

Re: FY21 Cultural Support Grants

Lober, Bryan

Fri 11/6/2020 8:27 PM

To: Terri Wright <twright@fit.edu>

Cc: Commissioner, D2

Thank you for reaching out to relay your thoughts. While I have yet to fully make up my mind on the item, I will certainly give the proposal every consideration. Have a great weekend! Kind regards,
Bryan

From: Terri Wright <twright@fit.edu>

Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 11:32 AM

To: Lober, Bryan

Subject: FY21 Cultural Support Grants

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Honorable Mr Lorber,

The Cultural Support grants provide a platform for advancing arts, culture and creativity as vital contributors to Brevard's unique and distinctive character, quality of life and economy. Brevard's cultural events and offerings attract visitors and encourage longer stays and return visits. A vibrant cultural community greatly contributes to Brevard's attractiveness as a destination. It is important to recognize that the Cultural Support grants are an investment in Brevard's present and future.

Highlights of the 2019 economic impact study commissioned by Brevard Cultural Alliance found that Brevard's cultural industry annually contributes \$131 million in total sales, \$64.9 to GDP, and supports 1,768 full- and part-time jobs.

The work of the Cultural Support recipient organizations amplifies the County's aspirations of sustaining our community's leadership in innovation and entrepreneurship while strengthening our cultural environment to promote a robust future.

We thank you for your time and consideration of this matter and strongly encourage your favorable consideration and approval of the FY21 Cultural Support grants.

Terri Wright

General Manager, WFIT

Public Radio for the Space Coast 89.5 fm

Your support matters!

Arts and Culture Funding

Terri Wright <twright@fit.edu>

Thu 11/12/2020 10:53 AM

To: Lober, Bryan

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Honorable Mr. Lorber,

I just read the FL Today account of the county commission's meeting and narrow vote

approving 40 arts, cultural grants.

It seems that now that TDC has taken over the BCA there is no longer funding available for Arts and Culture in Brevard unless it attracts tourists. Having been a recipient of BCA funding for many years it is sad that providing Arts and Culture for the citizens of Brevard County is no longer a priority.

→ The fact that our County Commission fails to see the value in the amazing organizations here in Brevard that produce such high-quality performances and events that allow our residents to be culturally enlightened without having to drive out of the county is truly heartbreaking.

By choosing to fund only the organizations that bring in tourist dollars shows a degradation in the priority that the Commission's role is to improve the quality of life in Brevard. By focusing on the bottom line rather than promoting cultural enlightenment is distressing.

There should be a calculation done to estimate the money Brevard residents spend in pursuing cultural entertainment out of our county.

I would urge the County Commission to revisit their true mission of improving the quality of life here in Brevard and reprioritize Arts & Culture for our residents.

Respectfully,

Terri Wright

General Manager, WFIT
Public Radio for the Space Coast 89.5 fm
Your support matters!

Re: Thank You

Commissioner, D2

Thu 11/12/2020 2:47 PM

To: Aaron Collins

Cc: Abbate, Frank B <Frank.Abbate@brevardfl.gov>; Liesenfelt, Jim <Jim.Liesenfelt@brevardfl.gov>; Cranis, Peter <Peter.Cranis@visitspacecoast.com>; Commissioner, D2 <D2.Commissioner@brevardfl.gov>

Maestro,

Thank you for your kind words. I appreciate your having taken the time out of your day to share them. Such messages do wonders in fostering a continuing positive relationship between our respective organizations.

Should you have any questions or concerns, you are always welcome to reach out. Please keep up the good work.

Kind regards,

Bryan

P.S.: Some years ago, I believe my wife played (clarinet) in an orchestra in which you served as conductor. Small world!

From: Aaron Collins

Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 7:16 PM

To: Commissioner, D2

Subject: Thank You

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Lober,

Wanted to thank you for your support of the arts community. I sincerely appreciate you going to bat for the arts organizations in the county. I do understand the other side of the coin and I will encourage the BCA to develop a committee to address the concerns of the other commissioners.

Many thanks and take care,

Aaron Collins

Space Coast Symphony Orchestra

219 North Indian River Drive | Cocoa, FL 32922

(855) 252-7276, ext. 3

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Re: Arts and Culture Funding

Lober, Bryan

Thu 11/12/2020 12:37 PM

To: Terri Wright <twright@ft.edu>

Madam:

I am rather surprised by your below message and I hope that it was perhaps meant factiously or sarcastically and that this was simply lost in the written word.

Who am I to take, at penalty of imprisonment, property owners' tax dollars and decide to which organizations I wish to give them? Why your group and not one which helps kids with cancer? Or mental health facilities? Or churches? That should be the decision of the individual taxpayer with respect to their own funds, not the government at the threat of imprisonment for failure to pay.

I will not stop you from donating your own funds to any group you wish. That's your business.

It is not typically the government's place to subsidize, on an ongoing basis, businesses which do not turn a profit. I would hazard a guess that you do not identify as a fiscal (or any other kind of) conservative as your comments are entirely opposed to fiscal conservatism.

Despite my concerns, I was the deciding vote which enabled funding to be authorized and, by way of history, but for me, the BCA would have been utterly cut off from the county's coffers. Apparently, this history either wholly eluded you or, alternatively, even doing what you wish is simply not good enough without the requisite level of enthusiasm. I also recommended the BCA be given space in the county building in which my office is situated at no cost to them and this was done. Yet your email is disparaging and suggests I do not appropriately value such organizations. No good deed, I suppose...

While I do not intend to hold you entitled and somewhat condescending remarks against any other organization, your remarks reflect upon your employer.

Such messages are highly counterproductive and, push me in a direction opposite yours. Lastly, if you're going to criticize me (oddly enough despite my having supported your desired cause), you could at least spell my name correctly.

Truly,

Bryan A. Lober