2019 City Budget Summary – Lincolnville Highlights

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Source: City of St. Augustine 2019 Final Budget book (64 pages, fiscal year October 2018 – September 2019). Most pages were scanned images and were read with text recognition, so please verify any figure before quoting it in print.

1. Lincolnville Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) budget (pages 44–51)

This is the most important section for Root & Simmer.

- **Total budget: $802,583.** Funded by projected tax-increment revenue of $653,596 (up 42% from $460,465) plus $148,987 carried over from 2018.
- **Approval path:** the Lincolnville CRA Steering Committee approved it on August 6, 2018 (motion by Mr. Herman, seconded by Mr. Baer, unanimous) and sent it to the CRA Board of Commissioners. The memo is signed by Tony T. Brown, Lincolnville CRA Administrator.
- **Three official goals:**
  - **Goal 1 – Keep long-term residents: $191,426.** Funded the Fix-It-Up Program: up to $20,000 for emergency interior repairs on owner-occupied homes, with income limits. Staff also proposed allowing exterior repairs that remove blight.
  - **Goal 2 – Preserve Lincolnville's historic character: $250,000.** Funded the Institutional Rehabilitation Program for the full restoration of "the Bell Tower" (windows, electrical, front door restoration, interior finishes). The budget does not name the building, so confirm with the CRA before writing about it.
  - **Goal 3 – Infrastructure and beautification: $250,000.** Bridge Street Gateway Entry ($50,000), completing South Street and starting Dumas Street ($135,000), and stormwater repair work ($65,000).
- **Community communications:** funding for the Lincolnville newsletter and other publications more than tripled, from $2,500 to $8,755, tied to the Annual Report and a community newsletter. Also $1,500 for the website and $840 for monthly meeting space at the Galimore Center. The CRA had already committed money to telling Lincolnville's story to the community.

- **Land Trust ($20,000) and Opportunity Zone ($23,617):** staff chose to educate the Steering Committee and the public first and deferred any program decision to 2020.

2. Lincolnville streets and drainage in the citywide plan (pages 28, 54–55)

- The 2019 asphalt and brick plan lists many Lincolnville streets, including Cedar, Sanford, Bravo, Weeden, St. Benedict, Dumas, DeHaven, Lincoln, Pomar, Kings Ferry, Lovett, School, St. Francis, Desoto, MLK, Moore, Twine, Blanco, Duero, Cerro and South.
- **Duero and Cerro Street projects funded by Community Development Block Grants (CDBG):** about $759,000 total ($268,200 utilities and $490,800 stormwater).
- **St. Francis sewer replacement:** $554,000.
- Useful for wayfinding materials and for showing public reinvestment in Lincolnville.

3. Historic preservation citywide (pages 41, 56–57)

- **About $476,000** moved from the Visitor Information Center fund to historic preservation, covering:
  - Matching money for a Water Works Building grant
  - A resiliency grant match
  - A contribution to the UF Preservation Institute ($15,000)
  - A new Assistant Archaeologist
- **Archaeology budget grew 236%**, to $721,662.
- **Implementing the Historic Preservation Master Plan** was a formal City goal, along with $300,000 in grant applications including state Division of Historical Resources grants.
- The City's Historic Preservation office had three staff positions, the contact point for designation questions.

4. The City's stated values (pages 3, 57)

- **Core values:** Livability, Authenticity, Character and Vitality. Historic Preservation Planning and "Arts, Culture and Education" are both official goals, the latter with $15,000 for resident programs.

- **Entry Gateways:** $10,000 to design entrances that give visitors a "sense of arrival," which lines up with the Bridge Street Gateway in Lincolnville.
- These terms can be echoed when describing how Root & Simmer fits the City's own priorities, without implying City endorsement.

5. Background numbers (less directly useful)

- **Citywide budget:** about $58.1 million, with the property tax rate unchanged at 7.5 mills.
- **The Historic Area CRA** is a separate district from the Lincolnville CRA; it received about $387,000 in tax-increment revenue.
- Parking, marina, utilities and solid waste make up most of the rest of the book and have little bearing on Root & Simmer's work.

Caution and next step

These figures are seven years old. They are a sound historical baseline but should not be presented as current. Next step: compare against the current Lincolnville CRA budget and the Steering Committee's latest goals to see what was completed (Bell Tower, South Street, Bridge Street Gateway) and what remains open.