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May 23, 2017

Florida Department of State
Division of Cultural Affairs
Florida Council on Arts and Culture

To Whom It May Concern:

McKee Botanical Garden in Vero Beach, Florida, is submitting a General Program Support grant application for assistance in support of their annual programs and educational efforts. The Indian River County Board of County Commission supports McKee Botanical Garden and their many programs.

As a premier cultural facility for Indian River County, as well as a historic landmark for the State of Florida, McKee Botanical Garden is a valued resource for cultural enrichment, hosting a variety of programs including world-class art exhibits, educational offerings and special events. These include important horticultural collections - most notably the largest collection of waterlilies in the State of Florida, over twenty educational programs, 11 special events, and an annual sculpture exhibit. These opportunities to connect with and learn from nature provide unique ways for the general public to experience the natural heritage of our Florida landscape.

Tens of thousands of visitors from all fifty states and more than 30 countries enter the gates of McKee Botanical Garden annually. The Gardens are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and have been endorsed by The Garden Conservancy as a project of National Significance. General Program Support will benefit the continuing efforts of this valuable resource for Indian River County and the State of Florida.

The Indian River County Board of County Commission encourages you to support this grant request. Thank you for your commitment to the cultural institutions that make our community and our state so vital and vibrant.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Flescher, Chairman
District 2

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