

Item #: **6F-2**

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: **March 23, 2010**

Consent
 Ordinance

Regular
 Public Hearing

Department: **Parks and Recreation**
Submitted by: **Parks and Recreation Department**
Submitted for: **Parks and Recreation Department**

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve: reallocation of \$800,000 within the 2002 \$50 Million Recreational and Cultural Facilities Bond referendum as follows:

- A) \$450,000 from Palm Beach County Gramercy Park Community Center Park to Center for Creative Education, Inc. for construction of an Arts Center in West Palm Beach; and
- B) \$350,000 from South Florida Science Museum Improvements to Center for Creative Education, Inc. for construction of an Arts Center in West Palm Beach.

Summary: District 2 and District 7 Commissioners have identified \$800,000 from the 2002 \$50 Million Recreational and Cultural Facilities Bond that they have requested the Board reallocate to the Center for Creative Education, Inc. (CCE) to complete construction of an Arts Center in West Palm Beach's Northwood Village. The total amount needed to complete this project is \$3,000,000, and CCE has secured all funding necessary to move forward with this project with the exception of \$800,000. Funding is from the 2002 Recreational and Cultural Bond project funding allocated for South Florida Science Museum Improvements and Gramercy Park Community Center construction. District 7 (PK)

Background and Policy Issues: CCE is a not-for-profit agency that has served underprivileged youth for over fourteen years by providing cultural and fine arts programs in Palm Beach County schools, churches, Boys and Girls Clubs, and other sites. In an effort to expand cultural arts programming by constructing its own arts campus, two years ago CCE initiated renovation of a skating rink in the Northwood area of West Palm Beach. The renovated facility will house a black box theater, dance studio, classrooms and a community meeting room. The Arts Center will then be able to offer expanded programs including the "Step Ahead" program to provide underprivileged youth with the opportunity to receive instruction, mentoring, and coaching in all art forms in order to successfully compete in auditions for local arts magnet schools. The new Arts Center will not only serve youth and adults from the surrounding community but, as a result of three years of collaborative work with DOT, safe and easy public transportation access to the Arts Center will be available from throughout the County.

Construction of the Arts Center has been halted due to budgetary constraints, but CCE has indicated that it will be able to immediately move forward to complete this project if the County provides the requested \$800,000. CCE estimates that if they are able to recommence construction of the Arts Center in the near future, it can be completed by the late fall of 2010.

The \$800,000 is being funded by reallocation of \$450,000 from the \$1,500,000 previously allocated from District 7 for Gramercy Park Community Center construction and \$350,000 from the \$2,750,000 previously allocated from District 2 for improvements to the South Florida Science Museum. The Gramercy Park project has been redesigned, resulting in portions of the \$1,500,000 being freed up for other projects, including this reallocation of \$450,000 to the CCE Arts Center. Likewise, South Florida Science Museum, Inc., which has not yet entered into a funding Agreement with the County due to multiple project changes, can complete its revised plan for improvements to the existing Science Museum at Dreher Park with \$2,400,000 that will remain available after reallocating \$350,000 from that project to CCE for the Arts Center.

Upon Board approval of this \$800,000 reallocation, Agreements will be presented to the Board in the near future for both the CCE Arts Center and South Florida Science Museum Improvements projects.

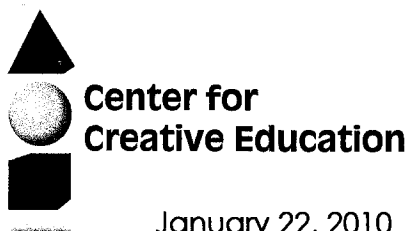
- Attachments:**
1. Letter of Request for County funding from Center for Creative Education, Inc.
 2. Memoranda of authorization for reallocation of funding from Districts 2 and 7

Recommended by: 
Department Director

2/26/10
Date

Approved by: 
Assistant County Administrator

3/12/10
Date



425 24th Street • West Palm Beach, Florida 33407-5401

Phone 561.805.9927 • Fax 561.805.9929 • ccefl@cceflorida.org

January 22, 2010

Commissioner Jeff Koons
Commissioner Priscilla Taylor
301 North Olive Avenue, 12th floor
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Dear Commissioners Koons and Taylor:

Thanks to both of you for your interest in the Center for Creative Education's new arts center that is currently under construction at 425 24th Street in Northwood Village and for recognizing its value for youth and adults in local and surrounding neighborhoods as well as the entire Palm Beach County community.

The Center for Creative Education, Inc. (CCE) has served youth in underprivileged situations for the past fourteen years, providing arts programs at nearly every school in the Riviera Beach/Pleasant City Corridor. It also offers after school programs in schools, churches, Boys and Girls Clubs and other sites in the same corridor. The completion of our new facility will allow the creation of new programming such as the "Step Ahead" program that will offer underprivileged youth the opportunity to receive instruction, mentoring, and coaching in all art forms in order to successfully compete in auditions for local arts magnet schools. Additionally, youth from throughout the County can now be transported to the new CCE Center as a result of three years of collaborative work with the DOT that will result in safe and easy access to the Center by public transportation.

Construction of the CCE Center was initiated two years ago, but was halted due to budgetary constraints. Now at fifty percent completion, the Center's construction can be totally completed for a total of \$3,000,000 but we are \$800,000 short of that amount. We are therefore respectfully requesting funding assistance in that amount from the County. If the County provides the \$800,000, Bank of America would immediately activate a loan in the amount of \$3,000,000 to allow us to recommence project construction AND if we can resume the project in the near future, the Center could be complete and open to the public by the late fall of 2010.

We look forward to the possibility of a remarkable partnership with the County and Center for Creative Education to finalize construction of this badly needed cultural and recreational neighborhood facility. If you need any additional information in order to consider this request, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Pilecki".

Tom Pilecki
Executive Director

Priscilla A. Taylor

County Commissioner, District 7
Board of County Commissioners



February 8, 2009

To: Dennis Eshelman, Parks Director

From: Priscilla Taylor, Commissioner, District VII

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Priscilla Taylor", is written over the "From:" line.

Please let this memo serve as my approval of \$450,000 for the Creative Center for Education project. This approval is contingent upon the organization agreeing to the terms which we discussed. I did receive a letter indicating agreement. However, before disbursement of funds I would like a formal signed binding agreement.

Thank you for your involvement in this project.

"An Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer"

301 N. Olive Avenue West Palm Beach, Florida 33401 (561) 355-2207 Fax: (561) 355-6332
345 S. Congress Avenue Delray Beach, Florida 33445 (561) 276-1350 Fax: (561) 276-1380

Nancy Beale

From: Kim Ciklin
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 1:56 PM
To: Susan Yinger; Dennis Eshleman
Subject: Authorization to replace the e-mail sent to you on 2/10/10

This will serve as Commissioner Koons' authorization to proceed with the following:

- 1) Reallocate \$350,000 from the South Florida Science Museum project to the Center for Creative Education project; and,
- 2) Prepare a funding agreement in the amount of \$2,400,000 with the South Florida Science Museum for construction of their facility expansion at Dreher Park.

Thank you.