



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3228

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

An international liberty plaza, welcome center and pathways will be constructed at the Dale Mabry Army Air Field Museum site on the campus of Tallahassee Community College as a reminder of America's global commitment to freedom and liberty exemplified in WWII. Dale Mabry AAF was a major fighter pilot combat training base where British, French, Chinese and other trained alongside our own, including the famed all-black "Tuskegee Airmen," 18,000 in total. The plaza will feature a grand display of the Stars and Stripes surrounded by flags of her WWII Allies, a thematic tribute to Florida's unparalleled support for Army Air Corps training in WWII; a circular drive with replicated guard station, 800 square foot welcome center, and scaled pathways replicating the base runways. This will be a must see attraction for regional, state, national and international tourists visiting Florida's Capital City and the heritage of our commitments on the home front and warfront during WWII.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	163,350
Fixed Capital Outlay	803,650
Total State Funds Requested	967,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	967,000	64%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	465,000	31%
Other	81,000	5%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	1,513,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?**

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**



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Dale Mabry Army Air Field Museum, Inc. is a non-profit, charitable organization formed in 2017 and is in partnership with Tallahassee Community College. It actively fund raises and accepts individual and corporate donations, and in-kind donations.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

Dale Mabry Army Air Field, Inc. is in partnership with Tallahassee Community College through a formal Memorandum of Understanding (2019) to establish an educational complex and museum on campus by 2024. TCC has provided the 5 acre museum site. We currently are recipients of a grant to relocate and restore a military housing structure built in 1941 by the federal government, which will be completed in 2024 for display to the public.

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	A full-time project director will be hired to administer the appropriation including solicit. vendor contracts, overseeing all phases of design and construction, and providing deliverable reports to the state agency, provide grant oversight, invoice collection and reporting, outside bid oversight	115,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Five percent for indirect costs such as faxing, shipping, office supplies, travel is requested.	48,350
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering	Architectural and engineering services, site preparation, permitting and construction costs.	803,650
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		967,000

14. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

The addition of infrastructure and thematic enhancements to the attraction that will make it a "must see" cultural landmark for tourists to the Capital City of Florida. The liberty plaza will be attractive to freedom-loving people, and the international component adds cultural relevancy. The museum sits where the airbase once existed. WWII was a seminal moment in American and international history. The museum complex will transport visitors back to the 1940s to bring history alive and inspire the imaginations of younger generations in the areas of civic duty, military service, aviation, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through the stories of sacrifice and technological advancements made by America and it's "Greatest Generation" in its time of need, on the homefront and warfront. As a one-of-its kind educational and museum complex, it serves as an example of Florida's commitment to the war effort, particularly the development of air power--the deciding factor to victory.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

Design and construction of the infrastructure and thematic enhancements as described in the project description, along with continued marketing and public relations of the amenity in conjunction with our community partners and stakeholders, including Tallahassee Community College. The design of the International Liberty Plaza and welcome center incorporates important themes conveying the heritage of America's contributions to the liberation of Europe and the commitment of citizens, particularly Floridians, to uniquely American ideals that stand in opposition to authoritarian forms of government. The welcome center will be the first stop for visitors, setting the tone for engagement in other museum assets.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

The International Liberty Plaza and Welcome Center at Dale Mabry Army Air Field Museum is a cultural enhancement that improves the quality of life for the local community through education, entertainment and inspiration. It will reflect positively on the State of Florida, which played a major role in the war effort to liberate Europe from authoritarian rule. It will be a tourist attraction for visitors to the Capital City and provide educational opportunities in a multitude of areas including citizenship, civic pride, patriotism, Americanism versus Communism, and service through real stories of homefront and warfront events by Floridians using Dale Mabry Field and Tallahassee as exemplars for the many airbases that dotted Florida in that era.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

Tourists and students of all ages. An economic study showing that 7% of tourists (approximately 118,000) to the Capital City visited historical amenities (Visit Tallahassee, 2020). Visit Florida affirms the value of military history and tourism by maintaining <https://www.visitflorida.com/things-to-do/military/> . Tallahassee is the 9th largest city in Florida and locally Tallahassee Community College has approximately 15,000 students alone and will open a K-12 charter school in 2023. Approximately 55,000 students attend Florida State University, Florida A&M University and Lively Technical College. Leon County K-12 enrollment is nearly 33,000 at 57 schools. A 2020 report by Visit Tallahassee indicated that 7% of tourists (118,000) visited historical amenities in the Capital City even though tourism was down 31% due to the COVID pandemic.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

The International Liberty Plaza and Welcome Center at Dale Mabry Army Air Field Museum will contribute to "placemaking" strategy towards economic development. A major strategy of local government is "placemaking" leading to community identity, celebrated values and shared heritage, ultimately to make a community more desirable and prosperous and individuals choose a community to live, work and create businesses and jobs.* Tallahassee was a military town during WWII, Dale Mabry Army Air Field was a major airbase, and the efforts of the State to bring the Army Air Corps to Florida during WWII mobilization are untold chapters in our placemaking story book. *See <https://www.talgov.com/place/pln-placemaking> .

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?



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We anticipate a fixed fee, deliverables-based, cost-reimbursement contract through the chosen agency whereby any funds not expended for the intended purpose will be returned.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name **Last Name**

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number