

PO BOX 878
Cedar Key, FL 32625
352-273-3624

November 20, 2023

Tisha Whitehurst
Levy County Visitors Bureau
Executive Director
607 South West 1st Ave.
Williston, FL 32696

Dear Dr. Tisha;

As you know I have requested Levy County Tourism Bureau to help us with the refurbish of the displays in the Discovery Center here at our facility in Cedar Key. This public attraction receives thousands of visitors each year, and was damaged heavily by Hurricane Idalia. We are asking Levy County to help with the refurbishing of the displays in this area, basically sanding, painting, and new laminate that will make them look nice upon reconstruction. UF is handling all the filtration and water system for the aquarium, as well as painting the walls and the exterior.

Rawls Design LLC is the company that custom-made all of these displays over the period of 2017-2021. I request that we use them again for the refurbish, as these are all custom made by hand and they have the materials to refurbish them for public display. I am not able to get quotes of other vendors due to the specialized nature of these displays. Rawls Design has already picked up the displays and taken them to Gainesville for the work, and I hope that we can get help with the refurbishing because of the public nature of these displays. If you have questions, please let me know. Thank you for your cooperation and support through this process.

Cordially,



Dr. Mike S. Allen, Professor and Director
School of Fisheries, Forests, and Geomatics Science
UF/IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station
University of Florida