

002491

March 11, 2002

The Honorable David D. Russell, Jr.
Chairman
402 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Representative Russell:

I am writing to request your support for the Corporations and Cultural Institutions Trust Funds. Appropriations for these funds are up for evaluation during this legislative session. As you know, the Cultural Institutions Trust Fund was created by the Florida Legislature in 1988 to ensure a dedicated source of support for cultural programs. In the past 14 years, the Corporations and Cultural Institutions Trust Funds have supported thousands of Cultural Organizations and projects throughout the State of Florida. Without legislative support, cultural organizations statewide will be compromised. These organizations are important cultural and historic resources for the state and are instrumental in increasing economic impact and cultural tourism.

As the cornerstone of downtown redevelopment, the Hippodrome is instrumental in increasing economic impact and cultural tourism in Alachua County. In the last year alone, over 20 new businesses have opened their doors within walking distance of the Hippodrome. This dramatic renaissance and revitalization of the once desolate downtown area can be attributed in part to the presence and impact of the Hippodrome State Theatre. An economic development study made by Santa Fe Community College estimates that the Hippodrome has a \$7.5 million impact on the local economy, including direct employment, indirect job creation, business development, and tourism development.

With continued support from the Legislature, cultural organizations like the Hippodrome will continue to enrich our state and our economy.

In closing, I would like to respectfully urge you to support the Corporations and Cultural Institutions Trust Funds. Help us to ensure the continued vitality of Florida's cultural and historic resources. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Bussing
Mayor

1177-30

Legislators:

House Committee on Transportation
The Honorable David D. Russell, Jr.
Chairman
402 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850)488-6641
russell.dave@leg.state.fl.us

The Honorable Ed Jennings, Jr. (local representative)
Member
1001 Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
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Phone: (850)488-5794
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House Fiscal Responsibility Council
The Honorable Carlos Lacasa
Chairman
221 Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
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Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Lisa Carlton
Chairwoman
404 South Monroe Street
Senate Office Building, Room 302
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
Phone: (850)487-5081
carlton.lisa.web@leg.state.fl.us

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Submitted @ meeting
3/11/02 by TB

Now Item

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JB - Palm Mayor said later in
LL - 2nd subcommittee his
(3-0) term

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