May 19, 2015

Division of Cultural Affairs
Florida Department of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to provide this letter of support on behalf of the Museum of Discovery and Science. As members of the downtown Fort Lauderdale commercial community, the area businesses work in tandem with the other in order to survive and grow. The Museum is one of the largest contributors to the economic stability and progress of this region. Because of the Museum of Discovery and Science, locals and tourists frequent my restaurant, allowing me to continue employment with nearly 50 individuals and bringing in approximately $1.5M in annual revenue.

The Museum’s plans for continued expansion with the addition of the science park, along with renovation and needed repairs to the original structure, will only add to the attraction of downtown and exponentially impact not only my business but the other local businesses.

As a neighbor and community member, the Museum and OB House continues to drive tourism and the economic stability of the region. Along with other area businesses, we are partners in making Broward County amazing and continuing the remarkable reputation of the Arts & Science district.

Please accept this request to look favorably upon the Museum’s application for support from the Division of Cultural Affairs.

Sincerely,

Rodney Ely, Founding Owner
Old Fort Lauderdale Breakfast House
May 6, 2015

Division of Cultural Affairs
Florida Department of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: Museum of Discovery and Science

Dear Florida Arts Council Members:

I am pleased to offer my support of the Museum of Discovery and Science’s request for Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs funding under the Cultural Facilities grant program for 2016-2017.

The City of Fort Lauderdale has been a supportive and involved partner with the Museum from the beginning in 1977. The City actually owns the land that the current building sits on, and provided leadership funding of $8M through a bond issue to build the current institution back in 1992. On a personal level, I have been supportive at both the City and State levels, and I previously served on the Museum’s Board of Trustees for a number of years.

The Museum is a vital resource for the City. It brings economic vitality to the downtown as one of the flagship cultural institutions. It is also the highest visited museum in South Florida, which not only benefits the local economy but also the profile of our City. In addition, the Museum is one of the very best attractions in South Florida for families with children, which has great value to residents, tourists and also as an economic development feature for attracting companies and their employees to Fort Lauderdale.

The Museum’s plans for the Science Park will make it an even more popular destination, and add a very nice feature to the main corridor linking I-95 to downtown Fort Lauderdale. The additional renovations to the over 23 year old building are equally important in keeping the Museum up to date and providing enjoyable cultural experiences for generations to come.

The Commissioners and I are enthusiastic supporters of the Museum and would respectfully urge your approval of the Museum’s application for this important and needed funding.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John P. "Jack" Seiler
Mayor
May 20, 2015

Division of Cultural Affairs
Florida Department of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

RE: Museum of Discovery and Science

Dear Florida Arts Council Members:

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau has always worked to market the Museum of Discovery and Science’s outstanding exhibits, IMAX films and science activities, including hosting media and planners for site visits. The newest addition to the Museum, the EcoDiscovery Center, continues to bring even more visitors to Greater Fort Lauderdale and is an impressive and fascinating addition to the already impressive cultural institution.

As the Museum moves forward with the final phases of the campaign to make repairs and renovations to the original 23-year old building, I wholeheartedly lend my support to this project. Building improvements are needed to provide the best Museum-going experience for visitors near and far, as well as ensure the quality of one of Fort Lauderdale’s most important cultural facilities. I urge the Council to support the Museum’s grant request through the 2016-2017 Cultural Facilities granting process.

Best,

Nicki E. Grossman
President/CEO