



August 22, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

Michael Ray FitzGerald is the author of three books about Jacksonville's musical history, one of which, *Jacksonville and the Roots of Southern Rock*, published by University Press of Florida, has won a State of Florida Book award in nonfiction.

Dr. FitzGerald has been diligently promoting the region's cultural contributions since 1999, when he formed the Northeast Florida Music Association, for which I served as an advisor.

Fitzgerald recently expanded the scope of his efforts to form Documentary Film Institute Jacksonville, Inc. (DocJax), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to create films about the city's rich cultural heritage. DocJax's first project will be a television series focusing on Jacksonville's amazing yet often overlooked music history.

FitzGerald is well educated in this field. He holds a master's degree in mass-communication from University of Florida in Gainesville, where he also studied documentary film under award-winning filmmaker Churchill Roberts. FitzGerald later earned a doctoral degree in film and television at UK's University of Reading.

I applaud DocJax's efforts to create a film legacy that documents our city's rich history and culture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Roobin", is written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is fluid and includes a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Todd Roobin
Film Commissioner