

INIE Candidate Questionnaire - Spring 2020

The Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence (INIE) is a non-profit management support organization. The mission of INIE is to strengthen the capacity and impact of the nonprofit sector through education, collaboration and advocacy. We are comprised of over 180 members with a reach of over 2,400 registered nonprofit organizations.

Collaboration with all sectors is vital to having a vibrant community and a thriving nonprofit ecosystem that is prepared to serve the needs of all residents in the Tallahassee and surrounding area.

Please complete and submit this questionnaire to provide YOUR VOICE regarding the nonprofit sector. We ask that this questionnaire be SUBMITTED by FEBRUARY 21st. We will release candidates' responses, including "no response", to our members and the public on Friday, February 28th.

We commend you for your desire to serve our community and look forward to hearing YOUR VOICE. Thank you.

Email address *

electgerriseay@gmail.com

Candidate Name *

Geraldine Seay, Ph.D.

Name of desired commission seat and/or position.

*

Seat 2

1. Please describe how you have been personally involved in, supported, or been affected by the nonprofit sector. *

I actually have a non profit: B Sharps Jazz Society. I've had minimum success with Cocoa, but I've not pushed the City envelope bc I've not felt particularly welcomed. And in 12 years, I've had no City Commissioners ever actually come to a ticketed event. And, when the city put the Rhythm Bus together, they purposely excluded us. The city is so busy trying to make its ventures work that they have become competitors not supporters. And of course they have their favorite Non profits they support, mine is not one of those.

2. There are over 2,400 nonprofit organizations registered in Tallahassee and they have an economic impact of \$3.1 Billion in Revenue. How do you plan to ensure that the nonprofit sector has a voice in the decisions being made in the commission? *

I would encourage non profits to sit on the various city committees. I sat on the Architectural Review Board as I have an Historically Restored House that is listed on the National Register. Understanding the city process and sharing the non profit insights are invaluable.

3. How would you use the nonprofit sector to advance the vitality of our community? *

Engaging the non profits to reach all of the city's residents would allow for a much more representative showing at events and other public activities. Also, broader resident participation could be a likely result; too often, only certain segments of the community are in evidence.

4. What suggestions do you have to improve the financial deficit that exists among nonprofits to serve the needs of our community? *

Instead of the city establishing venues, vendors and products, reaching out and engaging various nonprofits for these roles would be more appropriate and make the non profit economically viable. In other words, the city acts as a competitor instead of a supporter of nonprofits.

5. 1 in 10 jobs in Tallahassee are in the nonprofit sector. If our community is concerned about retaining and attracting talent, how would you encourage government leaders to assist in growing the workforce in the social sector? *

Space, space, space! So many non profits need space to operationalize their mission. We should use one of the many vacant structures and transform it -or better yet- allow the nonprofit to determine its space needs. Allow a rent free 36 months in order that the non profit can cement its way forward.

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