

Joanelle Wood Mulrain
Founder/CEO ~ Mulrain Resource Group, LLC
3311 Pine Street, #4 ~ Jacksonville, FL 32205

LETTER OF SUPPORT

The Documentary Film Institute (DFI), a 501(c)3 based in Jacksonville, Florida, is a documentary film and cultural-presentation initiative focused on Jacksonville's musical heritage, which includes the historic African American community of LaVilla, where the City's world-famous music scene began in 1895. DFI's request for funding from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund combines film production, oral-history collection, archival research and sustainable community education, especially to bring about awareness of pride to families and individuals in the LaVilla community.

Some of the famous American musical artists in the proposed documentary include brothers James Welton and J. Rosamond Johnson, Arthur "Blind" Blake, Billy Daniels, Ray Charles, Mae Boren Axton, The Classics IV, Allman Brothers Band, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Tedeschi-Trucks Band – and others within a 130-year period – thus, making Jacksonville a nexus point from which multiple music genres sprang forth contributing to the history and legacy of American music.

The Institute documents underrepresented histories, creates public-facing educational media, and engages the community through screenings and discussions. The particular film under discussion for a grant, will create a timeline of musical history, increase awareness of LaVilla and surrounding adjacent communities of the cultural historical memory of music, adding to the value and brand of Jacksonville as one of the most influential sites of American music now being focused on, uncovered, and a place maker contributing to its heritage. Stakeholders and partners will be developed to support this effort, and I hope that the Fund will recognize its intrinsic value to the history of American Music & Musicians who contributed to our music legacies strengthening community identity and engagement of LaVilla, once a major cultural center for African American music and performance, which is at risk of being lost. This grant request, understanding the passing of older generations, increases the urgency of the preservation of its significant history.

Thank you,

Joanelle Mulrain

Community Supporter/Activist, Internationally Recognized Artist, Author, Photographer
Former Corporate Vice President/Baptist Health
NE FL Director/US Sen. Bill Nelson (Jacksonville) and Special Projects (Washington, DC)
Director, Larry King Heart Foundation Annual Dinner (Washington, DC)
Director, Marketing/Jacksonville Orthopaedic Institute
Mulrain Resource Group, LLC/MARCOM-Brand Ambassador-Community Relations-PR Expert
Peabody Award, McEachern Award, Public Relations Society of America Award, Telly Awards, ADDY Awards
Member, DAR ~ National Society of the Colonial Dames of America ~ National League of American Pen Women
Member, The Women's Board, Wolfson Children's Hospital
Awardee: Woman of Distinction/Girl Scouts; Woman of Influence/*Jax. Business Journal*, Mayor's Commission/Status of Women
Director, The America Project, Wentworth Woodhouse (Rotherham, England)
Graduate, FBI Citizens Academy, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Police Academy
License, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services/Florida Network Realty (Referral)
Submitted, Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania, Africa)