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**GROWTH & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**GREGORY K. STUBBS, AICP – DIRECTOR**

**Contact Us**

**Phone Numbers**

DeLand Area 740-5210  
Daytona Beach Area 257-6086  
New Smyrna Beach Area 424-6835  
Outside of Volusia County (386) 740-5210  
Margaret Schnebly Hodge, ECHO Program Coordinator, Ex.2009  
Sedrick Harris, ECHO Program Assistant, Ex.2004

**Address**

Thomas C. Kelly Administration Building  
Growth & Resource Management  
ECHO Grants-In-Aid Program  
123 W Indiana Avenue, Room 200  
DeLand, Florida 32720

**Email**

Margaret Schnebly Hodge, ECHO Program Coordinator  
mhodge@co.volusia.fl.us  
Sedrick Harris, ECHO Program Assistant  
sharris@co.volusia.fl.us

**Fax**

(386) 626-6656



**Visit our Website**

**ECHO Grants-In-Aid homepage**  
<http://volusiaforever-echo.com/echo/>

**County of Volusia homepage**  
<http://volusia.org/>

2008-2009-CITIZENS' ACADEMY



2008-2009-CITIZENS' ACADEMY

County of Volusia **ECHO** Grants-In-Aid Program

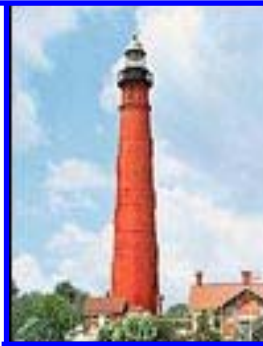


LITTLE THEATER OF NEW SMYRNA BEACH  
2003 Grant - \$467,000

Created by a voter-approved referendum, the **ECHO** Grants-In-Aid Program serves the citizens of Volusia County through restoration, creation, and expansion of facilities within the County, used for **E**nvironmental learning, **C**ultural events, **H**istorical/**H**eritage preservation, or for **O**utdoor recreation.



NEWS JOURNAL CENTER  
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
Exceptional Grant - 2003-2006 - \$2,400,000



PONCE DE LEON INLET  
LIGHTHOUSE LENS  
2002 Grant - \$39,500



LAKE MONROE PARK  
2002 Grant - \$492,800



JACKIE ROBINSON BALLPARK  
2003 Grant - \$500,000



DEBARY HALL  
2002 & 2004 Grants - \$735,000



ATHENS THEATER  
2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007  
Grants - \$1,242,000



## Overview

### WHAT IS THE ECHO GRANTS-IN-AID PROGRAM?



MARY MCLEOD  
BETHUNE  
PERFORMING ARTS  
CENTER  
2004 Grant - \$500,000

The ECHO Grants-In-Aid Program is a “bricks-and-mortar” program that provides grant funds to finance acquisition, restoration, construction, and/or improvement of facilities to be used for environmental/ecological learning, cultural, historical/heritage, or outdoor recreation purposes that must be open for public use. Applicants to the ECHO Grants-In-Aid program must be not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organizations incorporated in the State of Florida with their principal place of business located in Volusia County, municipalities located within Volusia County, or budgeted departments within the County of Volusia Government. ECHO awards are issued annually by the County Council.

### WHY WE HAVE AN ECHO GRANTS-IN-AID PROGRAM:

What started in 1998 as a grass roots effort by individuals, organizations, and local governments concerned about preserving Volusia County’s green space, transformed into two voter approved publicly funded programs; Forever, with the purpose of protecting the County’s natural biodiversity of environmentally sensitive lands and ECHO, with the goal of preserving and enhancing the County’s ecological learning, cultural, historical/heritage, and outdoor recreation facilities.

## History

The history of the ECHO Grants-In-Aid program is a lesson on what can be accomplished when committed individuals and organizations join with local municipalities and the County to work towards achieving a mutual goal.

### Inception of the Program

#### Late 1990’s:

A local university generated an inventory of existing ECHO assets through surveys, public workshops, and listening sessions held throughout the County and reported their findings during four public summits.

#### March 2000:

An ECHO Steering Committee was formed with the inaugural meeting held March 20, 2000. The Committee’s purpose was to gather citizen input on the ECHO initiatives (referendums), funding options, and development and then forward that report to the County Council for consideration.



PORT ORANGE CITY CENTER  
AMPHITHEATER PAVILION  
2004 Grant - \$420,000

## 2008-2009-CITIZENS' ACADEMY



### March - November 2000:

Out of the ECHO Steering Committee came two teams; an ECHO External Task Team that included all interested stakeholders and an ECHO Internal Task Team that consisted of County staff. The ECHO External (non-County staff) Team worked on public input to the ECHO referendum initiative. The roll of the ECHO Internal Task Team was to develop promotions and learning elements for the existing ECHO opportunities in Volusia.

### August 2000:

On August 17, 2000, the County Council approved two referendums separating the Forever conservation land purchases from the ECHO initiative for construction, renovation, or restoration of environmental learning, cultural, historical/heritage, and outdoor recreation facilities.

### November 2000:

On November 7, 2000, the voters of Volusia County passed both the Forever and ECHO referendums. Of those voting, 61% of Volusia County's citizens voted for the Forever program and 57% voted for the ECHO program.



### April 2001:

On April 5, 2001, the County Council passed Resolution 2001-70, creating the ECHO Advisory Committee.

### May 2001:

The ECHO Advisory Committee holds their first meeting and develops the process for application and distribution of grant funds.

### May 2002:

The County Council approves the first year of ECHO awards.



**2008-2009-CITIZENS' ACADEMY**



**ECHO Advisory Committee**

The ECHO Advisory Committee, created by Resolution 2001-70, has the mandate to provide advice and recommendations to the County Council on applications from not-for-profit organizations, municipalities, and budgeted County departments applying for ECHO Grants-In-Aid funding. There are 9 members on the Board, each of which has been appointed by a member of the County Council (the County Chair and the at-large member each appoint 2 nominees – one from the east side and one from the west side) and are approved by a majority vote of the entire Council. Committee members must be registered electors in the County of Volusia and may serve for multiple 2-year terms at the pleasure of the County Council. Terms expire on March 31 of odd numbered years.

**2007-2009 ECHO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**



Gary Libby – Chair  
District 2 – Art Giles



Eugene Gizzi  
District 5 – Pat Northey



Karen Jans  
At-Large West – Frank Bruno



Charles Matousek  
At-Large West – Joie Alexander



John Nelson  
District 3 – Jack Hayman



Bruce Piatek  
District 4 – Carl G. Persis



David Rigsby – Vice-Chair  
District 1 – Andy Kelly



Joe Rudolph  
At-Large West – Frank Bruno



Stuart Sixma  
At-Large East – Joie Alexander