

# 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 \*

melissavillar4@gmail.com

Candidate Name \*

Melissa Villar

Name of desired commission seat and/or position.

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Leon County Commission At Large

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

Nonprofit organizations are responsible for the charitable contributions throughout history. I am happy to support local organizations that make positive impacts on our communities. Personally, forming a nonprofit organization allowed me to focus on a specialty topic area that had the smallest voice. Through education and evidence based research significant cannabis reform has been possible 80 years following the adoption of the Marihuana Tax Act of 1937, which prohibited cannabis cultivation in the U.S.

The nonprofit sector offers residents opportunity through employment and the arts, food, housing, and support services. I am thankful for the efforts of local nonprofits that feed the community, since many people including our own family has had to adapt to once a month salaries. It is interesting to note that the Refuge House which provides services to individuals impacted by domestic violence has strong support and a dedicated hotline telephone number this is in comparison to more populous cities in other states. The support nonprofits receive from community is enormous and I am thankful for all the dedication shown by all.

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? \*

Nonprofit stakeholders to include colleges and universities are a large part of the Capital City community. Providing direct services to individuals requires a continual update from organizations. Whether the topic is community support services, environment, human services, or services for elders and youth every organization will have a voice. Nonprofit feedback is an invaluable tool for the commission to understand the impact each organization has and allow entities to detail and share outcomes.

Through methods to include, in-person presentations from clients and the organizations, surveys, and focus groups the commission will have all stakeholders involved to ensure clients receive the best services while maintaining or exceeding goals. In addition, respect and listen to new ideas, programs and proposals from community members is essential to understand what moves communities.

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

In order to advance the vitality of our community nonprofits must focus on foundational strength. Stability begins with employment opportunities. Through employment, and acquired job training skills and education. Individuals will engage, prosper and shape their lives accordingly.

The Arts is a major factor that advances communities. As a Commissioner, I would propose that organizations that receive grant funds for live music events would be required to spend a specified percentage to compensate the artists and musicians. Otherwise the entities that benefit the most are the city, the venue and the audio and tent and table suppliers.

And without safe drinking water communities will crumble. The strength of our community is dependent upon the environmental health. The water assessment by local and state authorities shows a decreased water supply by 2035 as the population in Florida grows.

There are many factors that contribute to the advancement and development of strong vital communities. Through environmental sustainability, employment opportunities and the arts the local foundational structure will continue to grow and thrive. And, I am happy to be a part of this incredible community.

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

No comment.

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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? \*

No comment.

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