



2023 City Catalyst Grants Program Winners

The Florida League of Mayors and Business Watch partner to offer grants that will be used to support projects or initiatives that help build community and/or help enhance the lives of citizens in our municipalities.

This year's recipients are:

**City of Holly Hill
Mayor Chris Via
Imagination Library
\$2,500**

Holly Hill schools has the lowest 3rd grade reading scores in all of Volusia County and is ranked in the 5th percentile statewide. Holly Hill's solution is early enrollment of children in a free book program. This funding will support children living in Holly Hill ages birth-5 years old enrolled in the Volusia Imagination Library, which is facilitated by The Early Learning Coalition of Flagler and Volusia Counties (ELCFV). This program is free to participants and full funded by ELCFV. When a child enrolls in the program at birth, they'll have a library of 60 books by the time they graduate from the program at age 5. Funding for the Imagination Library is constrained to fundraising efforts through individuals and support from charitable foundations. Volusia Imagination Library Champions and committee members help sustain the program by supporting fundraising events and community advocacy for the program and mission.

**City of Oakland Park
Mayor Aisha Gordon
Free Little Libraries
\$2,375**

The City of Oakland Park's Library is creating a network of free Little Library boxes located throughout the city. Free Little Libraries is a national initiative of placing library box structures in neighborhoods that provides the opportunity to discover

a personally relevant book to read which is not limited by time, space, or privilege. Residents from each community are able to take a book for free and leave a book behind for another person to read. The Oakland Park Library has funding in its FY23 budget to purchase 5 Little Libraries and has reached out to the Homeowner's and Neighborhood Associations to offer placement of a Little Library. Friends of the Ethel M. Gordon Oakland Park Library will partner with the Homeowners and Neighborhood groups to provide the initial book stock and subsequent refills if needed. Grant funding will be used to purchase another 5 Little Library boxes from the Little Libraries organization.

**Town of Pomona Park
Mayor Joseph Svingala
Memorial Park
\$2,500**

The Town of Pomona Park is seeking funding to establish a Memorial Park in the community. This park will play a vital role in honoring the local heroes, providing a serene space for residents and promoting community engagement. The park will feature a brick walkway and a central memorial monument to pay homage to those who have served our town and nation. The total estimated cost for the Memorial Park project is \$10,000. The requested grant amount is \$2,500 for construction, memorial monument installation, signage and essential infrastructure.