

NANCY GRISSOM - 4607 CLEAR LAKE DRIVE - GAINESVILLE, FL 32607

(F)

Board of City Commissioners
P.O. Box 490
Gainesville, FL 32604

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July 18, 1998

CITY OF GAINESVILLE
CITY COMMISSION

Attention: Mayor Paula DeLaney
Re: Outside Agency Grants - Funding Formula

I write to encourage the Board of City Commissioners and you as our elected mayor to follow the recommendations of the Alachua/Gainesville Cultural Affairs Advisory Board as to the 1998/99 funding for outside agency grants to local arts organizations.

The guidelines as developed this past year for awarding dollars in the granting process unfairly targets organizations that have a history of contributing cultural events to our community. The new guidelines impose restrictions on the percentage of funds available to these groups, many of whom provide cultural events at minimal admission and many that are made available at no cost to those attending. At the same time, the new guidelines allow for a disproportionate amount of available tax dollars designated for funding cultural activities to be granted to groups whose budgets may be 10 times that of a smaller, all volunteer but no less active organization.

It is with pride that I am able to relate to my peers in other communities, not only across Florida but across the country, that the City of Gainesville supports a Department of Cultural Affairs and budgets tax dollars to support local not for profit cultural organizations. As you are well aware, our community is blessed with many such organizations contributing to a cultural climate here much to be envied by other less fortunate communities. Let us not discourage those worthy of recognition for their efforts on our behalf.

I remain, a friend of the ARTS,



Nancy Grissom
(352) 372-1835

cc: Board of City Commissioners - c/o Mayor Paula DeLaney
Department of Cultural Affairs / City of Gainesville - Attention: Coni Gesualdi
Alachua/Gainesville Cultural Affairs Advisory Board - Attention: Mitzi Calvert
Wayne Bowers, City Manager / City of Gainesville

