



Below are suggestions you can use to integrate into your 2016 thank you letters to your Florida Senator and Representative and other Florida legislators and others that worked to secure FY 2017 DCA grants' appropriations that are applicable to your organization and/or county.



1. Who do we send thank you letters to for their assistance to secure state funding for DCA arts and culture grants?

Go [here](#) to see what the final appropriations are for the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs (DCA) FY 2016-2017 four grants' programs. Please use your personal and / or organizational stationery for your thank you letters.

- a. Ideally, all the senators and representatives who represent your county should receive thank you letters; however, if short on time, please send thank you letters to your specific Florida senator and representative. Find out who your specific Florida Senator and Representative are and their district addresses [here](#).
- b. Also, in addition to your Florida Senator and Representative, there are other key legislators in leadership positions and those who served on the Senate or House Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations' Subcommittees, and others who worked to secure these DCA grants' appropriations. **Contact information on an Excel file for these individuals are [here](#).**



2. What are some key points to emphasize within your thank you letters? Select two to three points to incorporate into your letters.

a. Invest in Florida's arts and culture industry by supporting the Division of Cultural Affairs (DCA) Four Grants' Programs:

Thank them for their support of the four Division of Cultural Affairs (DCA) grants' programs. Let them know which DCA grants-funding category/categories your organization or county received funding:

Cultural and Museum Grants, Culture Builds Florida, Cultural Facilities, or Cultural Endowment Program. You can copy the page/s of the list of the final DCA grantees for you county [here](#).



b. Honor the DCA Grants' Application-and-Review Process:

Thank them for honoring the long-established grants' application- and-review process that is administered by the Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs. Let them know you appreciate their support of this well-established system of fiscal accountability for awarding state arts and culture grants.



c. Leverages Matching Public & Private Dollars:

Share how these state DCA grants help leverage matching dollars from other public and private sources. Inform them about the need for a diversity of funding sources in addition to your earned income — all necessary to sustain and advance the work of your organization and/or all the DCA grantees located in your county.



d. Greater access for more people:

Share how these state grants develop and promote arts and culture programs/services for more people, both residents of and visitors to the area. Share audience numbers with them.



e. Preserve and create JOBS:

Emphasize the number of jobs this state DCA grant will help preserve and create within your organization and/or jobs in your county.



f. Supports educational arts and culture programs:

Describe the impact of your educational programs, both within and outside school settings that are applicable to your organization and/or county. If this grant provides you resources to expand these programs, share this information.



g. Has substantial local economic impact:

Access Americans for the Arts Economic & Prosperity reports for your area [here](#) (if available) and calculate the economic impact of your organization [here](#). Use the information applicable to your organization or county. Also, contact your [local arts agency](#) for its latest economic impact numbers.



h. Supports Florida's creative industries:

Americans for the Arts' last Creative Industries Reports are based on 2015 data. Print and enclose your county's creative industries report with your letters.

Access your county's Creative Industries Report [here](#).



i. Invite them to your organization / county's arts and culture programs and events:

Enclose a schedule of upcoming season programs and events, including educational programs. Make sure they are on your mailing list. Let them know their spouses and staff members are also invited.



j. Face-to-face meeting:

Let them know you and your board president and / or chairperson, along with some other colleagues and community leaders will follow up with them to schedule a face-to-face meeting soon to discuss the value and importance of these DCA grants to your organization and / or county.



k. Demonstrate community leadership and involvement:

If your board is not listed on your stationery, enclose a list of your board members within your letter, and share how your organization engages and involves the community.



l. Share a personal story about the value and impact of your organization and / or the arts and culture resources in your county:

We know the personal and intrinsic value arts and culture add to our lives. Briefly share such a story about the impact of arts and culture within your organization and / or county.



PLEASE copy the Florida Cultural Alliance on your follow-up thank you letters. It's so important we know who has been contacted, by whom, and what was shared. These shared follow-up letters help us with our future advocacy efforts with specific legislators. You can copy us by attaching one copy of your thank you letter and who you sent the letter to. Our email is info@FLCA.net or mail to FCA, Post Office Box 2131, West Palm Beach, FL 33402-2131.

Questions or need additional information?

Please email the Florida Cultural Alliance at info@FLCA.net.

Thank you for your follow-up advocacy efforts.

Your voice matters and makes a difference.