

City of Lake City, FL

Project Title: Wilson Street Cemetery

Grant Number: 26.h.ac.100.136

Date Submitted: Friday, December 6, 2024

Request Amount: \$50,000.00

A. Organization Information Page 1 of 9

Applicant Information

- a. Organization Name: **City of Lake City, FL**
- b. FEID: 59-6000052
- c. Phone number (with extension if applicable): 386.752.2031
- d. Principal Address: 205 N Marion Ave Lake City, 32055
- e. Mailing Address: 205 N Marion Ave Lake City, 32055
- f. Website: <https://www.lcfla.com/>
- g. Organization Type: Municipal Government
- h. Organization Category: Government: Other
- i. County: Columbia
- j. Fiscal Year End Date: 09/30

Designated Project Contact *

First Name

Shannon

Last Name

Williams

Phone 386.292.1410

Email swilliams@gatewaygrants.net

Authorized Official *

First Name

Demetrius

Last Name

Johnson

Phone 386.719.5816

Email johnsond@lcfla.com

Applicant Grant Experience and History

Has the applicant organization received previous grant assistance within the past five years from any source?
*

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, for the most recent grants (up to 20), specify the year of the grant award, grant number, grant project name, the granting entity, the grant award amount, and its current status. Make sure to include any grants awarded by the Division or other State grants.

#	Previous Grant Year	Previous Grant Number.	Previous Grant Project Name	Previous Granting Entity	Previous Grant Amount	Open/Closed
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Has the applicant applied for additional grant assistance from other State or Federal funding sources, including from other divisions of the Department of State, for the same Scope of Work activities within the same fiscal year?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, for the most recent grants (up to 20), application specify the grant project name, the granting entity, the grant program, the grant request amount, date of application, and its current status

#	Grant Project Name	Granting Entity	Grant Program	Grant Request Amount	Date of Application	Current Status
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Proposed Project Team *

#	Name	Project Role Title	Email	Phone/Ext.
1	Shannon Williams	Grant Administrator	swilliams@gatewaygrants.net	3862921410
2	Demetrius Johnson	Project Manager	johnsond@lcfla.com	386.719.5816.____

Applicant staffing and hours *

Select the option that best describes your organization.

☒ Organization is open at least 40 hours per week and has at least one paid staff member in a management position

☐ Organization has some paid staff but they are not full-time

☐ Organization is open part-time and has volunteer staff

Applicant Financial Resources - (Maximum characters 5000)

Describe the organization's access to financial resources to cover any costs exceeding the grant request or to carry project costs between payments from the Division (should the project be funded).

The City of Lake City has demonstrated a strong commitment to preserving its historical and cultural assets, including the Wilson Street Cemetery. The City has access to a variety of financial resources to ensure the successful completion of the proposed project, even if costs exceed the grant request or if interim funding is needed between payments from the Division.

The City maintains an established budget for public works and historical preservation initiatives, which includes dedicated contingency funds for unforeseen project costs. Additionally, the City has a history of leveraging its General Fund to support critical community projects, ensuring financial stability and flexibility. Partnerships with local organizations, community groups, and private donors provide supplementary funding opportunities for special projects.

The City has a proven track record of effectively managing state and federal grants, including the ability to provide bridge funding to cover costs incurred before grant reimbursements are received. With a sound financial management system and strong fiscal policies in place, the City is fully prepared to manage the financial responsibilities of this project and ensure its timely and successful completion.

B. Project Information Page 2 of 9

Project Type *

Select the project type for which grant funds are requested. If you are unsure of which type to select, please refer to the definition beneath each project type.

☐ Cemetery Research

Projects for the purpose of conducting genealogical and historical research necessary to identify and contact the relatives and descendants of persons buried in abandoned African-American cemeteries. Cemetery Research projects do not fund archaeological fieldwork or comprehensive field surveys of geographic areas whose goal is to locate and identify abandoned cemeteries. Cemetery Research projects are only awarded to Research Institutions, colleges, universities, and nonprofit organizations.

☒ Cemetery Protection

Projects for the purposes of repairing, restoring, and maintaining abandoned African-American cemeteries. This includes: planning to guide the long term preservation of the Cemetery, including existing conditions assessments, architectural or engineering drawings and construction documents, and management plans; the restoration of historic funerary resources and the in-kind replacement of resources that cannot be repaired; the removal of vegetation that negatively impacts the historic resources; erosion control and fill for the purposes of leveling sunken graves; installation of appropriate security features including lighting or fencing; installation of limited interpretive signage; and the marking of unmarked remains, all in a manner that is approved by the Division and consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation. This does not include archaeological fieldwork, other than remote sensing techniques such as ground penetrating radar and magnetometry performed by a professional archaeologist to determine the boundaries of the cemetery or location of interments for planning purposes. Cemetery Protection projects are only awarded to local government entities and nonprofit organizations.

Project Title and Location Information *

The title should reflect the name of the property, site, area and/or the goals of the proposed project. The title should be consistent with previous applications/awards. Upload in the Support Materials section of this application any available documentation regarding the location of the Cemetery, which may include Florida Master Site File forms, property records, surveys, and other historical or archival materials.

Project Title

Wilson Street Cemetery

Name of Cemetery (if known)

Location Description (closest address or directions)

The abandoned cemetery on Wilson Street in Lake City, FL is very accessible from Wilson Street, a residential well maintained street. The closest address to the cemetery is 644 NW WILSON ST LAKE CITY, FL 32055

Nearest City/Town/Area

Lake City, FL

County

Columbia

Parcel ID (from county property appraiser records)*

00-00-00-11248-000

GPS Coordinates (if known)

30.19701671455574, -82.64582506536391

C. Cemetery Information Page 3 of 9

Property Ownership (for site-specific projects).

Enter name of the Property Owner of the parcel where the Cemetery is located (and choose the appropriate owner type). For projects that require physical access to the Cemetery, if the applicant is not the legal owner of the property, the applicant must secure Property Owner concurrence or have the right to maintain the cemetery pursuant to Section 704.08, Florida Statutes, which shall be documented by a court order, or a notification to the Department of Financial Services in accordance with 497.284, Florida Statutes (see II.B.7 of the program guidelines for additional information on owner concurrence requirements). The applicant shall upload in the Support Materials section of this application a letter from the Property Owner that documents that the applicant has the permission of the Property Owner of record to conduct the proposed project on the owner's property and that the Property Owner is in concurrence with this application for grant funding, or documentation of the right to maintain the cemetery, as applicable. If the property for which grant funding is requested is leased by the Applicant Organization, the lease agreement must be dated, signed and submitted at the time of the application submission, with the required Owner Concurrence Letter attached to the application.

Does your organization own the property?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Property Owner (if not the applicant organization)

Type of Ownership

☐ Non-Profit Organization

☐ Private Individual or For-Profit Entity

☐ Governmental Agency

☒ Unknown Owner/No Extant Owner

Is the Cemetery that is the subject of this grant licensed under Chapter 497, Florida Statutes? (Note that licensed cemeteries are not eligible for this program)

☐ Yes

☒ No

Did the majority of burials within the cemetery occur at least 50 years ago? (Note that any cemetery where a majority of the burials are not at least 50 years old is not eligible for this program)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Provide the date of the latest known burial. (Note that any cemetery with a burial less than ten years ago is not eligible for this program)* 11/3/1974

Physical Context of the Cemetery (Maximum characters 1500) *

Describe the physical context of the Cemetery. Some questions to consider include: What is the existing condition of the Cemetery? Is it in a rural or urban environment? Is it on private or publicly owned land?

The cemetery on Wilson Street is located right in the heart of Lake City, FL, and in the middle of a predominantly African-American community. It is a fairly clear, open field. The cemetery is adjacent to the CSX railroad.

The ground is constantly vibrating due to passing trains and we suspect this is why a few monuments have fallen over time. It is well-kept by inmate labor. The inmates can be seen cleaning this cemetery about 4 times a year and mowing the grass every two weeks.

We've counted around 30 marked grave sites but we suspect there are several unmarked sites due to the indentations in the ground. Each member researched on Ancestry.com is of African-American descent.

Provide the estimated total square footage or acreage of the Cemetery.

60,062

Provide the number of known burials?

30

Provide the date of the earliest known burial? * 3/28/1884

Local Protection Level(s) *

☒ None

D. Historical and Cultural Significance Page 4 of 9

Historical Designation *

Indicate the type of historical designation currently held by the Cemetery or the property where the Cemetery is located, if any. For properties or sites that have been listed in the National Register or are contributing properties or sites within a National Register District, provide the date that the property, site or district was listed. Should you have questions regarding the National Register status of a property or site, contact the Division's National Register Staff at 1.800.847.7278 or 850.245.6300

Type of Historical Designation *

☒ No Historical Designation

Historical Designation details

#	Property Name	Date Designated
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Enter the Florida Master Site File (FMSF) Number (ex. 8ES1234). If no FMSF form exists, applicants may be required to complete one as part of the requirements in a grant award agreement.

Historical and Cultural Significance

Describe the historical and cultural significance of the Cemetery. (Maximum characters 1500)

Provide a brief summary of the history of the cemetery. Include available information on the Cemetery's burials, cultural context, distinctive features, association with historic eras or events, and any other relevant information on the Cemetery's historic and cultural significance.

This abandoned African-American cemetery as well as others holds immense historical and cultural significance for several reasons:

Historical Record: These cemeteries often serve as important historical records of African-American communities' existence and contributions. Many were established during times of segregation when African Americans were denied access to predominantly white cemeteries. They provide tangible evidence of the presence and struggles of African Americans in the past.

Cultural Heritage: Abandoned African American cemeteries are repositories of cultural heritage. They often contain unique burial practices, grave markers, and rituals that reflect the African roots and traditions that have persisted through generations. These cemeteries can offer insights into how African-American communities maintained their distinct cultural identity.

Preservation Efforts: In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the need to preserve and restore abandoned African-American cemeteries. Many organizations and individuals are working tirelessly to reclaim and restore these burial grounds, recognizing their historical and cultural value.

Educational Opportunities: These cemeteries can be valuable educational resources. They offer opportunities to learn about African American history, culture, and the enduring legacy of slavery, segregation, and discrimination. They can also serve as sites for community education and outreach.

Describe the Cemetery's relationship with the history of African Americans in Florida and its present value to the African-American community. (Maximum characters 1500)

This cemetery is so important to the community and neighborhood in which it anchors. I have walked passed this cemetery as a child for years on my way to the bus stop along with hundreds of other children. The cemetery was always respected although we didn't know anyone there. The community is now very engaged in restoring the cemetery having not known that African Americans were living and being buried in the community as far back as the early 1800s. The interred members are still being research and we do not currently know what impact they may have had on this area just yet.

E. Project Specifics Page 5 of 9

Professional Services

All grantees are required to use the services of qualified professionals in order to carry out the scope of work of their projects.

Funding professional services (Select all that apply)*

- ☒ Professional services will be hired using grant funds or match (make sure to include those services in your scope of work and budget).
- ☒ Applicant will use the services of its existing professional staff (make sure to include them in the project team questions and attachments).

If no professionals are projected to be hired, explain why. (Maximum characters 500)

Scope of Work - (Maximum characters 5000.)

In the space provided below, briefly describe the scope of work for the project for which funding is requested. List the work items that will be completed during the grant period using the funds requested.

Site Assessment and Documentation: Conduct a thorough assessment of the cemetery's current condition, including overgrown vegetation, damaged graves, and vandalism.

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR): a non-invasive geophysical technique that uses radar pulses to image what lies beneath the surface to detect disturbances in the soil that may indicate the presence of graves, even if there are no visible markers.

Clearing and Vegetation Management: Remove overgrown vegetation, debris, and invasive species from the cemetery grounds; Prune or remove trees that may pose a risk to the cemetery's integrity.

Grave Restoration: Repair and restore damaged grave markers, headstones, and monuments. Straighten and stabilize leaning or tilting grave markers. Replace missing or broken markers, if possible.

Fencing: Install or repair boundary fencing and gates to secure the cemetery and protect it from vandalism and unauthorized access.

Design of limited interpretive signage: Develop signage or plaques to provide historical context and information about the cemetery's significance. The information is currently being gathered and verified about the cemetery site. We expect to install 6 signs with material sturdy enough to endure the sun and inclement weather. Maybe something in stone to match the stones in the cemetery.

Tentative Project Timeline *

Please specify the start and end month and year below; indicate all major elements of the project for which funding assistance is requested, the anticipated time required to complete each element, and the planned sequence of these activities. Grants, if awarded, will begin July 1 of the year funds are appropriated. Projects should be completed within 12 months.

#	Work Item	Starting Date	Ending Date
1	Ground penetrating radar	7/1/2025	7/15/2025
2	Land clearing	7/16/2025	7/31/2025
3	Fence installation	9/1/2025	9/2/2025
4	Repair/Replace head stones	7/16/2025	8/31/2025
5	Design of Interpretive Signage	7/1/2025	8/1/2025
6	Installation of interpretive signage	8/15/2025	9/1/2025

Cemetery Protection Projects *

Provide measurable quantities for each work item listed in the Scope of Work (e.g., number of headstones/funerary object to be restored, linear feet of security fencing, etc.):* (Example: repair 15 grave

markers):

- Repair 10 known grave headstones
- Ground penetrating RADAR for the entire 1.35 acre of cemetery
- Install 1000 LF of fencing
- Clear underbrush vegetation along the perimeter of the cemetery
- Install 6 interpretive signs

Need for Project (Maximum characters 1500.)

Discuss the need for the proposed project or activity, including any existing or potential threats of loss or damage to the Cemetery or to the genealogical and historical information associated with it. Documentation material, such as newspaper articles, are to be uploaded in the Support Materials section of this application.

1. **Historical Significance:** African American cemeteries are invaluable repositories of history. They offer insights into the lives of those who, in many cases, were marginalized and overlooked in historical narratives. Preserving these cemeteries allows for a more inclusive understanding of history, ensuring that the contributions and experiences of African Americans are recognized and remembered.
2. **Cultural Heritage:** These cemeteries are not just final resting places; they are also cultural landmarks. They hold traditions, art, and symbols unique to African American heritage. Protecting them helps maintain the cultural diversity of the landscape, offering future generations a tangible connection to their ancestry and heritage.
3. **Educational Value:** These cemeteries can serve as powerful educational tools. They provide real-life contexts for understanding the African American experience, including the legacies of slavery, segregation, and the civil rights movement.
4. **Community Engagement and Healing:** The protection and restoration of these cemeteries can be a catalyst for community engagement and healing.

In conclusion, the protection of abandoned African-American cemeteries is a multifaceted issue. It is not just about preserving the past; it's also about respecting and acknowledging the contributions of African Americans, correcting historical oversights, and promoting social justice and community engagement. By protecting these sites, we honor our collective history and ensure that the stories and lives of those buried there are not forgotten.

Care and Maintenance (Maximum characters 500)

Describe any plans for the long-term care and maintenance of the Cemetery.

Maintenance and Long-Term Care: We will establish a maintenance plan that outlines regular upkeep tasks, such as grass cutting, weed control, and marker maintenance and develop a strategy for fundraising and ongoing financial support to sustain the cemetery's maintenance.

F. Budget Page 6 of 9

Project Budget *

Grant Funds *

List the work items with their associated estimated expenses. Only include expenses that are specifically related to the project. If professional services are to be paid with grant funds, include those costs as a separate item in the budget. Refer to the program Guidelines for examples of non-allowable expenses (available at dos.myflorida.com/historical/grants). No match is required for this program, but voluntary match (cash or in-kind) available for the project may be indicated in the budget table.

Round amounts to the nearest dollar. Rows must have a value or the row will not be saved.

#	Work Item	Grant Funds	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	Total
1	Ground penetrating radar services	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
2	Land clearing	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
3	Repair/Replace head stones	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
4	Install fence	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$6,000
5	Grant Administration	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
6	Design of limited interpretive signage	\$3,500	\$0	\$0	\$3,500
7	Purchase & Installation of of limited interpretive signage	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Totals:		\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000

Grant Funds Requested:

\$50,000

Voluntary Match:

Project Total Budget:

\$50,000

Additional Budget Information/Clarification (Maximum characters 500)

Use this space to provide additional detail or information about the proposal budget as needed. For example, where the relationship between items in the budget and the objectives of the proposed project may not be obvious, provide clarification regarding the necessity for or contribution of those work items to the successful completion of the project. If voluntary match is included in the budget, explain the source of the match and upload match documentation to Optional Materials in the Support Materials section of this application.

Design of limited interpretive signage

Develop signage or plaques to provide historical context and information about the cemetery's significance.

Completed Project Activities

#	Activity Description	Date Completed	Cost Value
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Operating Forecast. - (Maximum characters 500.)

Describe source(s) of funding for necessary maintenance, program support and/or additional expenses warranted to sustain the proposed project after the grant period.

We will establish a maintenance plan that outlines regular upkeep tasks, such as grass cutting, weed control, and marker maintenance and develop a strategy for fundraising and ongoing financial support to sustain the cemetery's maintenance. We plan to take the many identified abandoned African-American cemeteries and turn them over to a non-profit to maintain with the help of the city, county and inmate labor.

G. Impact Page 7 of 9

Accessibility (Maximum characters 1500)

How publicly accessible is the cemetery or how accessible will the research be to the general public?

The cemetery is fully accessible by public roads. All information gathered on the history of the cemetery and the ones interred there will be compiled in a binder and also placed in a digital media format and donated to the two local libraries in the vicinity. We would urge the librarians not to allow anyone to remove the items from the library but to use the documents there so everyone can have access to them. We would also publish the information online with the non-profit slated to provide the research.

Educational Benefits and Public Awareness - (Maximum characters 1500.)

Explain the educational potential of the proposed project relating to issues of abandoned African-American cemeteries, preservation and protection of cemeteries, and/or Florida history.

The educational potential related to issues of abandoned African-American cemeteries, preservation and protection of cemeteries, and Florida history is substantial and multifaceted. These topics provide valuable opportunities for learning, awareness, and engagement, both within and beyond the state of Florida. Here's how they contribute to education:

African-American History and Heritage:

- Abandoned African-American cemeteries are repositories of African-American history, culture, and heritage. They offer insights into the lives, struggles, and contributions of African Americans in Florida and the broader United States.
- Educational programs and curriculum materials can be developed to teach students about the history of African Americans, their role in shaping Florida's history, and the challenges they faced, including segregation and discrimination.

Civil Rights and Social Justice:

- Florida has a significant history in the Civil Rights Movement. Abandoned cemeteries can serve as tangible reminders of the ongoing struggle for civil rights and social justice. Educators can use these sites to discuss the historical and contemporary issues related to racial equality.
- Students can learn about the role of individuals buried in these cemeteries in advocating for civil rights and social change.

Cemetery Preservation and Restoration:

- Teaching students about cemetery preservation and restoration techniques can foster an appreciation for historical preservation and community engagement.
- Educational programs can involve students in hands-on projects, such as cleaning gravestones, conducting research on the cemetery's history, or participating in volunteer efforts to restore these burial grounds.

Community Support (Maximum characters 1500)

Describe the community support for this project, including from volunteers, partner organizations, descendants, property owners, and other stakeholders.

Our letters of support from the community includes city council members, county commissions, city and county managers as well as residents living adjacent to the cemetery and residents throughout the neighborhood.

H. Support Materials Page 8 of 9

Nonprofit Status (nonprofit organizations only)

Provide documentation of the applicant's active status as a Florida non-profit corporation with the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State, which can be obtained at: <http://www.sunbiz.org> by searching the corporate name.

Florida Substitute W-9 Form

Available at DFS website <https://flvendor.myfloridacfo.com>. Note that this is a state form, NOT your Federal W-9.

File Name	File Size	Uploaded On	View (opens in new window)
City of Lake City Substitute W-9.pdf	34 [KB]	12/6/2024 1:47:11 PM	View file

Letters of Support

Additional letters may be submitted directly to the Division but must be received one month prior to the public meeting where the applications will be reviewed and scored.

File Name	File Size	Uploaded On	View (opens in new window)
Support Letters.pdf	1436 [KB]	11/22/2024 3:46:40 PM	View file

Photographs

Photographs are used to further inform panelists and should relate to the proposed project, depicting the associated property, site, resources, in its current state, and the context the Cemetery exists within. Historical images are also welcome.

File Name	File Size	Uploaded On	View (opens in new window)
Pictures.docx	29539 [KB]	12/5/2024 10:06:39 PM	View file

Representative Image

Upload a single representative image of the Cemetery or project to be used in the application review meeting that conveys the theme or purpose of the proposed project.

File Name	File Size	Uploaded On	View (opens in new window)
20231113_162615.jpg	2746 [KB]	11/22/2024 3:47:51 PM	View file

Proposed Project Team Support Documents

Provide the curricula vitae/resumes of the proposed project team as listed in Section A.4 of the application.

File Name	File Size	Uploaded On	View (opens in new window)
Resumes.pdf	1369 [KB]	12/6/2024 2:20:10 PM	View file

Documentation of Need

File Name	File Size	Uploaded On	View (opens in new window)
Need.pdf	187 [KB]	11/22/2024 3:49:28 PM	View file

Local Protection

Provide copies of any documents that provide local protection to the Cemetery or property as identified in question C.4.

File Name	File Size	Uploaded On	View (opens in new window)
Local Protection.pdf	186 [KB]	11/22/2024 4:14:58 PM	View file

Owner Concurrence Letter (if site access is required)

If the proposed Project required physical access to the Cemetery, the applicant shall provide a letter that documents that the applicant organization has the permission of the owner of record (if the Property Owner is not the applicant) to conduct the proposed Project on the owner's property and that the owner is in concurrence with this application for grant funding. In the absence of an Owner Concurrence Letter, the applicant shall provide documentation of the right to maintain the cemetery pursuant to Section 704.08, Florida Statutes, which shall be documented by a court order. In the event that an extant Property Owner of the cemetery parcel cannot be determined through official property records, the applicant shall document that (if the applicant is a county or municipality) the applicant has provided notice to DFS pursuant to 497.284, Florida Statutes, and that it intends to take action as necessary and appropriate to care for and maintain the cemetery, or if the applicant is not a county or the municipality, documentation that the county or municipality has empowered the applicant as their designee to care for and maintain the cemetery after providing notice as directed in 497.284, Florida Statutes. If the property for which grant funding is requested is leased by the applicant organization, the lease agreement must be dated, signed and submitted at the time of the application submission, with the required Owner Concurrence Letter attachment to the application.

File Name	File Size	Uploaded On	View (opens in new window)
Wilson Cemetery Compliance Letter.pdf	91 [KB]	11/22/2024 3:50:37 PM	View file

Documentation of Location

Provide available documentation regarding the location of the Cemetery, which may include Florida Master Site File forms, property records, surveys, county property appraiser property parcel records and other historical or archival materials.

Optional Materials

File	Title	Description	Size	Type	View (opens in new window)
Ancestry Search.docx	Ancestry.com Search		3777 [KB]		View file

Applicants may attach materials not specifically requested by the Division that support the application.

I. Review and Submit Page 9 of 9

Review and Submit

☒ I hereby certify that I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of City of Lake City, FL and that all information indicated is true and accurate. I acknowledge that my electronic signature below shall have the same legal effect as my written signature. I am aware that making a false statement or representation to the Department of State constitutes a third-degree felony as provided for in s. 817.155, F.S., punishable as provided for by ss. 775.082, 775.083, and 775.084.

Signature (Enter first and last name)

Shannon Williams