

From: [Laura Spencer](#)
To: [Eggers, Dave](#)
Subject: Concerning Creative Pinellas | We are The Arts Coast of Florida
Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 3:22:07 PM

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Commissioner Eggers,

First - I want to **thank you** for your response to Commissioner Scott's sudden vendetta against Creative Pinellas during the Board of County Commissioners Work Session on August 28th (approx. 2:43:00 into the session). I sincerely appreciate your apprehension in dismantling this well-established non-profit Arts Organization, and that such a decision requires far more research, time, and consideration. In your comments, you expressed the need for **professionals and experts in the creative field to be in the room** for such a discussion. Creative Pinellas is far more than a 'grant-distribution' organization - it is the backbone of our Arts Community that serves much more than St. Pete - but serves ALL of Pinellas County.

I am writing to you today, urging you to see the critical role that Creative Pinellas continues to provide to our beautiful county. Dubbing us 'The Arts Coast of Florida' Creative Pinellas truly puts in the work to **connect the creative community with our coastal tourist destinations** through a variety of programs and opportunities:

- [Arts Annual: Beyond the Walls](#)
Bringing the Arts and Hospitality together by pairing an Artist with a local Hotel, creating exhibitions and installations in lobbies and foyers - bringing color, culture, and a unique experience to every patron visiting.
- [Sightline Gallery at the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport](#)
Providing the opportunity for Tourists to enjoy curated exhibitions organized by Creative Pinellas showcasing Pinellas County Talent.
- [PIE Gate 12 Mural project at the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport](#)
Featuring commissioned murals by two Pinellas County-based Artists - Art that greets you immediately upon landing.
- [An anchor destination within Pinewood Cultural Park](#)
Perfectly complimenting The Florida Botanical Gardens and Heritage Village - a fully immersive Tourist Destination, bringing cultural and economic growth to the Largo/Seminole/Clearwater municipalities.

Beyond Tourism, Creative Pinellas provides an even greater impact for the citizens - your constituents - that live, work, and play in Pinellas County. The perfect example of this is Creative Pinellas' ongoing collaboration with the [Lealman CRA](#) - bringing a much needed sense of community to our once overlooked and underserved tract of Pinellas County.

I was born and raised in Lealman - in fact my mother still lives in 'West' Lealman, and I am now a proud (*voting and tax paying*) homeowner in East Lealman. Back in the day, this was not a fun, charming, community-oriented neighborhood to grow up in. There was no art or culture to experience - no sense of identity or belonging. Safety was always a concern.

But since the Lealman Mural Project began in 2021, - businesses, warehouses, and schools along the 28th Street N corridor and beyond have become vibrant, welcoming roads. As the murals are painted, the business owners take pride in the beautification of their storefronts; they've added lighting to proudly display the work. There's been a significant reduction in trash dumping and vagrancy along 28th Street North and Haines Road. The mural at the Lealman Exchange by artist Leo Gomez has become so beloved and iconic, it's being used to promote community

events and establish the LEX as an accessible, welcoming hub. Leo's artwork - brought to life by Creative Pinellas - has given us a sense of identity, community and purpose.

The artists that Creative Pinellas serves continue to live and work in our county, choosing to stay here, raise our families, and contribute to our local economy.

Creative Pinellas is far more than a grant-distribution resource, it is an investment in the talent and creativity; they are the connective tissue between the arts, business, tourism and community - establishing us as **'The Arts Coast of Florida'**.

For the health of your county and community, please continue to fund Creative Pinellas.

Respectfully,

Laura 'Miss Crit' Spencer
Pinellas County District 3
Represented by Commissioner René Flowers and Vince Norwicki

P.S. I would be honored to host you and your family on one of my Mural Tours throughout St. Pete - so you can better understand the impact organizations like Creative Pinellas have on our local and tourist industries.

--

Miss Crit | Laura Spencer

info@themisscrit.com

www.themisscrit.com

www.artonomy.info

Instagram: [@miss_crit](https://www.instagram.com/miss_crit)

Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of skivoodoo at gmail.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 2:20 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Agenda item 25-1144a sept 4 from Stacia Schrader #31772356

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- Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2025 Chair)
- Commissioner Vince Nowicki - District 3
- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7
- County Administrator

Your Name

Stacia Schrader

Subject

Agenda item 25-1144a sept 4

Message

I'm a banker by profession and deeply invested in the economic vitality of our county. I also serve as Chair of the St. Petersburg Public Arts Commission, sit on the boards of Florida CraftArt and the St. Petersburg History Museum, and previously served on the SPAA board where I was an originating member and 10-year organizer of the SHINE Mural Festival. I share this because I've seen firsthand how Creative Pinellas drives both cultural credibility and economic growth—and why defunding it would be a serious setback for our community.

My hope is you will read my message with the urgency it needs.

1. Arts as a Core Economic Driver

Creative Pinellas is uniquely positioned to elevate St. Petersburg and Pinellas County as a true arts destination, not just a beach destination. While VSPC excels at promoting sand, sun, and hospitality, it does not carry the artistic credibility to speak to collectors, cultural tourists, and arts patrons.

- Arts tourism attracts higher-spending, longer-staying visitors than beach-only travelers.
- Cities that have leaned into cultural identity—like Asheville, Austin, and Santa Fe—have proven that investing in the arts creates long-term, resilient tourism economies.

2. Authentic Community Roots

Creative Pinellas is deeply embedded in the local creative community: from public art initiatives, to artist residencies, to grants that nurture local talent.

- Visitors who travel for culture want an authentic experience, not a repackaged marketing campaign.
- Creative Pinellas provides that authenticity, giving our local artists visibility and giving visitors a real sense of place.
- By contrast, VSPC is a marketing agency, not a creator or cultivator of art. It doesn't commission, curate, or sustain creative work.

3. National & International Recognition

Creative Pinellas has built relationships with museums, galleries, and international arts organizations that give Pinellas County credibility on the global stage.

- This type of arts diplomacy can't be outsourced to a tourism bureau.
- It requires trust, curatorial expertise, and a proven track record—something VSPC does not have.

4. The Multiplier Effect

Funding for Creative Pinellas doesn't just support artists—it multiplies across the economy.

- Local artists spend money locally, hire local assistants, rent local studios, and contribute to the fabric of neighborhoods.
- Arts programs directly feed into hospitality, retail, and dining—creating a more holistic tourism experience.
- Investment in the arts enhances quality of life, which in turn attracts businesses, relocations, and talent far beyond the arts sector.

5. Division of Strengths

This is not an “either/or”—it's about letting each organization play to its strengths.

- Visit St. Pete Clearwater is excellent at broad tourism marketing: beaches, resorts, family travel.
 - Creative Pinellas has the artistic pedigree, cultural networks, and credibility to make St. Pete/Pinellas a recognized arts hub.
- Redirecting arts funding to VSPC dilutes impact, because it tries to make a marketing agency do something it is not designed or respected to do.

Closing Point

If we want St. Pete and Pinellas to compete with world-renowned arts destinations, we must fund the entity that actually produces, supports, and elevates the arts—Creative Pinellas. To shift that funding into a general tourism bureau would be a step backward, weakening our credibility in the arts world and undermining a proven driver of economic and cultural vitality.

Sincerely,
Stacia Schrader

Your Street Address	692 10th Ave S
City/Unincorporated County	St Petersburg
Zip Code	33701
Your Phone Number	727-501-2046
Your Email Address	skivoodoo@gmail.com

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From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of maryanna at mamexhibitdesign.com
<noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:26 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Creative Pinellas - increase funding, expand reach from Mary Anna Murphy # 31774769

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- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name Mary Anna Murphy

Subject Creative Pinellas - increase funding, expand reach

Message September 3, 2025

Dear Esteemed Commissioner,

I am writing you today on behalf of increasing funding for Creative Pinellas, your county arts agency.

We need a deep bench of artists, creatives, builders, crafters, makers who are served by Creative Pinellas. They in turn support a large number of big (Creative Arts in Largo) and small businesses (my firm, MAM Exhibit Design).

My work for the past 25 years in Pinellas County has been supported by the arts. Without this diverse network of other artists and creatives, my business would suffer. I design museum and natural history exhibits. I hire graphic artists. I hire sculptors. I hire fabricators. I hire mount makers (those are the people who make the armatures that hold artifacts in their exhibit cases). I hire researchers. I hire packers. I hire shippers. I hire software coders. I hire muralists. I hire website designers.

Our county's large and diverse array of museums, history displays, nature centers,

public arts, is fed and led by artists and creatives. These are the institutions that bring in the many, many visitors seeking a cultural experience.

Thank you for your consideration.
Best,

Mary Anna

Mary Anna Murphy
MAM Exhibit Design
www.mamexhibitdesign.com

Your Street Address	5471 4th Street South
City/Unincorporated County	St. Petersburg
Zip Code	33705
Your Phone Number	7272043617
Your Email Address	maryanna@mamexhibitdesign.com

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From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of mariannewysocki at yahoo.com
<noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 1:24 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Creative Pinellas/ Agenda # 25-1144A/Meeting Date September 04, 2025 from Marianne Wysocki #31771879

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name

Marianne Wysocki

Subject

Creative Pinellas/ Agenda # 25-1144A/Meeting Date September 04, 2025

Message

Hi Commissioner,

I am writing in regards to Creative Pinellas and the fact that this local arts organization may lose funding.

I am a local artist here in Gulfport. I've worked downtown St. Petersburg at Shapiros Gallery for almost 20 years. I've had people come back every single year from out of town to revisit this gallery and also to check out our murals and kids programs for the arts. I volunteer at Safety Harbor Art and Music Center. Have you been? Have you checked out the programs artist and for kids? The arts are so important for people of ALL ages.

The arts boost local businesses. Tourists are out there spending money on events, meals, parking and hotels....great for local merchants.

The arts attract high-spending visitors. Arts and cultural tourists often stay longer and spend more money than those just visiting the beaches.

The Arts support jobs and help generate significant tax revenue., directly tied to the presence of our vibrant arts and cultural scene.

The Arts add authenticity and a sense of place, that reflect the local communities. This attracts tourists seeking a real connection with their destination.

The Arts offer diverse activities from BEYOND the beaches, from art galleries and museums to public murals and festivals. This appeals to a broader audience.

The Arts create unique and memorable experiences. SHINE Mural Festival, Second Saturday Art Walk, workshops at all the area museums and art centers. Music festivals, Art festivals. Hands on Experiences. These encounters can really encourage repeat tourist visits.

The Arts can shift brand identity. Our thriving arts community helps position Pinellas County as a compelling arts destination, not just a beach town. Creative Pinellas certainly works to attract a wider range of tourists.

The Arts enrich public spaces and further solidifies the county's reputation as a cultural hub.

The Arts support artistic talent. Organizations like Creative Pinellas support local artists through grants and opportunities, which in turn fuels the creative community that visitors come to see.

Supporting the arts is a win win for everyone....you, me, tourists, kids, families, the elderly and people with disabilities.

The Arts are important in Pinellas County for economic growth, tourism, community revitalization and educational benefits.

Thank you for your time.
Marianne Wysocki

Your Street Address	5830 21st Ave South
City/Unincorporated County	Gulfport
Zip Code	33707
Your Phone Number	7276435785
Your Email Address	marianne Wysocki@yahoo.com

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From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of ginasolo45 at gmail.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 1:01 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Creative Pinellas budgeting from Effie Solomon-Ward #31771702

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- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7
- County Administrator
- Webmaster

Your Name Effie Solomon-Ward

Subject Creative Pinellas budgeting

Message This communication aims to amplify my concerns in relation to the proposed funding cuts for Creative Pinellas. The Pinellas County Commission is currently contemplating the discontinuation of financial support for Creative Pinellas, a program recognized as the County's official Local Arts Agency. My community has benefited from the summer can support we received from Creative Pinellas to provide a safe place during the summer break. The funding helps send over 20 youth to the I Aspire Creative Performing Arts summer camp. It would indeed be disheartening to see the termination of financing that tremendously aids a multitude of children in their exploration of the arts. I would appreciate it if you acted in the best interests of our youth and our community. Programs of this nature have been proven to mitigate crime rates during the summer break.

Your Street Address 1891 Lakewood Dr S

City/Unincorporated County St Petersburg

Zip Code 33711

Your Email Address

ginasolo45@gmail.com

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From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of ajquiltmaker at gmail.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:27 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Creative Pinellas from Anthony Jones #31774779

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- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7
- County Administrator

Your Name	Anthony Jones
Subject	Creative Pinellas
Message	Please let's not go through this cycle of defunding the arts in Pinellas. We have rapidly become an arts destination for tourism. Not just St. Pete, but all of Pinellas. Arts tourism depends not only on the well established galleries upon who you lavish funds, but also on up-and-coming artists that will sustain the next wave of creativity. If you stop planting seeds, no new trees will grow. Thank you for supporting Creative Pinellas and all of the Arts in our community.
Your Street Address	1815 Union Street
City/Unincorporated County	Clearwater
Zip Code	33763
Your Phone Number	7276471106
Your Email Address	ajquiltmaker@gmail.com

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From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of audrelynnsiegler at gmail.com
<noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 11:14 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Creative Pinellas from Audrey Siegler #31770769

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- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7
- County Administrator

Your Name Audrey Siegler

Subject Creative Pinellas

Message I was recently made aware that The Pinellas County Commission is proposing to eliminate their funding for Creative Pinellas, the County's designated Local Arts Agency.

Creative Pinellas is a key player in making Pinellas the vibrant and inspiration place that it is. Not only do they beautify our community through making public and private art possible, but they also create opportunities for all ages to explore their creativity and grow as artists and arts advocates in our community. These experiences help grow more compassionate, confident, and thoughtful individuals which in turn contribute more positively to our community.

As the designated arts agency for Pinellas County, they drive economic growth, support artists, and strengthen our region as an arts and cultural destination. Losing this support would have a devastating impact on our community.

A community without art lacks joy, innovation, and belonging.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Funding for Creative Pinellas will ensure that we can keep Pinellas beautiful, inspiring, and thriving.

Your Street Address 8048 93rd St. N

City/Unincorporated County	Seminole
Zip Code	33777
Your Email Address	audrelynnsiegler@gmail.com

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From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of bgrimball1951 at gmail.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 2:11 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Creative Pinellas from Berkeley Grimball JR #31772273

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name Berkeley Grimball JR

Subject Creative Pinellas

Message Commissioners,
I understand and appreciate your being conscientious stewards of public assets and I would strongly recommend continuing to fund Creative Pinellas. I have attended many of their events over the years and have always found everything they do to be well run and well attended. In my estimation CP makes a significant contribution to the arts environment of Pinellas County. One of the main reasons I moved here was for the vibrant art scene. I know the ROI on investing in the arts can be difficult to measure but if we want to maintain and build our burgeoning arts scene lets keep funding it.

Sincerely,
Berkeley Grimball

Your Street Address 2701 56th ST S

City/Unincorporated County Gulfport

Zip Code 33707

Your Phone Number 9192606270

Your Email Address bgrimball1951@gmail.com

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Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of gabiyouran at gmail.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:09 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Creative Pinellas from Gabi Youran #31774511

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- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name Gabi Youran

Subject Creative Pinellas

Message Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my dismay at the proposed cut in funding for Creative Pinellas. This is a crucial agency in our community and provides countless opportunities and support for the art scene that makes Pinellas County so unique and special. As a resident of Pinellas County and a lover of arts, I implore you to reconsider this decision. I wish I could be at the meeting to express my dismay in person, but unfortunately I have another commitment that evening. I hope you will listen to your constituents and continue to fund this important institution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Gabi Youran

Your Street Address 5 Villa Ct

City/Unincorporated County Safety Harbor

Zip Code 34695

Your Email Address gabiyouran@gmail.com

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Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of hnmanley at gmail.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 10:47 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Creative Pinellas from Heather Manley #31770571

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 - Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
 - Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
 - Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name Heather Manley

Subject Creative Pinellas

Message What is wrong with you guys?! Why on earth would you defund the arts program that benefits all of its citizens and even induces people from afar to come see it? It brings wealth, vitality, and color to your streets and is what makes pinellas stand out as an attractive place to live. The arts are a vital force in the evolution of the world as it stimulates ideas and makes people feel connected in an ever disconnected world. Stop being morons and use your hearts. Long term thinking is a must here because if you cut funding for the arts, you cut people's excitement for the area which will hurt your own counties bottom line. This is restrictive thinking at its finest. Please be the elected officials you were meant to be and help people, not harm them. Thank you

Your Street Address 5310 20th Ave S

City/Unincorporated County Gulfport

Zip Code 33707

Your Phone Number 7272440665

Your Email Address hnmanley@gmail.com

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From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of kocisjohn at gmail.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Creative Pinellas from John A Kocis #31771473

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 - Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
 - Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name John A Kocis

Subject Creative Pinellas

Message

Dear Sir or Madam,
As a resident of Pinellas County I urge you to maintain funding for CREATIVE PINELLAS. The organization plays a critical role in integrating the arts with our daily activities such as a seeing a mural or visiting a gallery. A unique asset to our community! Tell me you haven't been impressed at the signal box artwork while you're stopped at a light. This will really be missed. Please give your decision on this issue some serious hard thoughts. Thanks for your time.

Best
John Kocis

Your Street Address 9209 Seminole Blvd Unit 168

City/Unincorporated County seminole

Zip Code 33772

Your Email Address kocisjohn@gmail.com

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From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of alnguyen1231234 at gmail.com
<noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:20 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Creative Pinellas from Johnathan hare #31774689

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- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7
- County Administrator

Your Name Johnathan hare

Subject Creative Pinellas

Message I do not support Brian Scott's ambition to decrease the funding of the arts in the Pinellas county the arts are important to the community

Your Street Address 3620 105th ave n

City/Unincorporated County Clearwater

Zip Code 33762

Your Email Address alnguyen1231234@gmail.com

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From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of tamborello at hotmail.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:08 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Creative Pinellas from Lisa Ramjattan #31774505

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Your Name	Lisa Ramjattan
Subject	Creative Pinellas
Message	I'm not sure if I am emailing the correct person but I wanted you to know how much creative Pinellas beings to me and my family. We visit many times a year and it's so fulfilling to be able to be around beautiful works of art and see them up close and personal. Thank you so much for allowing it to be here for so long and I pray that it will be here even longer.
Your Street Address	712 Seneca St
City/Unincorporated County	Clearwater
Zip Code	33756
Your Phone Number	7276875404
Your Email Address	tamborello@hotmail.com

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From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of carder.paul at gmail.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:41 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Creative Pinellas from Paul Carder #31774967

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 - Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
 - Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name	Paul Carder
Subject	Creative Pinellas
Message	I am writing to plead with you to NOT reduce or cut the funding for Creative Pinellas. If it were to disappear we would discover very quickly that we need an arts agency for the County. The economic impact of the arts is well-known' what might be less well-known is the impact of Creative Pinellas in supporting artists, promoting the arts in Pinellas, staging meaningful events and exhibitions. We would have to create Creative Pinellas if we didn't have one.
Your Street Address	341 5th St. South, #3
City/Unincorporated County	Saint Petersburg
Zip Code	33701
Your Phone Number	7277292299
Your Email Address	carder.paul@gmail.com

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Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of bunchofsunshinebox at gmail.com
<noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 11:20 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Creative Pinellas funded me thousands this year. I'd not be paying my bills without them. from Merritt Horan #31770816

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Direction of Inquiry

- Report a Problem
- Commissioner Chris Scherer - District 1
- Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2025 Chair)
- Commissioner Vince Nowicki - District 3
- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7
- County Administrator
- Webmaster

Your Name

Merritt Horan

Subject

Creative Pinellas funded me thousands this year. I'd not be paying my bills without them.

Message

Let's get to the part you care about- WHY THEY deserve your funding. I am an active full time artist- I have painted murals all around town- participated in multiple gallery shows curated by Chad Mize, Morean, & of course- the IMPERATIVE Creative Pinellas. Margaret Murray has been an absolute wonder to my world, starting with the Post Hurricane Fundraiser I won last fall after 3 family members lost their homes to the floods. As a multi generational family here- I was crying when Margaret not only attended my fundraiser- but proceeded to ask how else we could work together, in order to bring funding back to me. From there, I curated over 30 local artists last December at Creative Pinellas STUNNING gallery space (which - let's be real- just needs more eyes (FUNDING) to get more people there - the space rivals ANY other gallery in Pinellas county- and you guys know it- it's just far from Downtown and people don't know it's there) -----the event sold OVER half the artworks I curated - and that event alone brought 20K into the organization, I believe. I had more than a few friends involved who said they NEVER thought they would be able to show at THAT gallery. they showed a true honor to have been asked to show there- that means something! I

then won the Arts Impact Award from Creative Pinellas- allowing me to hand build a 3 story miniature art gallery - which is slated to be UNVEILED at Creative Pinellas on September 25th of this year. It's funded by Creative Pinellas and it's been a dream come true to make a community led give & take Art gallery in which participants can trade tiny artworks. Not possible without the funding from Creative Pinellas.

I most recently was asked to represent Pinellas County as an artist by not only Visit St. Pete Clearwater - but because Creative Pinellas brought my name to them. I wouldn't have had \$3700 in funding to allow me an INCREDIBLE experience at the Piedmont Parks Art festival. The new audience to my work was PRICEless, but the point of this is all to say NONE of it would be possible without Creative Pinellas. They deserve all the funding in the universe - they have shown myself and tons of other local REAL, working artists, a true dollar amount they can use to live and eat. (*PS. I am highly excited about this topic- my all caps should be read as emphatic- not yelling....) Please reach back out. Happy to talk more. Merritt

Your Street Address	7600 Gulf Blvd Uppr
City/Unincorporated County	St Pete Beach
Zip Code	33706-1739
Your Phone Number	7276677333
Your Email Address	bunchofsunshinebox@gmail.com

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Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of kg at arthouse3.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 9:17 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Creative Pinellas Funding from Katherine Gibson #31769920

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Direction of Inquiry

- Commissioner Chris Scherer - District 1
- Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2025 Chair)
- Commissioner Vince Nowicki - District 3
- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name Katherine Gibson

Subject Creative Pinellas Funding

Message Please please don't de-fund Creative Pinellas. You just can't. It's vital to those living here and to those who have moved to our area BECAUSE of CP.

Many creatives I know and have worked with have benefited from Grants, Exhibitions and other Inclusive Community Arts Gatherings and Initiatives - all making Pinellas County more attractive to visitors - and even to artists, and many others, who have chosen to move to this area BEcause of the Arts Support. It doesn't bode well for the Commission to wipe out the largest and most giving arts org in the area and then still want to call this area Arts supportive and a City for the Arts. It doesn't make sense and many will leave the area - or not visit the area - if Arts are defunded or lessened. Creative Pinellas is one of Pinellas County's strong suits and is a productive and appealing way to continue utilizing the former Gulf Coast Museum of Arts space. That space has provided many more viewing spaces for regional art and is hand in hand with the beautiful botanical gardens and Pioneer Village. A star trifecta - Please don't take that needed space away from Artists, Visitors or Residents.

Your Street Address 158 11th Ave NE

City/Unincorporated County St Pete

Zip Code	33701
Your Phone Number	813-831-8858
Your Email Address	kg@arthouse3.com

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Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of knutt248 at gmail.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:02 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Creative Pinellas funding from Kathleen Nutter #31774422

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Direction of Inquiry

- Commissioner Chris Scherer - District 1
- Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2025 Chair)
- Commissioner Vince Nowicki - District 3
- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name	Kathleen Nutter
Subject	Creative Pinellas funding
Message	Please continue funding for Creative Pinellas. We are all, collectively, better for having art in our communities
Your Street Address	1021 DeSoto Dr
City/Unincorporated County	Dunedin
Zip Code	34698
Your Phone Number	9788669872
Your Email Address	knutt248@gmail.com

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Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of prella1 at verizon.net <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 12:46 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Defunding Creative Pinellas from Patricia Rella #31771594

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Direction of Inquiry

- Commissioner Chris Scherer - District 1
- Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2025 Chair)
- Commissioner Vince Nowicki - District 3
- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7
- County Administrator

Your Name	Patricia Rella
Subject	Defunding Creative Pinellas
Message	Creative Pinellas is an essential part of our community and has a positive impact on artists and visitors alike. They manage public art programs that support artists and their grants provide essential funding that support growth. The organization enhances Pinellas County's population's quality of life whether you are a permanent resident or a visitor. Defunding Creative Pinellas would leave a void in the artistic community.
Your Street Address	12284 143rd st
City/Unincorporated County	Largo
Zip Code	33774
Your Phone Number	7274823085
Your Email Address	prella1@verizon.net

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Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of sjohn1 at hotmail.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 1:17 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Defunding Creative Pinellas from Sue Lynn Johnson #31771814

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Direction of Inquiry

- Commissioner Chris Scherer - District 1
- Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2025 Chair)
- Commissioner Vince Nowicki - District 3
- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name Sue Lynn Johnson

Subject Defunding Creative Pinellas

Message It is very short sighted to not understand how the arts contribute both financially and culturally to our communities. Pinellas county, especially South Pinellas is a well known arts hub. We offer theater, music and the visual arts all supported by Creative Pinellas. We attract tourists from throughout the state and eastern US. And they spend money to get here and to visit here. People relocate here for the same reason, proximity to the arts available and supported by Creative Pinellas. I urge you to continue to support Creative Pinellas for all our sakes.

Your Street Address 3128 59th St S Apt 201

City/Unincorporated County Gulfport

Zip Code 33707

Your Phone Number 3868522021

Your Email Address sjohn1@hotmail.com

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Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of mike at michaeljtoth.net <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 3:44 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: DO NOT DEFUND CREATIVE PINELLAS from Michael Toth #31774141

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Direction of Inquiry

- Commissioner Chris Scherer - District 1
- Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2025 Chair)
- Commissioner Vince Nowicki - District 3
- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name Michael Toth

Subject DO NOT DEFUND CREATIVE PINELLAS

Message

Good afternoon Commissioners,

I'm writing to urge you to continue to fund Creative Pinellas. As a working artist, Creative Pinellas has offered me regional opportunities to create and display work that I would not otherwise have been afforded.

Many other artists have benefited to even greater extents than the small grant I received—their careers have skyrocketed to the credit of Creative Pinellas' exposure and support.

The arts represent a huge tourism draw here in the Tampa Bay Area, both in galleries and on the street. Defunding Creative Pinellas will directly affect the work that is available for visitors to see, and slow tourism in our coastal paradise, at a time when we're still recuperating from the destruction of last year's storms.

I know I am not alone in supporting Creative Pinellas—their impact is profound beyond art on walls in any single gallery—they have changed lives and inspired many thousands.

I will see you all on Thursday evening.

Regards,
Mike Toth

Your Street Address	2910 Dartmouth Ave N
City/Unincorporated County	St. Petersburg
Zip Code	33713
Your Email Address	mike@michaeljtoth.net

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Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of Garrett at ZEPHYR-RC.COM <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 12:23 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Funding Creative Pinellas from Garrett Min #31771416

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Direction of Inquiry

- Commissioner Chris Scherer - District 1
- Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2025 Chair)
- Commissioner Vince Nowicki - District 3
- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7
- County Administrator

Your Name

Garrett Min

Subject

Funding Creative Pinellas

Message

Greetings,

I am writing to support Funding for Creative Pinellas Gallery.
The Gallery, Community & Grants provided by Creative Pinellas prove results of "The Best Free Admission Art Gallery on the West Coast of Florida". As a Uber Lyft Driver, I often refer my customers to the Creative Pinellas Gallery as "One of the best local tourist activities while visiting town".

As of today,
Creative Pinellas is an "A+ Non-Profit Government".

As of tomorrow,
Creative Pinellas no longer exists is "End whatever that quality A+ Non-Profit Arts Gallery is"

To End years of community development that only ever resulted an A+ Non-Profit is "DisRespectful" and "Out of Order".

It indicates a change in the Commissions Administration or Agenda proving a failure overall of our confidence in your Governments ethical code.

Your Street Address	200 4th St N #204
City/Unincorporated County	Saint Petersburg
Zip Code	33701
Your Phone Number	7273105957
Your Email Address	Garrett@ZEPHYR-RC.COM

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Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of pavone at snet.net <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 11:58 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Funding of Creative Pinellas from Mary Pavone #31771173

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- Direction of Inquiry**
- Commissioner Chris Scherer - District 1
 - Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2025 Chair)
 - Commissioner Vince Nowicki - District 3
 - Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
 - Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
 - Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
 - Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name	Mary Pavone
Subject	Funding of Creative Pinellas
Message	Dear Commissioners, PLEASE do not eliminate funding for Creative Pinellas. It is a vital cultural venue. I have enjoyed many exhibitions at the facility and marvel at the breadth of the artist community it serves - from our most accomplished adult artists to our budding artists - our children. We need Creative Pinellas. Please give it your full support. Losing it would be devastating to me and to our entire Pinellas community.
Your Street Address	13008 Boca Ciega Avenue
City/Unincorporated County	Madeira Beach, Pinellas
Zip Code	33708
Your Phone Number	203-592-0266
Your Email Address	pavone@snet.net

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Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of ashleynicoleartistry at gmail.com
<noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 10:43 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: In regards to defunding Creative Pinellas: from Ashley Cassens #31770536

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Direction of Inquiry

- Commissioner Chris Scherer - District 1
- Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2025 Chair)
- Commissioner Vince Nowicki - District 3
- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name Ashley Cassens

Subject In regards to defunding Creative Pinellas:

Message To the County Commissioners in regards to Agenda item 25-1144A meeting 9/4/25:

I'm writing to express the profound and direct impact Creative Pinellas has had on my life and in the communities in which I have painted murals.

I'm a Florida native, and hold a BFA and an MFA in painting. I've spent my entire life creating and teaching my craft.

In 2023, I received a Public Arts Grant to work in collaboration with Florida Orange Groves Winery to create a mural on their building. The mural celebrated their history (a family owned business since the 1970s in South Pasadena) and welcomes the community and tourists who make their business a destination. Even several years later I am tagged by visitors in front of the mural. This mural was featured on local news, which is linked here: <https://www.wfla.com/news/pinellas-county/mural-artists-painting-their-mark-on-south-pasadena/>

When I say NO ONE knows how to do public art like Creative Pinellas, I mean it. (I've worked with other CRAs and Cities in Florida so this comes from experience). They know what cities need in terms of permitting and licensing, and what artists need to create. They arrange scissor lift deliveries, invoices, POD pick-ups, and are the go between with

businesses, property managers and community. They made the process so seamless that I jumped at the chance to work with them again in May of this year.

That project was featured on Fox 13 and can be seen here:

<https://www.fox13news.com/video/1688391>

Everyday, I had regulars visiting my mural, honking as they drove by, it was a joy to see the community be so supportive. The business owners in the plaza have had increase traffic and visibility because of my mural "Sweet Disposition".

Creative Pinellas continues to support communities, businesses and artist by making Pinellas County a destination for arts and culture, making it so vital to this community. I truly hope you consider my own personal account when considering the future funding of Creative Pinellas.

You can see the impact of both of these projects on local news channels.

Your Street Address	3714 Village Estates Place
City/Unincorporated County	Tampa
Zip Code	33618
Your Phone Number	813-409-1207
Your Email Address	ashleynicoleartistry@gmail.com

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Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of johannahipex at gmail.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 10:57 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: KEEP FUNDING THE ARTS from Johanna Taylor #31770652

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Direction of Inquiry

- Commissioner Chris Scherer - District 1
- Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2025 Chair)
- Commissioner Vince Nowicki - District 3
- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7
- County Administrator

Your Name	Johanna Taylor
Subject	KEEP FUNDING THE ARTS
Message	<p>Oh my gosh! I heard that finding of Creative Pinellas is on the chopping block and I am super concerned!!!! Our county is KNOWN for its dedication and support of the arts; don't take away our reputation! It is VITAL that we encourage and support the art and artists that keep us on the map. Don't drain the life out of where we live because that will KILL US.</p> <p>As a resident and artist and business owner here since 2000, I've already seen incredibly active artists move away. While many more are arriving, we need to keep them here!</p> <p>Please PLEASE keep supporting Creative Pinellas and any arts initiatives!!!</p>
Your Street Address	1114 Hull St S
City/Unincorporated County	Gulfport
Zip Code	33707
Your Phone Number	7274598558
Your Email Address	johannahipex@gmail.com

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Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of susikilgore at icloud.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 11:11 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Pinellas County Commission proposing to eliminate their funding for Creative Pinellas, from Susan Kilgore #31770741

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Direction of Inquiry

- Commissioner Chris Scherer - District 1
- Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2025 Chair)
- Commissioner Vince Nowicki - District 3
- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name Susan Kilgore

Subject Pinellas County Commission proposing to eliminate their funding for Creative Pinellas,

Message Greetings Commissioners:
The arts matter. Our community matters. And so does the work of Creative Pinellas. As the designated arts agency for Pinellas County, we drive economic growth, support artists, and strengthen our region as an arts and cultural destination. Losing this support would have a devastating impact on our community.
Kind Regards,
Susi Kilgore

Your Street Address 2804 W AVERILL AVE

City/Unincorporated County Tampa

Zip Code 33611-5304

Your Phone Number 8138301907

Your Email Address susikilgore@icloud.com

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Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of mardomsil at gmail.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 3:49 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Please read my message before you decide. from Maria Dominguez #31774227

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Direction of Inquiry

- Report a Problem
- Request a Service
- Commissioner Chris Scherer - District 1
- Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2025 Chair)
- Commissioner Vince Nowicki - District 3
- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7
- County Administrator

Your Name

Maria Dominguez

Subject

Please read my message before you decide.

Message

I just learned Pinellas County Commission is proposing to eliminate their funding for Creative Pinellas, the County's designated Local Arts Agency. This is most unfortunately for all Pinellas County residents. I have enjoyed visiting their gallery many times and enjoyed viewing first class exhibits. There is no other place in the county where you can enjoy the arts, learn and share with neighbors without paying to access it. This are trying times for all. Having an outlet where to enjoy creativity and share with others is fundamental for our well being as residents of this county. Please do not eliminate the funding for Creative Pinellas. It will significantly hurt our community and narrow, even more, the space to enjoy the arts. Please reconsider your position and help our community stand in venues and programs that are healthy, creative and affordable. Respectfully,
Maria Dominguez

Your Street Address

5247 81st Street North, #16

**City/Unincorporated
County**

St. Petersburg

Zip Code

33709

Your Email Address

mardomsil@gmail.com

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Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of lkothe at msn.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 2:30 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Please support Creative Pinellas from Lisa Kothe #31772422

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Direction of Inquiry

- Commissioner Chris Scherer - District 1
- Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2025 Chair)
- Commissioner Vince Nowicki - District 3
- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name

Lisa Kothe

Subject

Please support Creative Pinellas

Message

Arts are vital to Pinellas County. Please support Creative Pinellas and their mission to art and culture to bring our citizens. They support local artists, spark creative experiences, and help build a cultural scene that makes Pinellas County an inspiring place live and visit. They provide gallery shows, public art installations, and festivals. The arts play a big role in drawing visitors to the area, which helps the local economy. Please don't let Pinellas County become less vibrant. Thank you for listening and considering supporting this important organization.

Your Street Address

111 Crestwood Dr 34695

City/Unincorporated County

Safety Harbor

Zip Code

34695

Your Email Address

lkothe@msn.com

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Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of beth.g.davis at gmail.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:31 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Please support the arts in our county from Beth Davis #31774832

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- Direction of Inquiry**
- Commissioner Chris Scherer - District 1
 - Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2025 Chair)
 - Commissioner Vince Nowicki - District 3
 - Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
 - Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
 - Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
 - Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name Beth Davis

Subject Please support the arts in our county

Message

The Arts are a vital component of our communities, and culture! Imagine our communities without the Arts... it would render our communities colorless and creatively bankrupt!

Think about murals, public art installations, theater, dance, musical concerts, museums and private galleries, which all members of our community enjoy for beauty and education...and you will see how we are impacted daily by the Arts in our communities!

People come to Pinellas County with the understanding that we live in a beautiful place.
The variety of the Creative Arts Organizations here such as Creative Pinellas, among others, make Pinellas County strong!

Your Street Address 1962 HArding Plaza

City/Unincorporated County Clearwater

Zip Code 33765

Your Phone Number 7277423797

Your Email Address beth.g.davis@gmail.com

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Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of sam.wassmer96 at gmail.com
<noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 10:19 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Proposed De-funding of Creative Pinellas from Samantha Wassmer #31770347

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Direction of Inquiry

- Commissioner Chris Scherer - District 1
- Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2025 Chair)
- Commissioner Vince Nowicki - District 3
- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name Samantha Wassmer

Subject Proposed De-funding of Creative Pinellas

Message Dear Commissioners,

I grew up in St. Petersburg. I spent all my school years in St. Pete and when I moved away for college, I decided that I wanted to work in the arts. I believe that this decision was in no small part because of Pinellas County's rich arts community and support for beautiful community pieces that celebrate EVERYONE in Pinellas. I know that Creative Pinellas plays a vital role in keeping the arts alive in my beloved hometown.

Creative Pinellas has always impressed me. With just 9 staff and a handful of supporting contractors, Creative Pinellas produces so much with so little. They are caretakers of one of the top reasons visitors come to the County: the Arts. They have managed the addition of over 50 public art projects in the County, helping beautification and safety efforts on places like the Pinellas Trail, South Pasadena, and Palm Harbor. They attract tourists with the projects Artists create with their support; they run a 10,000-square foot gallery at Pinewoods Cultural Park and the Sightline Gallery at PIE Airport; and they have a tourist-facing magazine to promote visitor spending. Creative Pinellas isn't a luxury — it's an engine for economic growth, tourism, education, and community well-being. Removing funding will cost the County much more in lost opportunity than it saves in the budget. Creative Pinellas turns public investment into high-impact programs that reach thousands of residents, students, and visitors — while leveraging

additional non-County funding.

When you think about the arts in the County, you might think about the new murals and signal box artworks that have beautified Lealman. Or you might think about the many murals you see when biking the Pinellas Trail. Or you might think about the Artists and Arts Nonprofits that received hurricane-relief funding last year. Or you might even think about the opposite – how blank and silent and uninspired our County would be without these things. Your continued funding of Creative Pinellas is what will help our County be a more vibrant place to visit and spend money – and not become empty. It's often so difficult to define the fabric that holds our communities together, so they are safe and attractive and vibrant for visitors. Creative Pinellas enhances that fabric every day, and we need not take it for granted as we consider the County budget.

I would be heartbroken and deeply disappointed in my elected officials if they were to disregard the importance of Creative Pinellas in our County's historic and future success. PLEASE do not defund their incredible work.

Sincerely,
Samantha Wassmer

Your Street Address	1818 Follow Thru Rd N
City/Unincorporated County	St. Petersburg
Zip Code	33710
Your Phone Number	7274100853
Your Email Address	sam.wassmer96@gmail.com

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Hooey, Docia A

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of Kerrykriseman at gmail.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 12:21 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Contact Form: Proposed Elimination of Creative Pinellas Funding from Kerry Kriseman #31771403

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Direction of Inquiry

- General Information
- Commissioner Chris Scherer - District 1
- Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2025 Chair)
- Commissioner Vince Nowicki - District 3
- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name Kerry Kriseman

Subject Proposed Elimination of Creative Pinellas Funding

Message Dear Honorable Pinellas County Commissioners:

This statement is being sent to all commissioners. I'm writing today to oppose the elimination of funding for Creative Pinellas, the County's designated Local Arts Agency.

It's important to realize how much the arts matter in a community. Making the arts accessible is what Creative Pinellas does. Art should be accessible to all. It enhances quality of life, beautifies the spaces we call home and enjoy, and physicians will tell you that it is part of the healing process.

For anyone suffering with mental health issues, a prescription to view art can positively complement their course of treatment. It's no secret that there is a mental health crisis throughout our country, and certainly in our own communities.

I respectfully request that you remind yourselves that you were elected to represent every citizen in our community, and that includes those who are artists, who teach art, promote the benefits of art, and receive grants and funding.

Our community matters. And so does the work of Creative Pinellas. As the designated arts agency for Pinellas County, Creative Pinellas drives economic growth, supports

artists, and strengthens our region as an arts and cultural destination. Losing this support would have a devastating impact on our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Kriseman
St. Petersburg

Your Street Address	6044 3rd Avenue North
City/Unincorporated County	St. Petersburg
Zip Code	33710
Your Phone Number	7274098139
Your Email Address	Kerrykriseman@gmail.com

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From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of sglorsch@gmail.com
To: [Eggers, Dave](#)
Subject: Contact Form: Agenda item 25-1144 - Creative Pinellas from Susan Jane Glor-Scheib #31774484
Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:06:40 PM

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Direction of Inquiry

- Commissioner Chris Scherer - District 1
- Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2025 Chair)
- Commissioner Vince Nowicki - District 3
- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4 (2025 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Your Name	Susan Jane Glor-Scheib
Subject	Agenda item 25-1144 - Creative Pinellas
Message	Please continue support for Creative Pinellas. It's a in the heart of Pinellas County! We've attended many exhibits over the years and used the auditorium as well for a ukulele festival. We are planning another ukulele festival, probably an annual event at Creative Pinellas, in which our participants will also enjoy Heritage Village and the Botanical Gardens. It's a gem, please keep it for artists and performers, it serves the public and the art community like few other venues. Thank you for your continued support
Your Street Address	870 Loch Linnhe Ln
City/Unincorporated County	Dunedin
Zip Code	34698
Your Phone Number	4129138618
Your Email Address	sglorsch@gmail.com

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Hooey, Docia A

From: Liz Dimmitt <liz@floridarama.art>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 3:58 PM
To: liz@dimmittchev.com; Liz Dimmitt
Subject: Creative Pinellas & The Economic Value of Investing in the Arts from a 4th Generation Pinellas County Business Leader

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Dear Commissioners,

I write today as both the CEO of FloridaRAMA, an arts & tech startup and tourist attraction here in Pinellas County, and also the Managing Partner of Dimmitt Chevrolet, a fourth-generation Pinellas County business. My family's automotive dealerships have operated in Pinellas County for over 101 years and pay significant taxes each year. You can be assured that I understand and care deeply about how our tax dollars are used, about the bottom line and return on investment.

My background and education is in both Finance and Art Administration and I have spent 22+ years, 17 in NYC, working as a Cultural Strategist, helping global organizations and companies drive strategy by activating cultural strategies.

From my experience, as a cultural strategist and business leader and entrepreneur, I can tell you that defunding Creative Pinellas does not serve the best short or long term interest of residents and visitors to Pinellas County.

While it may seem an easy "budget cut" solution to those without an understanding of the full arts impacts, it actually risks eliminating earnings, profits and economic benefits in years to come.

Creative Pinellas is a business incubator. Their product is identifying and nurturing artists and creative professionals who operate their own small businesses and are entrepreneurs in their own right. Just as tech incubators fuel innovation and economic growth, Creative Pinellas has fueled the growth of Pinellas's cultural and placemaking ecosystems which in turn sustain a vibrant arts and cultural economy.

Having a thriving art and culture is critical to helping Pinellas County remain competitive as both a business destination and a tourism powerhouse. Defunding the arts risks destabilizing this creative economy, and sends the wrong message to entrepreneurs, cultural leaders and investors who are choosing where to build and grow their businesses.

To share an example from my own arts & tourism business, FloridaRAMA: Since opening in 2021, FloridaRAMA has hired over 80 artists. Half of them have a history with Creative Pinellas. And not simply with competitive grants. Their training, support, development and opportunities for growth under Creative Pinellas directly translate into the quality, professionalism and sustainability of the arts locally and of arts organizations (including the county's 15+ museums, 75+ commercial galleries and 10+ performing arts venues/companies) as well as businesses like mine that rely on their talent.

The economic impact of the arts in Pinellas County is undeniable. According to the most recent Arts & Economic Prosperity report, nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences generated \$241.4 million in economic activity in Pinellas County in 2022, supporting 4,628 jobs and delivering \$53.9 million in wages to local workers. The arts also returned \$49.5 million in tax revenue including \$7.6 million directly back to local government. Importantly, these figures only account for non-profit arts organizations and do not include for-profit cultural attractions like FloridaRAMA, commercial galleries, independent studios or

professional artists which includes musicians, performers, dancers, writers and filmmakers as well as visual artists. So, the true economic impact is even greater, with a return on investment in keeping with many other key industry sectors. Also, did you know that without Creative Pinellas, we would not have these countywide numbers? They managed the months-long process that collected information from arts organizations around the county and from visitors and guests.

Creative Pinellas is a crucial part of Pinellas County's arts and cultural ecosystem. By incubating artist entrepreneurs and strengthening our arts and cultural infrastructure, they ensure that Pinellas County remains competitive as both a business destination and a tourism powerhouse. Defunding them risks destabilizing this creative economy, and sends the wrong message to entrepreneurs, cultural leaders and investors who are choosing where to build and grow their businesses.

As a business leader and entrepreneur responsible for both a century-old company and a new cultural tourism startup, I assure you: long-term investment in the arts is good business. The County's financial support of Creative Pinellas, leverages hundreds of times more in private investment, cultural tourism dollars and tax revenue, which is the type of stewardship your constituency expects and respects from you.

I respectfully urge you to recognize Creative Pinellas for what it is and what they do: a proven incubator for small businesses, a driver of economic growth and one of the smartest investments Pinellas County can make.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering this critical matter. I would be happy to meet with you personally to further discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth "Liz" Dimmitt
CEO, FloridaRAMA
Managing Partner, Dimmitt Chevrolet

Hooey, Docia A

From: Linda Humphers <lindahumphers@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 3:45 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Creative Pinellas

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Please, please, please don't defund Creative Pinellas. This organization is one that Pinellas Count and the entire Tampa Bay Area should be proud to support. The arts are absolutely vital to drawing visitors to our beautiful area and to expanding our reputation as a destination for everyone. Pinellas County has it all — beaches, sports, restaurants and The ARTS!

To paraphrase Oliver Wendell Holmes, I'm happy to pay taxes that buy me civilization!

With kind regards,

Linda Humphers

Hooey, Docia A

From: Cynthia S Townley <ctownley22@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 1:36 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Creative Pinellas

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Please vote for Financial Support for Creative Pinellas, the most important Art Agency in our county. The Arts and all included businesses that they support make our county an important cultural destination. Please support Creative Pinellas.

Cynthia Townley
6639 Bougainvilla Ave S
St. Petersburg, FL 33707
Sent from my iPad

From: [Jack Tovey](#)
To: [Eggers, Dave](#)
Subject: agenda item number (25-1144A)
Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 11:45:03 AM

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My name is Jack Tovey, My address is 7941 58th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33709.
My phone number is 727-644-0289.
I'm a digital artist. I taught in Pinellas County Schools for 36 years.

I want to thank you for your continued support of Creative Pinellas – and right now we need it more than ever. The Pinellas County Commission is proposing to eliminate their funding for Creative Pinellas, the County's designated Local Arts Agency.

The arts matter. Our community matters. And so does the work of Creative Pinellas. As the designated arts agency for Pinellas County, they drive economic growth, support artists, and strengthen our region as an arts and cultural destination. Losing this support would have a devastating impact on our community.

The grants that Creative Pinellas provides help support artists and as a result of this support our community is now known for its art," along with its beaches.
We need the commission to continue supporting Creative Pinellas.

Thank you,
Jack Tovey

jtovey50@yahoo.com

Hooey, Docia A

From: Gail Gamble <gailgamble1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 2:07 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Creative Pinellas Funding

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Dear Dave,

I just called your office and was sorry to have missed speaking with you. I opted to send an email to contact you before the 5 pm deadline today rather than leave a message.

Still advocating for the arts, I'm a board member at Creative Pinellas. Thank you for speaking out at the last county commission meeting that the conversation should continue about funding for the organization and that hopefully a workshop can take place.

I hope you agree that with the importance art has in the cultural tourism of Pinellas Co. that a designated arts agency remains in place that works to sustain arts and cultural institutions, and opportunities for artists and residents of our county.

Thank you, Dave.

Sincerely,
Gail Gamble

Hooey, Docia A

From: Amber Brice <amber.brice84@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:08 PM
Subject: Creative Pinellas Funding

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Dear Commissioner,

As an arts professional, I am deeply troubled by the suggestion to defund Creative Pinellas, and I strongly urge you to continue supporting its funding.

In my travels to 26 countries—including several former Soviet nations—I've seen firsthand the lasting impact that sustained arts funding has on communities. The beauty of Italy and France, with their rich architecture, museums, and public art, stands in stark contrast to countries like Serbia or Bulgaria, where decades of neglect in arts funding or the promotion of artistic thought have left behind gray, uniform buildings with little vibrancy. It is a powerful reminder that the decision to cut arts funding can reshape a city, county, or country for generations, and not in a way that attracts people to live, work, or visit.

I understand that arts funding can sometimes feel like an easy target in today's political climate, but I ask that you carefully reconsider. These decisions affect more than budgets, they shape the cultural identity, livability, and tourism appeal of our community. People travel to Paris to see the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre, or to Italy to experience its artistic heritage; they rarely choose destinations where arts and culture have been diminished.

Creative Pinellas plays a vital role in sustaining our cultural ecosystem. With less than 1% of the county's tourism tax and only 0.004% of the overall Pinellas County budget, the organization delivers outsized impact through cultural tourism, grants, and arts advocacy. It also provides critical support to emerging artists, offering them opportunities to showcase their work publicly, and ensuring smaller cities within the county, which often lack dedicated arts professionals, still have access to artistic resources.

The grants Creative Pinellas provides not only nurture individual artists. but also reinvest directly back into the community. Removing this support risks silencing creative voices and diminishing the vibrancy that makes Pinellas County such a desirable place to live and visit.

For the future of our county's culture, tourism, and quality of life, I respectfully urge you to preserve Creative Pinellas funding.

Thank you.

Amber Brice

From: [Cassie Osterloth](#)
To: [Scherer, Chris](#)
Subject: Creative Pinellas
Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:45:36 PM
Importance: High

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Commissioner,

I have been a resident of St. Petersburg since I was ten years old. In the 45 years since moving here in 1980, I have learned how vital our arts community is, not only as a personal source of inspiration, but as a draw for people from around the country and world.

St. Petersburg is a mecca for art enthusiasts, and a haven for artists that have found a vibrant and diverse community to call home.

I have owned Wonderland Floral Art for almost thirteen years and I was the operations manager of Carter's Florist for fifteen years, so I have spent the majority of my adult life in the creative field of floral design and have always chosen to participate and promote other art forms. I have participated in Art in Bloom at the Museum of Fine Arts for over 25 years. This community event brings over 3000 guests into the MFA in a weekend. I have created three different floral art installations at the Dali Museum in the past few years, each installation assisting in making art approachable. Additionally, I have taught floral design workshops for both adults and children for almost 20 years. I have seen firsthand how art impacts all that engage in it, both with their own hands and by the thought provoking experience of viewing art.

I am lucky. I have found a way to make a living with my art form, but that is not easy or possible for many artists. We have a complex city and everyone is not going to be suited for or understand every job. This does not make the work of the artist less important because it does not fall into the conventional work structure. Many of the most important careers, don't. We cannot thrive as a community without all the important works of our citizens appreciated and supported.

Creative Pinellas' funding is crucial to continuing to be a progressive city that understands the life blood that is art.

When voting, please consider the type of city you want to call home, as well as taxpaying voters and business owners like me. We want a city we can be proud of.

Pablo Picasso said “ Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.” I say away with the dust every day.

Cassandra Osterloth
St. Petersburg Resident

Hooey, Docia A

From: Keaton Fox <keatonemelia@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 12:42 PM
To: Scott, Brian; Nowicki, Vince; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Scherer, Chris
Subject: Defunding Creative Pinellas is a direct violation of the county's comprehensive plan.

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Dear Commissioners,

Defunding Creative Pinellas is a direct violation of the county's comprehensive plan. Confidence in governance comes from honoring the plan, and ignoring its directives reflects a deeper lack of trust being displayed by our local government.

Your decisions should be weighed against the goals, policies, and procedures explicitly stated in the comprehensive plan, including:

ROS GOAL 5 (Cultural Resources/Arts):

Recognize the diversity of cultural traditions and foster artistic expression in Pinellas County to enrich quality of life for residents and visitors.

ROS Policy 5.1.3:

Support the designated local arts agency in its mission to develop and promote the county as a vibrant, integrated, collaborative and sustainable arts community and cultural destination.

Defunding Creative Pinellas is in direct conflict with these commitments. I urge you to honor the county's comprehensive plan and uphold the promises made to our community.

--

KEATON FOX
VIDEO & ART



Hooey, Docia A

From: peter tush <petertush1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:03 PM
To: Scherer, Chris; Scott, Brian; Nowicki, Vince; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: I urge you to please continue supporting Creative Pinellas through your allocation of tourist tax revenue

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Pinellas County Board of Commissioners

315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to strongly urge your continued and expanded support for funding the arts in Pinellas County through Creative Pinellas. This organization is not just a cultural partner—it is a vital economic and civic engine that invests in our future. Through grants to artists, curated exhibitions, and public art programs, Creative Pinellas enriches lives, builds community, and amplifies the reputation of our county far beyond Florida's borders.

The impact is clear. The arts attract visitors who support local businesses, generate millions in tourist tax revenue, and strengthen our economy in measurable ways. Just as importantly, the arts elevate the quality of life for our residents—offering opportunities for connection, inspiration, and civic pride that make Pinellas County a place people want to live, work, and invest in.

As a lifelong St. Petersburg resident and Curator at The Dalí Museum, I have witnessed firsthand how the arts have transformed our community over the decades. Pinellas has become a cultural beacon in Florida and the Southeast. That transformation is no accident—it is the direct result of your foresight in supporting arts and culture. Because of your leadership, our community is now recognized as one of the most vibrant and creative in the nation.

To maintain this momentum, I urge you to continue allocating tourist tax revenue to Creative Pinellas. The return on this investment is undeniable: a stronger economy, a richer community, and a brighter future for all who call Pinellas home.

Thank you for your vision and for your steadfast recognition of the essential role the arts play in our county's prosperity and identity.

Sincerely,

Peter Tush

Curator, Senior Interpreter
The Dalí Museum

Hooey, Docia A

From: Leslie Ferrara <lferrar2000@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 3:02 PM
To: Scherer, Chris; Scott, Brian; Nowicki, Vince; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Keep Creative Pinellas Alive!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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I read the news today, oh boy....

What exactly are you trying to do? This is callous and superficial and completely missing the mark!

It proves how out of touch some of you are with your constituents. It also proves that you have no idea what an impact art makes on our community! This county has become an art destination for tourists and so should not be thrown aside like so much crape paper!

How much money is really being spent on "art supplies and cameras" to fund our accomplished and up and coming artists in the community? Because of them, Pinellas county and the cities within have created a place for people to come that don't necessarily stay on the beach but stay in hotels and airbnbs bringing money throughout the county. Not only that, but the summer art programs for children will be devastated.

I will not be voting for any of you in the upcoming elections if you let this go.

Seriously,

Leslie Ferrara
lferrar2000@gmail.com

Hooey, Docia A

From: Patricia Thomas <patricia@beachartcenter.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 10:15 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Please Continue Funding Creative Pinellas

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Dear Commissioner Eggers,

I hope this message finds you well.

I am a resident, taxpayer, and voter in Pinellas County, and I know you have an important decision ahead regarding funding for Creative Pinellas. I'd like to share why continued support for this organization is essential for the well-being of our community — across all ages and economic backgrounds.

I've witnessed the impact of Creative Pinellas firsthand: from scholarships that make art camps accessible to children who might not otherwise have such opportunities, to the expert guidance and support they provide to local artists and small community art centers.

The creative arts can be life-changing — and, at times, even lifesaving. Art brings peace to those experiencing sadness or depression, a sense of value to those who don't realize what they have to offer, and a powerful outlet for self-expression when words are not enough.

Art builds community, especially for those who may feel they don't have one.

For children — particularly those growing up in difficult circumstances or feeling like they don't fit in — art provides an opportunity to explore, create, and take control of a world they imagine.

And of course, art is also beautiful and fun!

Creative Pinellas is a vital resource that enriches our community and strengthens the economic and cultural fabric of Pinellas County.

For all these reasons, I respectfully urge you to continue funding Creative Pinellas and the important work they do.

Thank you for your time, and for your service to our community.

Warm regards,
Patricia Thomas
504 Lookout Ct
Largo, FL

Hooey, Docia A

From: Max <maxlatura@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:26 PM
To: Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Cc: Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Eggers, Dave; Nowicki, Vince; Scott, Brian; Scherer, Chris
Subject: Please Continue Funding for Creative Pinellas from a Concerned Civilian

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Hello, My name is Maximilien Latura. I am a resident here in Pinellas County, I work as a software engineer where I support parts of the healthcare system.

I am writing to express my support for continued funding of Creative Pinellas. This is an organization whose goals of empowering local artists are important to me. By empowering local artists, Creative Pinellas is also helping to support local businesses. Local art drives tourism, encourages pedestrian traffic, and creative community engagement, all while creating safe and fun ways to express themselves. The defunding of Creative Pinellas will only hurt communities across Pinellas. Please, consider the value this type of organization provides to the community, and to the children that participate in activities sponsored by this organization. Nobody benefits from this funding being cut.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Maximilien Latura

Hooey, Docia A

From: Nicholas Shenefelt <shenefeltn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 11:59 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Please Continue Funding for Creative Pinellas

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Dear Mr. Eggers,

Hello, I am a public librarian here in Pinellas County, where I work with young children to enrich their lives and promote lifelong learning every day. I'm writing to express strong support for the continued county funding for Creative Pinellas, an organization which has personally impacted me and the children in my family. Recently, a child in my family was featured at an art show hosted by Creative Pinellas and it was the highlight of her year. For a young child struggling with self-esteem issues and unsure of what they wanted to do in their life, it was a shaping and confidence-building moment to be recognized for their creative efforts.

Creative Pinellas plays a vital role in enriching community life, supporting local artists, and even driving tourism, all at a such a small fraction of the tourism budget. To be personally blunt on the impact of budget cuts, your board had already cut the public library budget last fiscal year, which caused us to be unable to provide as many back-to-school and creative programs for children this summer. It saddened me immensely to have to tell parents and kids that we couldn't provide as good a service as we had the previous years. So, I ask you, Commissioner, what exactly will you be doing with that money instead of supporting children's creativity and confidence?

Please choose to invest in what makes our county unique, welcoming, family-orientated, and forward-thinking. I urge you to vote in favor of continued funding.

Thank you for your leadership and service.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Shenefelt
31790 US Highway 19 North #185
Palm Harbor, FL 34684

Hooey, Docia A

From: Kathleen Beckman <kathleenbeckman26@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 2:46 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Please Continue to Fund Creative Pinellas

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Dear Commissioner Eggers,

Serving as an elected official on Clearwater's City Council for four years gave me an up close perspective of the importance of art in resident's lives. I celebrated murals, signal box paintings, sidewalk art, art made from trash collected during Clearwater's "Big Clean Up" and art displays in our parks and recreation centers. I also served on the board of the Clearwater Arts Alliance and know full well the profoundly positive impact arts of every kind have on everyday life.

With this knowledge, **I urge you to continue funding Creative Pinellas, our County's designated arts agency. The proposed elimination of funding would jeopardize a cultural infrastructure that contributes enormously to our quality of life, economy, and national reputation.**

Creative Pinellas receives less than 1% of the County's tourism tax and just 0.004% of the overall budget, yet it multiplies this modest investment through state, federal, philanthropic, and contract dollars. The return is clear: vibrant neighborhoods with murals and public art, opportunities for youth and professional artists, and programs that improve mental health, support aging, and build a stronger, more creative workforce.

Pinellas County is recognized internationally as an arts destination, which strengthens our tourism economy and attracts businesses and residents alike. Cutting this support would weaken—not preserve—our County's unique charm and long-term prosperity.

I strongly urge you to maintain funding for Creative Pinellas.

Warm regards,

Kathleen

Kathleen Beckman M.Ed.
Community Advocate
Chair Pinellas County Continuum of Care
Check Your Voter Registration: <https://allintovote.org/register/check-your-registration/>

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Hooey, Docia A

From: Katie <mkillary@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:19 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Please Keep Funding Creative Pinellas

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Hi Dave,

This is Katie Killary, I'm a St. Pete resident, USF St. Pete alum and local art lover!

I'm writing to ask to keep funding Creative Pinellas. So many of us attend their events and gallery exhibitions and appreciate what they do for artists in Pinellas County.

St. Pete and the surrounding areas are well known for their art and the artist community. Eliminating funding would harmfully impact the community, tourism, and possibly the areas' reputation.

Please do not eliminate funding for Creative Pinellas.

Thank you,
Katie Killary

Hooey, Docia A

From: Maggie Duffy <maggie.duffy@creativepinellas.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:20 PM
To: Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Please let Creative Pinellas keep its funding

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Dear Pinellas County Commissioners and TDC Board Members,

I am writing to you in respect to the proposed defunding of Creative Pinellas. As the managing editor of Creative Pinellas' soon-to-launch online magazine, I urge you to continue funding Creative Pinellas rather than redirecting those dollars to Visit St. Pete- Clearwater.

While I only came on board back in May, as a longtime arts professional in Pinellas County and the former arts writer for the Tampa Bay Times, I have watched Creative Pinellas from its inception blossom into the organization it is today.

The impact of Creative Pinellas on the community includes, but is not limited to, the grants it provides to artists and arts organizations, although those are vital for building and maintaining the vibrant arts destination that is Pinellas County.

Creative Pinellas does so much for the arts in the community in myriad ways, including providing a place for artists to exhibit and sell work in the gallery, leading professional artist development workshops, placing artwork from Pinellas County artists at the St. Pete Clearwater International Airport, and on beautification projects throughout the county.

Because of the work Creative Pinellas does, Pinellas County youth get to experience participating in art, through exhibitions and art summer camps. This year, Creative Pinellas gave \$63,000 from the County General Fund directly to arts camps across Pinellas County—supporting program fees, need-based scholarships, and access for PCS students and families. Those kinds of experiences can be life-changing for kids.

Creative Pinellas is focused on being a driver of cultural tourism through two new initiatives, Making Waves, a new pilot program that connects the cultural community with the places people gather - Pinellas County's beautiful beaches, parks and outdoor spaces - to create a countywide exhibition with live performances and arts experiences.

CURRENT|CULTURE is our new online magazine geared toward attracting visitors to Pinellas County as a traveler's guide to local culture. It launches on Oct. 4. The magazine also pays local writers to contribute; another layer of the arts economy.

Please don't defund Creative Pinellas. It's a treasure and resource on which many Pinellas County residents rely.

Thank you.

--

Maggie Duffy
Managing Editor

(727) 464-4545 Office
(727)560-3120 Mobile
maggie.duffy@creativepinellas.org

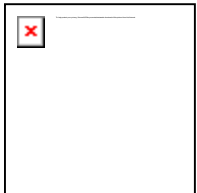
creativepinellas.org

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Submit Invoices:

[Use this link to submit your invoice](#)



Hooey, Docia A

From: James Eric Hartzell <hobbithrtzl@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 2:49 PM
To: Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Peters, Kathleen; Latvala, Christopher; Eggers, Dave; Nowicki, Vince; Scott, Brian; Scherer, Chris
Subject: Public Comment for Agenda Item 25-1144A in Sept 4th Meeting - Subject of Creative Pinellas

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Greetings,

My name is James Hartzell, resident for the past 10 years at 932 3rd St N in St Petersburg, FL. I am writing today about agenda item 25-1144A on tomorrow's meeting docket, September 4th 2025.

As I am unable to attend in person, the goal was to send in support via voicemail and email for Creative Pinellas. This vital arts organization must remain funded, to do otherwise would be a disservice to the community members your body represents.

Here are a few of the reasons why I feel so passionately about this issue.

Creative Pinellas has provided vital funding for artists across various mediums. St Petersburg's art scene was the top reason I moved here from Atlanta in 2015. Creative Pinellas has helped me discover, network with other fellow creatives and dream bigger on what goals can be achieved.

- CP programs & funded projects create a sense of community bringing people together, beautifying our urban environment and exhibiting unique visual storytelling that promotes insightful discussion. Diversity in representation from artists on display to subject matter, works of art that enrich our lives and can be a portal or mirror to illuminate important social issues.
- Personally assisted on a CP mural by Zulu Painter in Palm Harbor that transformed the wall at the intersection of Belcher and Alderman. Art in public spaces, from the Signal Box project to larger murals and installations are more than just decorative, they're powerful. Art in public spaces funded by CP uplift communities and can transform neighborhoods, along with how residents create a sense of pride, belonging and renewed interpretation of their environment.
- Also Creative Pinellas funds art projects that are economic drivers contributing directly to the economy by attracting visitors from within the county, across the state,

attracting tourists nationally and from around the world coming to our "Arts Coast" area to visit the outdoor galleries these murals create and support the businesses that surround them.

- Personally, I have been a recipient of the Creative Pinellas Impact Fund Grant within the last 9 months to paint a mural at the Rowdies stadium. Funds and technical support from CP were the biggest reason the mural happened after encountering various hurdles. The grant application process is competitive, they are not just handing out money. I've applied for seven years before earning a grant from CP.
- Impact to the next generation - I've painted lettering murals on large shipping containers with a nonprofit organization Explore Spacecraft in 2023. These containers were outdoor classrooms that deployed to different communities over the years activating various types of learners through free programming. This was made possible by funds from Creative Pinellas to help pay instructors and other resources for the non-profit to serve the community directly in a setting that's more welcoming and than the structure of a school building. Learning with smaller class sizes and inspiring that vitally important next generation with programming built around the themes of Make, Play, Grow, Read.

In summary, defunding Creative Pinellas would be a terrible idea! This decision would not only create a vacuum in the arts community, but have a ripple effect beyond that.

It would negatively impact artists seeking help funding projects, hurt youth programming that inspire the next generation (think art summer camps), along with artists of various backgrounds and skill levels being denied the platform of exhibiting at Creative Pinellas' world class gallery space.

Think about the impact on neighborhoods losing out on a chance to create unique murals to liven up their community and all the businesses that have benefited from the tourism created by their proximity to arts projects funded by Creative Pinellas.

I urge you to reconsider plans to defund this immeasurably important arts organization. Creative Pinellas must remain as a pillar of the "Arts Coast" to help grow artists and the communities that benefit from the works they have created and hope to continue to bring forth into a world that needs art now more than ever.

Thank you all for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James E Hartzell

404-444-5618

Hooey, Docia A

From: Susan Martin <susanskate@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:10 PM
To: Nowicki, Vince; Scherer, Chris; Scott, Brian; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Save Creative Pinellas!

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Dear Commissioners:

As a more than 40-year resident of Pinellas County, I urge you to continue funding Creative Pinellas. This is a great organization that supports local artists at a time when so many of our cultural institutions are facing existential challenges. We need art more than ever now!

I have attended several exhibits at Creative Pinellas and found them to be well curated and representative of a broad array of the visual arts. The facility itself is excellent, and it would be a shame to lose this venue.

Please, please don't defund Creative Pinellas.

Susan Taylor Martin
3089 Los Gatos Drive
Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770

Sent from [Outlook](#)

Hooey, Docia A

From: christina bertsos <info@christinabertsos.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:42 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Support Creative Pinellas- 25-1144A, September 4, 2025

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Dear Commissioner Eggers,

As a professional artist in Pinellas County, I am urging you to **oppose the defunding of Creative Pinellas**. This organization has been nothing short of life-changing—not just for me, but for countless artists and community members in our region.

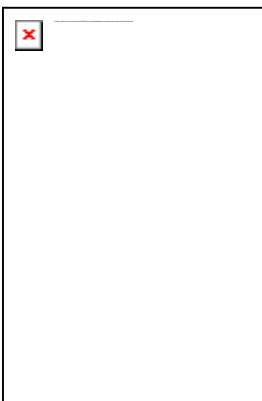
Creative Pinellas is the **single most important resource for artists here**. Through their opportunities, grants, and the tireless commitment of their staff, I have been able to achieve what once felt impossible: realizing my lifelong dream of becoming a professional artist. Without them, I truly don't know how I would have made this a reality. There is no comparable resource in this region—Creative Pinellas fills a vital role that cannot be replaced.

Beyond supporting artists, the Creative Pinellas Gallery provides the public with a **museum-quality venue** where people can experience the transformative power of the arts. It fosters learning, connection, and enrichment—strengthening the very fabric of our community.

Defunding Creative Pinellas would not just harm artists—it would **strip away an essential cultural and educational resource** that elevates the entire county. Please, for the sake of our community's creative future, **retain funding for this vital organization**.

Respectfully,

Christina Bertsos,
Sculptor and Dreamer
www.ChristinaBertsos.com



<https://www.artsyshark.com/2023/08/07/featured-artist-christina-bertsos/>

Hooey, Docia A

From: Jim O'connell <jcoconnell1958@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:20 PM
To: Scherer, Chris; Nowicki, Vince; Scott, Brian; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Support Creative Pinellas' funding

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Hello,

I strongly support arts and museums in our community. The art centers in our area are part of what makes this county great. Please support Creative Pinellas' funding at tomorrow nights meeting. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Jim O'Connell

13300 Indian Rocks Rd, Largo, FL 33774

Hooey, Docia A

From: Sarah Howard <smhoward70@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 2:59 PM
To: Scherer, Chris; Scherer, Chris; Nowicki, Vince; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Support for Creative Pinellas

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Dear Pinellas Board of County Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for funding the non-profit arts agency Creative Pinellas. Creative Pinellas responsibly leverages County funds to support county-wide cultural programs that serve both the local and tourist economies, contributing to the vibrancy of the County.

I understand there is a proposal to have the VSPC manage the cultural grant program moving forward. As a local arts professional and past grant review panelist for Creative Pinellas' grant programs, I can attest to the organization's rigor and responsibility in managing grant programs that support local artists and communities, as well as serve as a draw for cultural tourism. Creative Pinellas has successfully evaluated, awarded, and managed many successful grant programs that create opportunities for artists, foster cultural partnerships, and build community through unique, educational, and memorable experiences.

In addition to managing the cultural grant program, Creative Pinellas has also developed partnerships to bring public art into high-visibility spaces throughout the county, with the following long- and short-term contracts to support beautification and wayfinding initiatives while generating additional return on investment of funds from TDT:

- \$ 250, 000 five- year contract with Lealman CRA (\$ 50,000 annually)
- \$ 20,000 annual contract with St. Pete- Clearwater International Airport to curate and manage their new Sightline Gallery, as well as maintain and care for the public art at the airport.
- \$ 10,000 Tax Collector's office murals
- \$ 40,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant
- \$31 600 from Foundation for a Healthy St. Pete to support County health initiatives through the arts.

As Pinellas County continues to receive recognition and praise for its support of arts and culture, I urge you to continue investing in Creative Pinellas as a responsible steward of County funds that support the arts and play a vital role in communicating the vibrant culture of our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

From: [Scott, Brian](#)
To: [BCC Agenda Comments](#)
Subject: FW: Creative Pinellas Matters
Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 6:11:44 PM

From: Heather Tinnaro <heather@thehivecommunityclay.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 6:07 PM
To: Scott, Brian <brscott@pinellas.gov>
Subject: Creative Pinellas Matters

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Dear Brian,

I am a local ceramic arts studio owner. I have been in my field for 25 years. Every day in my studio, people of wildly different backgrounds work and play together to create art. We have die-hard conservatives working alongside life-long social justice warriors, teenagers working with octogenarians, and utter newbies working with experienced artists. The arts are one of few areas in which we lose our partisan boundaries and can create real community.

In today's skewed political climate, it should come as no surprise to me that our beloved arts organization, Creative Pinellas, is under attack, yet I am stunned that the Pinellas County Commission is threatening to defund one of our truly successful regional arts advocates. Creative Pinellas provides grant funding for established and up-and-coming artists, hosts and sponsors vibrant shows featuring local artists, and helps artists in need. They have sponsored murals along the Pinellas Trail, in the Lealman neighborhood, and at Clearwater Airport, among many other projects. Several of my studio techs have received CP grants that helped further their careers. I encourage all of our up and comers to apply to their shows and for their grant programs.

All of this is important to your constituents, of which I am one. Please do not let the current mania for slashing the arts or civic funding lead you into a grave error that will harm the County in your care. The vibrant arts scene is one of the things that draws young, well-heeled professionals to the area. Many businesses, like mine, rely on the reputation of St Petersburg as an Arts City. Please support local tourism, businesses, and the "vibe" that keeps Pinellas County thriving. Sincerely,

Heather Tinnaro

--

Heather Tinnaro

Owner

The Hive Community Clay

559 49th St S
St Petersburg, FL 33785
727-290-6515

--

Heather Tinnaro
Owner
The Hive Community Clay
559 49th St S
St Petersburg, FL 33785
727-290-6515

From: [Pinellas County Clerk of Court](#)
To: [BCC Agenda Comments](#)
Subject: NEW BCC AGENDA COMMENT
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 1:12:36 PM

Topic Arts Funding & Board Tactics
BCC Agenda Date 9-4-2025
Agenda Item Number 25-0999A
Citizen Name K McDaniel
Phone +17272719401
Email kmcdaniel5728@gmail.com
Address 4372 46th Ave S
StPetersburg, Fl 33711

Comments

I am writing to not only oppose cutting funding of Creative Pinellas but the manner in which it was originally brought before the Board by Commissioner Scott. Defunding this organization was not on the agenda. Scott had allegedly done a "deep dive" into the organization's work and proposed not only defunding it, but voting to defund it during that meeting without any analysis other than his own opinion, completely avoiding any participation by the public. Had Commissioner Eggers and Flowers not stepped in to suggest further analysis and public participation, Creative Pinellas would have lost a majority of its operational budget in one quick swipe of the pen that day without ANY knowledge of or participation by the public. It is extremely disturbing to me that some members of the Board believe that this is how government in this country should function. I greatly appreciate Commissioner Egger's continued dedication to open, thorough and measured approach to the duties of this Board and its obligation to remain transparent servants of the citizens it represents. I think it is important to reflect on the gravity of your responsibility to remain transparent in EVERYTHING you do. You are employed by the residents of this county and you continue in your responsibilities at the will of its voters. As to Creative Pinellas, a "deep dive" into its operations would have revealed not just grants, but professional development seminars to help artists develop acumen in business, finance, and marketing, collector relations management; thought provoking gallery exhibitions that encourage community to gather together in meaningful conversations around a wide range of topics that affect us all; arts education and exhibition opportunities for young children, festivals highlighting the diverse growing community of artists

that feed our economy and finally, as many have pointed out the arts are a substantial element of what feeds St Pete's growing economy. St Pete has become a cultural draw for residents and tourists alike. Restaurants, hotels, boutiques, bars, theaters have all begin to blossom around the arts culture which Creative Pinellas actively helps to grow and support. Defunding this organization is not in the best interest of our community and economy

Your Stand on the Issue

Oppose

From: [Pinellas County Clerk of Court](#)
To: [BCC Agenda Comments](#)
Subject: NEW BCC AGENDA COMMENT
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 12:53:47 PM

Topic	Proposal to eliminate ALL funding for Creative Pinellas.
BCC Agenda Date	9-04-2025
Agenda Item Number	Item 25-1144A
Citizen Name	Frances Gatz
Phone	
Email	frances@ee-link.net
Address	1645 Beach Drive SE St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Comments	Please do not eliminate funding for Creative Pinellas. Art is a pillar in our community, the free expression makes St. Pete special. The process is established and working as it is.
Your Stand on the Issue	Oppose

From: [Pinellas County Clerk of Court](#)
To: [BCC Agenda Comments](#)
Subject: NEW BCC AGENDA COMMENT
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 10:10:48 AM

Topic Creative Pinellas Funding

BCC Agenda Date 9-4-2025

Agenda Item Number 25-1144A

Citizen Name Jennifer O'Leary

Phone +117272241238

Email jennieoleary88@gmail.com

Address 4450 Birch Street NE
FL 33703

Comments

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Commissioner Scott's proposal to defund Creative Pinellas. As someone who was born and raised in Pinellas County, I have a deep appreciation for what makes our community so special. One of those defining strengths is our vibrant arts and culture scene, which Creative Pinellas has played a vital role in supporting and growing. Over the years, I have attended exhibitions at the Creative Pinellas gallery, and each time I am struck by the talent, innovation, and growth of the artists whose work is showcased. It is clear that the support they receive through this organization allows them not only to thrive individually, but also to contribute meaningfully to the cultural and economic vitality of our county. The arts are one of the main reasons people are drawn to live in and visit Pinellas — they create opportunities, foster innovation, and strengthen the very fabric of our community. Defunding Creative Pinellas would undermine this vibrancy and diminish the support system that so many local artists rely upon. I urge you to continue funding Creative Pinellas and to recognize the immense value it brings to residents, visitors, and the broader community.

Your Stand on the Issue Oppose

From: [Pinellas County Clerk of Court](#)
To: [BCC Agenda Comments](#)
Subject: NEW BCC AGENDA COMMENT
Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 7:01:13 PM

Topic	Creative Pinellas
BCC Agenda Date	9-4-2025
Agenda Item Number	25-1144A
Citizen Name	Theresa Schmitt
Phone	+117276922757
Email	theresaeschmitt@gmail.com
Address	530 37th Ave NE FL 33704
Comments	Oppose eliminating funding. This is outrageous!
Your Stand on the Issue	Oppose

From: [Pinellas County Clerk of Court](#)
To: [BCC Agenda Comments](#)
Subject: NEW BCC AGENDA COMMENT
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 3:41:58 PM

Topic Support Creative Pinellas

BCC Agenda Date 9-4-2025

Agenda Item Number

Citizen Name Elizabeth Brincklow

Phone +117274208869

Email elizabethbrincklow@me.com

Address 736 Scotland Street
Dunedin, Florida 34698

Comments Dear County Commissioners, Thank you for the heavy lifting you provide on behalf of the residents and businesses of Pinellas County. I'm writing to ask that you continue the funding for Creative Pinellas. Creative Pinellas is allotted less than 1% of tourism tax and just 0.004% of the County budget—yet it delivers BIG: murals, exhibitions, summer camp support, and.... grants that keep working artists thriving as small businesses. Defunding Creative Pinellas would gut the cultural infrastructure that assists Pinellas County's moniker as a national arts destination, a tourist destination, and a stronger economy for us all. Artists Are Small Businesses—Please protect Their Future Thank you in advance for your support of Creative Pinellas.

Your Stand on the Issue Support

From: [Beate Marston](#)
To: [BCC Agenda Comments](#)
Subject: Opposing dismantling the Pinellas County Office of Human Rights
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 4:52:37 PM

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I just heard about this meeting and could not find any other way to submit my voice as I am unable to attend in person nor Zoom today at this time.

I am writing to voice my support of the County continuing to fully support and fund the Office of Human Rights. The Office of Human Rights has been instrumental in assisting with the enforcement of the Wage Theft Ordinance, issues relative to discrimination in housing (which is extremely critical right now), issues surrounding disability and so much more. The county is paid by HUD and others to address these issues to completion. While asserting that other agencies can do this work, it is not appropriate to tell other agencies to take on work that is outside of their boundaries, If it was within their purview, the county would not be funded to do so.

Many thanks -

Beate Marston
2601 37th Ave. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33713

727-432-0544

Hooey, Docia A

From: Risa Shapiro <rise.shapiro@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:54 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Creative Pinellas Funding

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Dear Mr. Eggers,

I'm writing concerning a cut in funding for the arts! Our beautiful gallery Creative Pinellas for the Arts would suffer from this loss of funding! This would be a tragic loss to our community! As a long time community member and voter I urge you to reconsider this cut in funding for the arts.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Ree Shapiro

From: [O'Donnell, Stacy](#)
To: [BCC Agenda Comments](#)
Cc: [Revie, Dere Lynn H](#)
Subject: Creative Pinellas Support prior to DeadlineFW: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #31767416
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 8:21:11 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Here is another straggler. My apologies these were forwarded to my email from Communications



Stacy O'Donnell
Executive Aide, Commissioner Dave Eggers
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street, Clearwater, FL 33756
sodonnell@pinellas.gov
Office (727) 464-3276

All government correspondence is subject to public record law.

From: Hood, Mildre R <mhood@pinellas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 8:07 AM
To: bccassistants <bccassistants@pinellas.gov>
Subject: FW: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #31767416

Good morning,

This message was received in our after hours in-box.

I would like to pass this along to your department for your information. If you would, please send to the appropriate person to respond to the citizen.

Thank you,

Mildre Hood

Administrative Support Specialist

Communications

Pinellas County Government

333 Chestnut Street

Clearwater, FL 33756

MHood@pinellas.gov

Desk (727) 464-4043

Main (727) 464-4600



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From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 5:44 PM

To: AF, Public <publicaf@pinellas.gov>

Subject: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #31767416

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This information is a result of a Pinellas County Online Customer Service form submission from the Pinellas County web site.

Direction of Inquiry	Report a Problem
Your Name	Nicole Kennedy
Subject	Creative Pinellas Funding
Message	The arts matter. Our community matters. And so does the work of Creative Pinellas. As the designated arts agency for Pinellas County, they drive economic growth, support artists, and strengthen our region as an arts and cultural destination. Losing this support would have a devastating impact on our community.
Your Street Address	430 Roanoke St
City/Unincorporated County	Dunedin

Zip Code

34698

Your Email Address

nicolekennedy1979@gmail.com

This email was sent as a result of a form being completed.

[Report unwanted email.](#)



From: [O'Donnell, Stacy](#)
To: [BCC Agenda Comments](#)
Cc: [Revie, Derelynn H](#)
Subject: Support for Creative Pinellas Received 9.3.25 prior to deadline
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 8:15:58 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)



Stacy O'Donnell
Executive Aide, Commissioner Dave Eggers
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street, Clearwater, FL 33756
sodonnell@pinellas.gov
Office (727) 464-3276

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From: Hood, Mildre R <mhood@pinellas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 12:51 PM
To: bccassistants <bccassistants@pinellas.gov>
Subject: FW: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #31771429

Good morning,

This message was received in our after hours in-box.

I would like to pass this along to your department for your information. If you would, please send to the appropriate person to respond to the citizen.

Thank you,

Mildre Hood

Administrative Support Specialist

Communications

Pinellas County Government

333 Chestnut Street

Clearwater, FL 33756

MHood@pinellas.gov

Desk (727) 464-4043

Main (727) 464-4600



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From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 12:24 PM

To: AF, Public <publicaf@pinellas.gov>

Subject: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #31771429

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Direction of Inquiry

- General Information
- Request a Service

Your Name

Michelle Alberts

Subject

Funding for Creative Pinellas

Message

Please vote to continue to fund Creative Pinellas. This organization supports the arts and young artists. It's an integral part of our cultural community.
Thank you!

Your Street Address

5940 Pelican Bay Plz S, Apt 905

**City/Unincorporated
County**

Gulfport

Zip Code

33707

Your Phone Number

7279545429

Your Email Address

mickeyalberts@yahoo.com

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From: [Chaney, Coleen](#)
To: [BCC Agenda Comments](#)
Subject: FW: Creative Pinella
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 4:12:31 PM

From: Scott, Brian <brscott@pinellas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 4:12 PM
To: Chaney, Coleen <cchaney@pinellas.gov>
Subject: FW: Creative Pinella

From: LSL <lslmisc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 4:07 PM
To: Scherer, Chris <cscherer@pinellas.gov>; Scott, Brian <brscott@pinellas.gov>; Nowicki, Vince <vnowicki@pinellas.gov>; Eggers, Dave <deggers@pinellas.gov>; Latvala, Christopher <clatvala@pinellas.gov>; Peters, Kathleen <kpeters@pinellas.gov>; Robinson-Flowers, Rene <rflowers@pinellas.gov>
Subject: Creative Pinella

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So disappointed and unsurprised to read that you voted to discontinue funding for Creative Pinellas.

The arts are so important to this county and make it a far more vibrant and diverse community than Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota. I know because I have lived in all of them.

Mr. Latvala's comments, in particular, were not only arrogant but also showed a fundamental lack of insight and imagination. It may be time for you to find another line of work.

Meanwhile, Mr. Eggers' remarks hit the bullseye. This is just another example of DeSantis' ongoing culture war. No administration has faced, and lost, more lawsuits than his. Such a small man with a huge chip on his shoulder despite having lived a life of white, male privilege.

And, now we have five of you falling in line with the MAGA cult. Disgraceful. DOGE stands for the Department of Government Elimination. I have run efficiency programs for several companies. DOGE has nothing to do with efficiency.

Ms. Peters: you will not get my vote or contributions if you run again in 2026.