



## NEWS RELEASE

Public Education Network Sarasota  
pensarasota.org | info@pensarasota.org

📷 @pen.sarasota 🌐 /publiceducationnetworksarasota

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Public Education Network Sarasota Receives Grant Support From Gulf Coast Community Foundation Fund and The Arthur E. and Audre B. Smith Charitable Fund

PEN-Sarasota News Release

August 17, 2024

Public Education Network Sarasota (PEN-Sarasota) today announced receipt of an \$8,000 grant from the Arthur E. and Audre B. Smith Charitable Fund at Gulf Coast Community Foundation (Gulf Coast), which is a donor-established legacy endowment. The grant is designated for advocacy costs in support of the Millage Referendum for Sarasota County Schools.

"On behalf of our Board, I extend our heartfelt thanks to Gulf Coast Community Foundation for this generous funding," said Theoni Soublis, Ph.D., Chair of PEN-Sarasota. "This support is a testament to the positive change our nonprofit organization aspires to create within our community. We sincerely appreciate the Foundation's trust in our vision, mission, and the initiatives we undertake toward the betterment of our community."

"We are honored to provide this grant to Public Education Network Sarasota (PEN-Sarasota), as they stand as a beacon for educational excellence in our community. At Gulf Coast Community Foundation, we envision thriving communities with opportunities for all, with education being one of our focus areas. PEN-Sarasota informs and engages the community, empowering individuals and organizations to articulate and shape the future of public education in Sarasota County. We know that the power of partnerships can fuel positive future impact," said Gulf Coast's President | CEO Phillip Lanham.

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#### About Gulf Coast Community Foundation

Headquartered in Venice, FL, and with a second office in downtown Sarasota, FL, Gulf Coast Community Foundation has transformed the region through bold and proactive philanthropy for nearly 30 years. Serving the needs of the region as a partner in philanthropy and leader in community initiatives, Gulf Coast has surpassed granting over \$550 million in the areas of: health and human services, civic and economic development, education, arts and culture, and the environment. Gulf Coast was named one of the "Best Nonprofits To Work For" nationally by The NonProfit Times in 2010, 2011, 2017, 2020, 2021, and 2023. To learn more, visit [GulfCoastCF.org](https://GulfCoastCF.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#).

#### About Public Education Network Sarasota

Public Education Network Sarasota is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on public education advocacy in Sarasota, FL. PEN-Sarasota stands as a beacon for educational excellence. Its Mission is to create a unified advocacy network that amplifies the voices of Sarasota's residents. By informing and engaging the community, PEN-Sarasota empowers individuals and organizations to articulate and shape the future of public education in Sarasota County. To learn more about PEN-Sarasota and how you can become involved, visit <https://pensarasota.org/> or email [Info@PENSarasota.org](mailto:Info@PENSarasota.org).