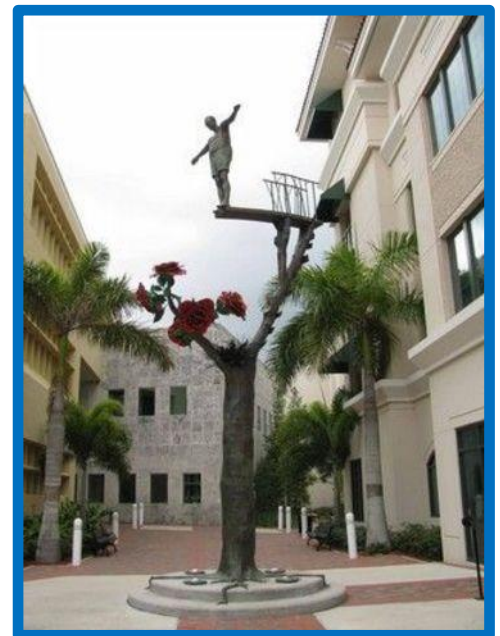
A. Funding

Funding for arts and cultural heritage programming can derive from various sources:

1. Interlocal Agreement between the City and St. Lucie County to designate one third of the County’s Arts in Public Places (AIPP) funding for the next ten years to the Division, for activities, projects and programs that align with this Arts and Culture Master Plan. The Interlocal Agreement will establish how percentages of yearly AIPP funding allocations will be used. Examples of uses for allocation include:

- Grant ‘Sub-Awards’ for artists, arts agencies/organizations, etc. for various types of arts and cultural heritage projects and programs;
- Match for grant awards for arts and cultural heritage community events, programs and projects; and
- Temporary Art Exhibits at various locations around the City, including, but not limited to historic City Hall, Lincoln Park Main Street offices, PP Cobb’s Cultural Center, and the Lincoln Theater and the historic St. Anastasia building; and

2. Resolution from the Fort Pierce City Commission to appropriate the City’s AIPP funding, to be expended per AIPP Resolution guidelines.



“Leap of Faith”
Fort Pierce City Hall

3. Grant funding from Vista/Ameri-Corps for student interns to support the program.
 - IRSC is a good candidate for student interns since they have a Bachelors of Arts program.
4. Grants from the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Visit Florida and other private, state and national funders for arts and cultural heritage programs and projects.
5. Depending on Federal Budget funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the City could use a portion of CDBG for activities for the “Promotion of Local Art and Cultural Heritage”.



“Original” Highwaymen Artists Al Black, Mary Ann Carroll, Charles Wheeler and James Gibson

Types of activities would include:

- Arts and Cultural heritage events, projects and educational programs in historic neighborhoods, such as mural projects, art festivals, art exhibits, etc.; and
- Cash match for arts and cultural heritage grants that benefit historic neighborhoods.

B. Arts and Cultural Heritage Center

1. Designate a location for the Arts and Cultural Heritage Center

- The Arts and Cultural Heritage Center will provide space for ongoing and touring art exhibits, arts and cultural heritage educational workshops, meetings and performances that communicate and educate while accentuating Fort Pierce’s strong arts and cultural heritage.

Note: Establishing an Arts and Cultural Heritage Center will qualify the City to apply for grants from multiple funders, since the space utilized for the Center can be used as ‘match’ for various state and national grants. Funders are more likely to award grants for programs that have an Arts and Culture Master Plan and a facility currently in use.



Quarterly ‘Jazz on Moores’ Creek’ Concert
Moores’ Creek Linear Park – Lincoln Park Neighborhood

Proposed Locations

1. **“Old City Hall”** – Arts and Cultural Heritage Center (startup) (1-3 years)

This temporary Arts and Cultural Heritage Center will provide space for ongoing and touring art exhibits, educational workshops, meetings, performances, etc.

(FUTURE) The St. Lucie Regional Arts and Cultural Heritage Center



**Historic St. Anastasia Building
910 Orange Avenue – Fort Pierce**

The historic St. Anastasia building – 910 Orange Avenue. Collaborate with St. Lucie County to relocate the St. Lucie County Regional History Center to the historic St. Anastasia Building. This colossal facility and surrounding property would not only accommodate the St. Lucie County Regional History Center and all of its assets, it could also provide exhibit, performance, conference and program meeting space, satellite offices for the Grants Administration Division, and promotional space for the Fort Pierce Authentic Tours program.

The Center could easily become a hub for arts and cultural heritage activities, exhibits and events that would garner local, regional, national and international attention and respect. Local exhibits for the Highwaymen, Zora Neale Hurston, A.E. 'Bean' Backus and traveling exhibits focusing on performing, music, literary, visual, digital and creative arts could be regular features.

Utilizing this facility will create a bridge from downtown Fort Pierce, both artistically and economically, while promoting revitalization - built on our arts and cultural history.

Transforming the historic St. Anastasia building into the St. Lucie Regional Arts and Cultural Heritage Center will breathe life back into an economically depressed area of the City, serve as the cornerstone of the Peacock Arts District, and enhance the Orange Avenue Corridor.

The St. Lucie Regional History Museum will significantly benefit from the easily-accessible location that will allow for bigger and longer exhibitions both inside and outside the facility. The building's central location in Fort Pierce will afford the Museum the opportunity to increase foot traffic and its benefit to the community.

The Grants Administration Division and Arts and Culture Advisory Board will seek collaborative partners, grants, and funding from the Florida Legislature to renovate the historic facility.

C. Grants / Funding Opportunities

As Federal and State funds are available, grants will be awarded to help fund subawards for local artists and arts organizations. Potential funders include the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Art Space, Division of Cultural Affairs, Florida Humanities Council, Visit Florida, private foundations, Florida legislature appropriations, etc.

Note: A grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is a good resource for grant sub-award funding for area artists and arts organizations. Designated exhibit space (Old City Hall, etc.) could be used as the 'required match' for NEA grants.

Note: Federal and State budgets may decrease or eliminate funding for the National Endowment of the Arts and State-funded arts organizations in the upcoming years; however, funding may be restored to the organizations or provided for other similar programs to support arts and cultural heritage projects/programs.

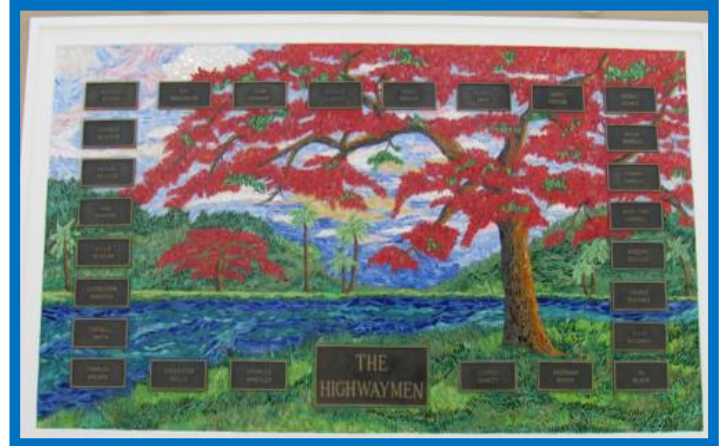
Art in Public Places - A resource for grant sub-awards for area artists and arts organizations is through St. Lucie County and City of Fort Pierce Art in Public Places (AIPP) funding.

D. Website / Social Media / Marketing / Promotion:

The Division will utilize a website, social media, and various marketing and promotional techniques and collaborations to support the development of area artists, arts organizations, cultural heritage assets and community organizations sponsoring cultural heritage activities.

Note: This activity can be funded via marketing/promotional opportunities through arts funders. As funding is available, the State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs (DCA) provides 'quick turn-around' grants up to \$2,500 every six months.

1. Create a website and use social media activities to contact visitors, residents, artists, arts organizations, etc. to promote arts and cultural heritage venues, post grant and artistic opportunities, events for artists, etc., and to utilize as an educational tool.
2. Assist in promoting and helping to identify and brand Fort Pierce's creative uniqueness as an arts and cultural heritage tourism destination.
3. Promote guided tour opportunities for existing cultural heritage trails, Art in Public Places projects/exhibits; and



Highwaymen Mosaic
Highwaymen Heritage Trail Stop #10
Avenue D and 8th Street

Note: Ongoing communication between the Arts and Culture Advisory Board and the St. Lucie County Tourism Development Council (TDC) is essential.

E. Arts and Cultural Heritage Districts; Entrance-way Corridors, Promotion of Cultural Amenities in Historic Neighborhoods and Downtown; Sunrise and Lincoln Theaters

“The PAD: The Peacock Arts District” / Orange Avenue Entranceway Corridor Improvements

1. Cultivate an “artist village / live work community” with affordable living and work space along the Orange Avenue Corridor/Peacock Arts District.
2. Collaborate with property owners and solicit Art Space grants to create artist loft space;
3. Create maps and signage to promote locations; and
4. Create and submit grant applications to various arts and cultural heritage funders to grow the District.

Note: Art districts build strong economic value, as well as revitalize blighted areas.

5. Potential Sites for Exhibits – Old City Hall, Lincoln Park Main Street Offices, PP Cobb's Cultural Center; Lincoln Theater; historic St. Anastasia building.

Promote Cultural Amenities in Historic Neighborhoods and Downtown

1. Revitalize Fort Pierce’s historic neighborhoods and downtown area by promoting and expounding on existing arts and cultural heritage amenities. This will improve the area’s economy and enhance the City’s opportunities to receive grant funding for future projects.
2. Collaborate with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Committee to secure funding to complete the rehabilitation of the historic Lincoln Theater, transforming it into a 500-seat performing arts venue.
3. Provide grant sub-awards to artists and arts organizations for the creation of public art, including street art, colorful murals, pop-up type art shows, street painting, etc., and to enhance offerings related to existing arts and cultural heritage amenities.



**Historic Lincoln Theater
Avenue D – Lincoln Park Neighborhood**

Note: Public art, including street art, murals, etc. create and encourage a ‘following’.

Cultural Information Centers

Create Mini-Cultural Information Centers at various locations throughout the City, including Granny’s Kitchen, the Lincoln Theater and the 7 Gables House.

Farmers’ Market, Sunrise and Lincoln Theaters, Downtown and Historic Neighborhood Events

The Grants Administration Division will expand ways to capitalize on the crowds that attend the Saturday Farmer’s Market, outdoor concerts at the City Marina, performances at the Sunrise and Lincoln Theaters, Jazz on Moore’s Creek, etc., to increase the economic viability of all small businesses in Fort Pierce.

Sunrise and Lincoln Theaters

The Grants Administration Division and Arts and Culture Advisory Board will identify additional funding sources to enhance the economic viability of the Sunrise and Lincoln Theaters, through:

1. Establishing new partnerships;
2. Promoting the importance of the growth and sustainability of the theaters to all of St. Lucie County. Potential additional funding sources include (as Federal and State budgets allow):
 - a. St. Lucie County Tourism Development Council (TDC)
 - b. The Florida Humanities Council (FHC)
 - c. Division of Cultural Affairs (DCA)
 - d. Private Foundations
 - e. National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)



**Historic Sunrise Theater for the Performing Arts
Downtown Fort Pierce**

- f. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

Note: The Division of Arts and Culture will examine numerous avenues to increase financial support for the Sunrise and Lincoln Theaters.

Note: Live music and theatrical performances play an intricate part in branding a positive atmosphere for the City.

F. Creation of Viable Arts Education Component

A strong arts education component is key to the success of arts programming in schools. Through local, state and national partnerships, the Grants Administration Division and Arts and Culture Advisory Board will provide, promote and support professional development opportunities for art teachers, teaching artists and community-based educators interested in utilizing an arts-integrated approach to teaching in schools and communities in Fort Pierce.

Note: Quality, professional development opportunities for arts education instructors will help build skills, knowledge and confidence to teach and support the arts.

The Grants Administration Division and Arts and Culture Advisory Board will investigate ways to institute this activity through:

- a. Meetings with the St. Lucie County School Board and principals of schools located within City boundaries to discuss arts integration into schools;
- b. Utilizing the cultural heritage education and art contest component of the annual Highwaymen Art Show and Festival;
- c. Partnering with Indian River State College to develop a fun, cultural heritage educational component for Zora Neale Hurston and A.E. 'Bean' Backus;
- d. Strengthening collaborations with the Sunrise and Lincoln Theaters, the Kennedy Center and the Grants Administration Division to create a 'triangle system' buy-in; and
- e. Soliciting grant funds for projects to expand the use of the arts as a core component of education through professional development for artists and teaching artists;
- f. Applying to State of Florida for License Plate grant funds for Arts Education for schools within the city limits of Fort Pierce, using the first grant award from this funder to cover the costs associated with the required Kennedy Center Partnership training, travel and other expenses required to create this worthwhile partnership; and
- g. Create a user-friendly website to promote upcoming arts educational workshops and seminars and opportunities for continued education for artists and teachers.
- h. Establish a partnership with the Kennedy Center to enhance artistic opportunities in Fort Pierce Schools to create additional support and provide a highly recognized 'seal of approval', which could lead to new financial backers and a direct positive economic impact for the City as a whole.

Note: The Kennedy Center's *Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child* program is designed to assist communities in developing and implementing a plan for expanded arts education in their



"Away" – Downtown Fort Pierce

schools and ensuring access and equality for all students in grades K-8. The goal of the Any Given Child initiative is to create full access to arts education programs and resources for all K-8 students in a community.

Note: The Grants Administration Division will apply for State of Florida for License Plate grant funds for Arts Education for schools within the city limits of Fort Pierce, using the first grant award from this funder to cover the costs associated with the required Kennedy Center Partnership training, travel and other expenses required to create this worthwhile partnership.

Note: Schools like Chester A. Moore Elementary that are currently without an art teacher or art department and recently received an “F” score from the Department of Education should be a primary focus.



“In the Swim” – Downtown Fort Pierce

Note: Collaborations could also lead to adding Art Collaborative Works as a technical trade for Indian River State College to further the technical trade industry.

V. Creative Placemaking, Economic Impact and Tourism

Creative Placemaking initiatives are an integrative approach to urban planning and community building that stimulates local economies and leads to increased innovation, cultural diversity, and civic engagement. Since creativity fuels place value, the benefits of using arts and culture heritage to tap into a place’s unique character extend well beyond the art world.

Across sectors and at all levels, today’s leaders and policymakers are increasingly recognizing how arts-based Creative Placemaking initiatives can simultaneously advance their missions in transportation, housing, employment, health care, environmental sustainability, and education.



One of Fort Pierce’s many concrete benches created by local artist Anita Prentice adorned with brightly-colored mosaic art.

Note: In ‘Creative Placemaking,’ partners from public, private, nonprofit, and community sectors can strategically shape the physical and social character of a neighborhood, town, city, or region around arts and cultural heritage activities. Creative placemaking initiatives will animate public and private spaces, rejuvenate structures and streetscapes, improve local business viability and public safety, and bring diverse people together to celebrate, to inspire, and to be inspired.

Closing

In April, 2015, the Economic Development Council of St Lucie County completed a workshop with an outcome of strategies to build economic growth in St Lucie County. Goals were created which were to be followed up with a development plan. Goal #6 in the initial plan was listed as “Quality of Life through Tourism.” This positive goal helps quantify the apparent need to capitalize on the arts and cultural heritage amenities in historic Fort Pierce, which will increase tourism, renew civic pride, encourage economic development and improve the City’s overall quality of life.

The City of Fort Pierce City Commission approved an amended 2011-2016 Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Plan in August 2013 and the 2016-2020 Con Plan to include “Promotion of Local Arts and Cultural Heritage”. The City is dedicated to the successful implementation of the Arts and Culture Master Plan and its mission to “...empower, support and sustain a strong and vibrant artistic atmosphere for Fort Pierce residents and visitors.”

Funding from CDBG, federal, state, local and national grant opportunities, foundations and the Art in Public Places programs from the City and St. Lucie County will ensure the success of this Plan and the continuous creation, preservation and promotion of Fort Pierce’s artists, arts and cultural heritage programs and projects.

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Participants in “Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past” Historic Walking Tour
October, 2016