

The **Florida Legislature** has presented a budget to Governor DeSantis that eliminates all ***Culture Builds Florida*** funding for the 2024-25 fiscal year. This decision directly impacts **Fogartyville Community Media and Arts Center**. We have received support for our programs from the Florida Division of Arts & Culture (the state arts agency) for several years. This year the grant panel approved our request for \$45,000 to support the exceptional cultural programming that Fogartyville presents as the premier listening room in our region, but Fogartyville will not receive those funds if the governor approves the slashing of *Culture Builds Florida* from the budget.

We also face fiscal challenges at the local level. The **Sarasota County Commission**, led by Commissioner Mike Moran, has implemented new requirements for *Tourist Development Culture and Arts* grants recipients. These changes mandate that 50 percent of requested funds - funds we previously directed towards supporting artists and performers - must now be spent on marketing efforts. This redirection of resources further strains our ability to fulfill our mission of supporting and showcasing artistic talent.

This makes your support during the Giving Challenge more important than ever. The **2024 Giving Challenge** from **noon-noon April 9-10** offers you an opportunity to step up and support the world-class Fogartyville Programming and get your donations matched dollar for dollar! Please join our campaign and help us reach our goal of **\$55,000** to make up our budget shortfall and bring in **700 donors!**

Make a pledge during our **Spring Pledge Drive April 3-10** or visit **GivingChallenge.org/organizations/wslr-inc** on **April 9-10** from **NOON TO NOON** and make a donation.