

Cathedral Arts Project to receive \$100,000 grant for study

The Cathedral Arts Project has been named to receive a \$100,000 Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, which recently approved more than \$80 million in grants as part of the NEA's second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2018. Cathedral Arts Project will use the grant to administer and publish a survey, analysis and report about arts education in the region, executing this project through Any Given Child Jacksonville, the advocacy arm of the organization.

Without accessible, reliable data published on arts education in schools – especially in large districts – it is difficult for communities to understand arts learning opportunities, the equity of their distribution across schools and what standards should be used to help every child have a quality education in the arts.

“Our community has made incredible strides toward access, equity and quality arts education,” said CAP Chief Program Officer and AGC Jacksonville Executive Director Allison Galloway-Gonzalez. “As participation in the arts has exponentially increased, Duval County students are subsequently doing better in school, ranking top in the nation for math and reading, competing and winning nationally in the arts, and graduating at record-high rates. Despite this overwhelming evidence of success, the next budget cycle likely means detrimental cuts to the arts, and it is our hope that we can help prevent some of that loss by publicly prioritizing support for the arts. We need to continue to show that the arts add up for our community.”

Citizen input needed for Transportation Improvement Program

The independent regional transportation planning agency, North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), has updated its annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and is seeking citizen input in its four-county region, which includes Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns Counties.

The TIP is a staged multi-year program of transportation project improvements to be implemented during the next five-year period (2018-2023) in the North Florida TPO area for roadways, transit, air and seaports, bicyclists, pedestrians and the transportation disadvantaged.

In addition, the TIP identifies all regionally significant transportation projects

requiring Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and/or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approval.

The program also includes a listing of projects that are financed with non-federal dollars which assists local governments within the TPO area with their transportation planning efforts. Projects listed in the TIP include recommended improvements consistent with the approved Long Range Transportation Plan, and the adopted comprehensive plans of member local governments within the TPO area.

The TIP is adopted following input from the TPO committees, presentations to every City and County Commission, at a formal

public meeting, and is then an interactive tool on www.northfloridatpo.com.

Those interested in offering comments may do so on the TPO web site at www.northfloridatpo.com. A 326-page draft of the program is online as well. The deadline to respond online is June 8.

In addition to the five-year TIP, other TPO plans and programs include the regional Long Range Transportation Plan; annual traffic count and mobility reports; coalitions for the Smart Region Master Plan and Clean Fuels; freight mobility; Cool to Pool rideshare commuter services; and public private partnerships. The TPO is governed by a 15-member board of elected officials and transportation agency representatives.

Delores Barr Weaver Fund approves matching grant for Pine Castle

Pine Castle, Inc., a nonprofit serving adults with intellectual and developmental differences, has been given a 1:1 matching grant by the Delores Barr Weaver Fund for up to \$100,000 for renovations to the Pine Castle Cafeteria and Courtyard Complex.

The cafeteria and courtyard spaces are gathering and socializing points for those who attend Pine Castle, and are in immediate need of renovations and upgrades.

The central courtyard serves as a crossroads on the Pine Castle campus at 4911 Spring Park Rd. The courtyard is mostly concrete – with cracking sidewalks and walkways and sloping benches that have become a barrier to accessibility over time due to deterioration. The space – popular

for lunch and socializing – cannot be used during inclement weather and extreme heat due to lack of cover and shade.

The cafeteria has been a gathering place for many of its participants since March 1, 1980 – 37 years ago – when the current equipment and fixtures were installed. The space includes a commercial kitchen that can serve up to 100 meals each day. The need is for a kitchen that can produce up to 300 nutritious meals per day for breakfast and lunch.

Planned upgrades include architecture, design and all equipment for a new commercial kitchen; flooring; paint; cafeteria furniture and fixture replacement; renovations of the interior cafeteria restrooms, and roof replacement.

The Delores Barr Weaver Fund will match up to \$100,000 in donations from new donors to Pine Castle through December 31, 2018. Returning donors can also contribute to the project to enhance its success. Donations to the renovations can be made at www.pinecastle.org/donation-weaverchallenge/.

“Thanks to the incredible generosity of Mrs. Weaver and the Delores Barr Weaver Fund, as well as the generosity of new donors that we will meet on this matching grant journey, these much-needed renovations will finally take place. This grant will make such a difference in upgrading the experience that our participants have at Pine Castle,” said Lori Ann Whittington, Pine Castle CEO.

Crosswalks to be installed at Empire Point

The Florida Department of Transportation began traffic and pedestrian signal upgrades on Atlantic Boulevard (State Road 10) at Empire Point May 18.

The safety improvements will include upgrading the traffic and pedestrian signals on the northwest corner of Atlantic Boulevard and Empire Point, widening westbound Atlantic Boulevard, curb and sidewalk work and the installation of two new crosswalks at the intersection.

James D. Hinson Electrical Contracting Inc., was selected to complete the \$567,000 safety improvements by late fall 2018, depending on weather and other unforeseen circumstances.

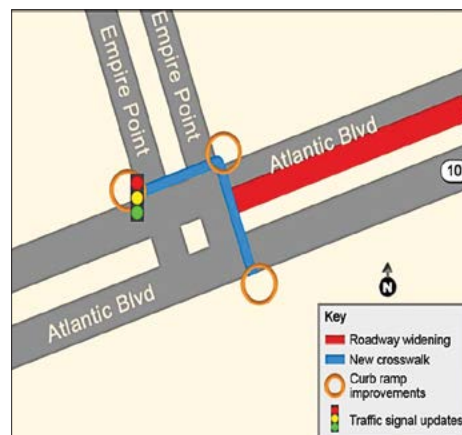


Illustration indicates placement of new crosswalks at Atlantic Boulevard and Empire Point.

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