

## Partnership for Creative Economies, Inc

Partnership for Creative Economies, Inc. (PCE) will be a Florida Non-Profit established in January 2019 and will immediately apply to the Internal Revenue Service to become a 501 (c)6 organization. Our intentions are that it will be structured as such with an Executive Director serving as the operations person and point of contact. The intentions are that it will be governed by a Board of Directors of 12 to 20 board members. The organization is scheduled to also have 5 or 6 operation steering committees that will focus their attention on the following areas.

- Healthcare
- Infrastructure
- Education
- Entertainment/Tourism
- Entrepreneurship
- Technology and Innovative Industries
- Job Creation

These Steering committees will have between 3 and 5 members per committee populated by experienced practitioners and executives in that field of knowledge.

Much of the funding of this organization will eventually come from the Board members, Steering Committee members and regular memberships to the Non-profit organization. We will be asking the city for initial monetary infusion of \$45,000 and continuing services such as grant writing assistance. Our initial expense budget for the 2019 calendar year is approximately \$120,000.

It is proposed that the Partnership for Creative Economies, Inc become the lead organization in Economic Development Public/Private Partnership between the Non-profit entity and the City of North Port. And it is further proposed that PCE will handle the initial contacts for all Economic inquiries from outside sources. PCE will become the face the Economic Development in North Port. Since it is difficult to plot a course without a Plan, we would expect to work closely with the city to produce an Economic Development Strategic Plan update and have already begun conversations with potential consultant groups to proceed with this process as soon as it is approved by the Commission. We will be providing a unsolicited proposal for the development of a Strategic Plan within the week. Our preliminary estimation is having an approved Economic Development Strategic Plan by the end of April 2019. Upon acceptance of a working strategic plan, the PCE and the City of North Port will begin instituting the plan on attracting the right kind of economic catalysts that will quicken the metabolism of economic growth and diversity in this city. We will work in conjunction with the Economic Development Department of the City and also the Neighborhood Development Services Department to identify opportunities and constraints to proper growth and development and bring solution forth for your approval.

The potential Board members have already begun establishing relationships and identifying projects that it will bring forth to this Commission and Citizens, to explore the validity and appropriateness for our City. We see the possibility of introducing several projects within the

first 6 months for approval and acceptance. While we have done considerable work in the initial formation stage of this endeavor, it is strongly believed that without concrete support from the city, most of these projects will not move to fruition. Without this, North Port will continue to move towards the inevitable national store on every street corner that permits the earnings from their operations to be drawn out of the city's economy while only supplying low wage opportunities for their employees.

We are coming before this commission asking to work with this city to identify opportunities for a diverse economic future. We are asking you, the Commission for some forethought to work with the citizens and leaders of this community. Citizens and leaders that have a desire to progress North Port from a city that can't be identified by the major players in Site Selection processes and Economic Development, to a City that leads the Region, State and Nation in Attracting top level Industries in High Tech, Education and Entrepreneurship to our area.

In conclusion, we have tried the old way for many years now and the "bible" of economic development publications, Site Selection Magazine, according to its surveys, say we aren't doing a very good job. This isn't about blame, the past is now irrelevant, it is about where we stand today and where we intend to stand in the future. We can continue to do the same thing and expect different results but we all know what that is the definition of. Finally, we can remember the quote from Willa Cather " There's nothing so dangerous as sitting still" Let's stop sitting still in the Economic Development arena.