

2006 Florida Cities of Excellence Awards Program ▶ Nomination Form

Category (Please check one) See Award Criteria for more information. Please print or type. One nomination per page.

CITY OF SPIRIT
Name of Municipality Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY SPIRIT
Name of Municipality Nominated City of Brooksville
Nominated Project Bandshell Bash
Nominated by Brian S. Brijbeg, City of Brooksville
(Name of City/Town/Village)

PERSON OF THE YEAR
Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

DEPARTMENT HEAD OF THE YEAR
Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
Name of Individual Nominated _____
Title _____ Department _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR
Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

NON-PROFIT LEADER OF THE YEAR
Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

WOMAN OF THE YEAR
Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

CHIEF OF POLICE / POLICE DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OF THE YEAR
Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

GOVERNMENT OF THE YEAR
Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Please print or type.

Name Brian S. Brijbag
 Title Redevelopment Coordinator
 Government City of Brooksville
 Address 201 Howell Avenue Brooksville, FL 34601
 Telephone Number (352) 544-5430 Fax (352) 544-5429
 E-mail Address bbrijbag@ci.brooksville.fl.us

APPROVAL

This nomination has been voted on and approved by a majority of the city council/commission.

Signed [Signature]
 Acting City Clerk

The judges will use the narrative and supportive information to select the award winners. Nominators/nominees are asked not to contact the judges directly.

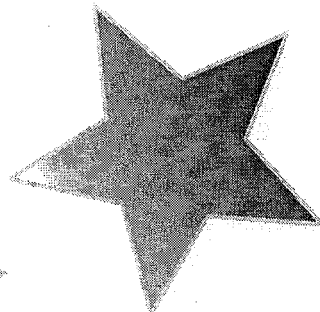
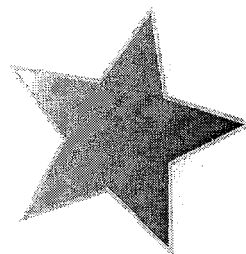
FORMAT

In the narrative, please be clear and concise, using the Award Criteria to support the selection of your nominee. Please type (or print in black ink), up to 1,200 words, double-spaced on white 8-1/2" x 11" paper.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Up to 10 pages of supportive information (newspaper clippings, photographs, letters from constituents, etc.), on 8-1/2" x 11" paper (single-sided) may be provided. Please do not include videotapes, DVDs, CDs or Power-Point presentations.

Submit nominations by **August 18, 2006:**
 Florida League of Cities, Inc.
 Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence
 301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)
 P.O. Box 1757
 Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757



Bandshell Bash

Narrative

The Bandshell Bash event was created in late 2004 to address a need to bring new life and culture to the downtown Brooksville area. The bandshell at Hernando Park had been sitting there, practically unused, since the 1960s. Strategically located in the heart of downtown, the bandshell was realized to be the perfect place to host a monthly cultural event and revitalize a fading city landmark.

The Bandshell Bash is a new and innovative event in several ways. On the second Saturday of every month, the Bandshell Bash is held from 4:00 to 8:00 PM.

Concertgoers enjoy free live music from a wide variety of local, regional, and national acts, including past headliners Rick Derringer, The Crest, and Cigar Store Indians. The Bandshell Bash is more than just a concert series, though. Each event also features the Brooksville Cruise-In, an antique hot rod car show, and local food and beverage vendors. Additionally, each month has a distinct theme and features activities specially designed to complement that topic. These have included free swing dance lessons, arts and crafts displays, a hot dog eating concert, and children's activities such as face painting, balloon animals and sand art, just to name a few. Concert-goers often arrive early and shop in historic downtown Brooksville, as select businesses are open during the Bash. Bench-style seating is provided in the bandshell area, and many people bring their own lounge chairs. Some bring a blanket and relax picnic-style in the park, feasting on the treats of local vendors. Kids enjoy the nearby playground. Various community-based

organizations have booths set up around the park to inform the public, raise donations, and some even raffle off prizes.

Part of the great success of the Bandshell Bash is that the committee is made up of local business owners, residents and City of Brooksville employees. They tackle all the preparations and planning for each months event. Brooksville Redevelopment Coordinator and Chairperson of the committee, Brian S. Brijbag attributes the revitalization of the downtown area to the teamwork of concerned people. "When the city government listens to and partners with the business and residential communities, great leaps forward can happen for all three entities," responds Brijbag. He also comments that "the best view is the one I get as emcee from the stage. I see a community that takes pride in itself and has a great spirit that has permeated every smile, handshake or friendly greeting".

The first Bandshell Bash was February 12, 2005. Since its inception the Bandshell Bash has become an extremely popular monthly event, having a positive effect on the residents of Brooksville, Hernando County, and even beyond to the surrounding areas. The citizens are very excited to see all the activity surrounding the bandshell now, and have pulled together in support by turning out month after month. The event has strengthened government relationships, as evidenced by what Florida Representative David Russell wrote in his letter supporting the Bandshell Bash: "This event attracts people into the City of Brooksville one family-friendly evening a month to enjoy a wide variety of music – from jazz to reggae to rock and roll – providing a showcase not only for musical access

but also for downtown businesses and car and motor-bile enthusiasts. Events such as the Bandshell Bash invigorate and sustain community spirit, and provide much-needed accesses to the musical arts for citizens in the more rural areas of our State.” The event has also helped to inspire city employees by providing the needed spark to the City of Brooksville’s revitalization efforts.

The success of the Bandshell Bash is evident in its consistently good turnout month after month. Some of the larger national acts have attracted more than 1,500 patrons each, and the event typically averages approximately 800 people each month. The benefits of this event have been widely felt. Residents of the City of Brooksville are excited to see the familiar landmark of the bandshell being used once again for family-friendly entertainment. The increased traffic has had a positive effect on downtown businesses. The event has met many of its original goals, such as providing opportunities for cultural enrichment, showcasing local talent, offering additional activities and facilities for added enjoyment of the monthly events, increasing awareness of local business and cultural opportunities in the City of Brooksville, becoming a catalyst for the City revitalization efforts, and improving the quality of life for the residents. This project will continue to impact the City in the future by consistently meeting and exceeding these goals and drawing more people to live and conduct business in the City of Brooksville.

At its inception, each monthly event cost approximately \$2,000.00 to cover musician fees, sound system rental, insurance and security. Initially, most of the money came from a handful of downtown businesses and private individuals. Some donations are also

collected from patrons during the concerts. However, due to the event's great success, the Committee was able to apply for and was awarded a grant from the State Division of Cultural Affairs in the amount of \$48,000.00. Now, the Bandshell Bash has been expanded to provide more nationally-recognized acts and other supplemental activities.

The Bandshell Bash concept can be adapted for use in almost any city with similar facilities. A bandshell with an accompanying park is the ideal location, but a wide variety of outdoor venues could also host such an event, including amphitheatres and piers. The concept could be revised for use in many other types of settings as well. Ultimately it is the people, the commitment and the response that stand as models for other communities.

You are invited to bring your lawn chair and rock away the Brooksville night with us. Then you can experience firsthand a City that has a special spirit!