



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#25-0722

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: November 4, 2025

TITLE: Resolution Approving City of Fort Lauderdale Fiscal Year 2026 Not For Profit Grant Participation Agreement with The Stranahan House, Inc., - \$563,000 - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt a resolution approving a City of Fort Lauderdale Fiscal Year 2026 Not For Profit Grant Participation Agreement with The Stranahan House, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, and authorizing execution of the agreement in the amount of \$563,000.

Background

With the adoption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Budget, the City Commission approved contributions to not-for-profit organizations that support the needs of the community while making a positive impact. The benefiting not-for-profit organization is required to execute a participation agreement that provides for the maximum funding amount, terms of contribution, scope of services, and standards of performance.

The Stranahan House is the oldest and most historically significant surviving structure in Broward County and is recognized as a museum, historic site, and social center for the community. The structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and remains the most iconic structure in all of Broward County.

Over the past five years, the City of Fort Lauderdale entered into participation agreements with The Stranahan House, committing financial support toward the construction of a Welcome Center adjacent to the historic site in amounts totaling \$500,000.

The City's \$500,000 contribution toward the construction of a Welcome Center at the Stranahan House Museum is intended to expand the Museum's capacity, enhance security, and establish a ticket booth and upgraded gift shop featuring handcrafted items by local artisans. The Welcome Center will also provide personalized guest services to guide visitors to museum offerings, nearby cultural attractions, tourist destinations, restaurants, and shops.

In alignment with these agreements, the City deposited awarded funds into an escrow account to be used for this specific purpose.

Due to delays in the advancement of the project, the escrowed funds were not drawn down to support eligible Welcome Center construction expenses during the grant period. In accordance with the terms of the escrow agreement, these funds have been returned to the City. A corresponding budget amendment is recommended to recognize the repayment of the \$500,000 as revenue to the City and to appropriate these funds for use in FY 2026, maintaining the City's continued commitment to supporting the Welcome Center project, which officially broke ground on September 17, 2025.

In addition, the City's FY 2026 Budget includes an allocation of \$63,000 in support of The Stranahan House, Inc., to provide educational and cultural programming for residents and visitors, promoting greater awareness of the region's history and enhancing the social, cultural, and historic fabric of the Fort Lauderdale community. Included in the agreement are the following additional benefits for the City:

- Each quarter, the Stranahan House Museum will host three (3) complimentary field trip days for Fort Lauderdale elementary schools, ensuring all students can explore and engage with local history and culture;
- Free admission for City of Fort Lauderdale residents every Wednesday during the grant period (subject to blackout dates);
- Resident Discount Program at the Museum Gift Shop; and
- City Recognition and Partnership Visibility (logo on the Stranahan House website, newsletters, and other promotional materials).

This participation agreement addresses both the Welcome Center capital contribution and the City's contribution towards educational and cultural programming.

Resource Impact

There is a fiscal impact to the General Fund in the amount of \$563,000 in FY 2026. Funding is budgeted and available in the accounts listed below, contingent upon the approval of the November 4, 2025 Consolidated Budget Amendment (CAM #25-0931).

<i>Funds available as of October 2, 2025</i>					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	INDEX NAME (Program)	CHARACTER/ SUB-OBJECT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (CHARACTER)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (CHARACTER)	AMOUNT
10-001-9002-519-40-4210	Other General Government – Social/Cultural	Other Operating Expense/Social Contributions	\$2,149,199	\$2,149,199	\$563,000
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION ►					\$563,000

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029 Strategic Plan*, specifically advancing:

- Goal 5: Build a beautiful and welcoming community.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Here*.

Related CAM

25-0931

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Agreement

Exhibit 2 – Resolution

Prepared by: Charmaine Crawford, Senior Assistant to the Director

Department Director: Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget