

For more information contact:

Anne Satterlee, APR, CPRC  
Communications & Marketing Manager  
772.467.3027 asatterlee@city-ftpierce.com



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## City of Fort Pierce Approves Grant Recipients For Eco-Tourism Initiative *(Revised)*

At the June 3, 2013 meeting, Commissioners approved twelve (12) grant requests, totaling \$53,900, to support local eco-tourism businesses, as submitted by the Fort Pierce Authentic Tours (FPAT) Advisory Board. FPAT is an economic development initiative designed to increase the capacity and sustainability of existing Fort Pierce businesses involved in the eco-/agri-/nature-based tourism industry. FPAT is funded by HUDs Community Development Block Grant and overseen by the Community Wide Council. Five (5) local jobs are projected to be created by the 2013 grant recipients.

**Grants awarded:** **Lisa's Kayaks**, \$5,000 grant (total project expense of \$6,732) to purchase standup paddle-boards and related equipment; **COKEE/Swampland Tours**, \$5,000 grant (total project expense of \$10,740) to repaint and refurbish "Gator" tour boat and replace seating; **Manatee Center**, \$5,000 grant (total project expense of \$6,637) to purchase an interactive kiosk; **Smithsonian Marine Station**, \$3,450 grant for chairs and wrap covering for van to assist in public awareness/marketing; **Treasure Coast Boat Rentals**, \$5,000 grant (total project expense of \$8,325) for replacement boat motor; **Motorized Kayak Adventures**, \$5,000 grant (total project expense of \$6,716) for additional kayaks, motors and a trailer; **Tours on Horseback**, \$3,500 grant to purchase additional horse, upgrade computer and replace tack; **Marine Cleanup Initiative**, \$5,000 grant (total project expense of \$7,426) for safety equipment (life jackets, VHF radios, etc.) for cleanup vessel; **Fort Pierce Lady Fishing Boat**, \$5,000 grant (total project expense of \$6,564) to purchase new rods and reels for tour patrons; **Last Mango Charters**, \$4,014 grant (total project expense of \$4,528) to paint boat and replace upholstery; **Heathcote Botanical Gardens**, \$3,450 grant to develop kiosk on bonsai collection; **Dolphin Watch Boat Tours**, \$5,000 grant (total project expense of \$6,588) to replace bimini top on tour boat plus wrap signage on boat for marketing.

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