



## **PLATINUM ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

We encourage you to support these area businesses who help support the DSCA through workshops, professional services and discounts.



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## President's Message

Hello Downtown Neighbors,

Last month we discussed some key matters at City Hall, and the work isn't slowing down. With a full summer agenda of items lined up for the city commission, the Downtown Sarasota Condo Association (DSCA) is actively monitoring issues that matter to you, such as attainable housing. The first

portion of the zoning text amendments related to downtown zones has been approved in its first reading by the city commission. These amendments are being refined and will be brought back for additional consideration by the city commission in September. DSCA will be carefully reviewing the final draft.

Earlier this week, the city established a seven-member Purple Ribbon Committee to develop recommendations for the future of the Van Wezel Performing Arts Center. You can find a summary and a link to the video of the first committee meeting below. Alongside the work of the Purple Ribbon Committee, the Sarasota Performing Arts Foundation is leading discussions with the architectural firm chosen to design a potential new performing arts center. These conversations are progressing, and we anticipate more information soon.

The city's FY24 and Capital Improvement Budget was a significant topic of discussion in late July. City Manager Brown presented a draft budget, which was discussed in workshop format over two days. The budget considerations will continue during early September, addressing population growth, rising costs, and important infrastructure needs. Regarding finances, expect your property tax assessments in the mail any day now – you'll see they've probably risen by about 13%.

One final but important thought: a special shoutout to DSCA's Associate Members, our local businesses known for their professional services. Through their participation at our meetings and support for our workshops, they offer invaluable advice and insights that enhance our community's progress. Their contributions are truly appreciated. Please check out the full list of members at the DSCA website and consider supporting their businesses.

Stay engaged and reach out with any thoughts or questions. More updates will follow. Our focus remains on representing the interests of downtown residents and working towards the best outcomes for our community.

**David Lough**

DSCA President

[DavidLough1@gmail.com](mailto:DavidLough1@gmail.com)

[DowntownSarasotaCondoAssoc.com](http://DowntownSarasotaCondoAssoc.com)

## Van Wezel Purple Ribbon Task Force



Members of the Ad Hoc Van Wezel Purple Ribbon Committee have just taken the oath of office! They now will begin their assignment to determine sustainable and viable uses and purposes for the City's Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, then make recommendations to the City Commission within the next two years. Best wishes with this important work!

Watch Here!

## Attainable Housing

The City of Sarasota's Planning Department is three open houses to discuss new mixed-use zoning districts and receive public input.

The first open house is **5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24** at the Selby Public Library, 1331 First Street.

A potential Zoning Text Amendment would create new mixed-use zone districts to incentivize on-site attainable housing along commercial corridors and in commercial centers.

The open houses will begin with a staff presentation, followed by break-out sessions to foster conversation on the following topics:

- Future Land Use and Zoning
- Mixed-Use Zone Districts
- Attainable Housing
- Design Standards
- Transportation

For more information and future workshops, visit: [www.sarasotafl.gov](http://www.sarasotafl.gov)

Questions can be sent to [Communityworkshops@sarasotafl.gov](mailto:Communityworkshops@sarasotafl.gov), and additional information can be found by visiting [sarasotafl.gov/attainable-housing-initiative](http://sarasotafl.gov/attainable-housing-initiative).

***These meetings are in preparation by City staff of the next phase of Zoning Text Amendments for Attainable Housing Density Bonus, which includes corridors along 10th Street.***

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## Getting Around

## RINGLING TRAIL COMPLETE STREETS WON PROJECT OF THE YEAR



Article Courtesy of City of Sarasota

The Ringling Trail Complete Street was recognized as the Project of the Year by the American Public Works Association (APWA) Florida Chapter during its annual conference in Jacksonville last week. Assistant City Engineer Dan Ohrenstein, project team co-lead along with Capital Projects Manager Camden Mills, accepted the award on behalf of the City of Sarasota.

The Ringling Trail Complete Street project transformed Ringling Boulevard into a complete street in December 2022 with enhanced bicycle safety and expanded multimodal and connectivity opportunities between The Legacy Trail, downtown Sarasota and the Bayfront. The Trail extends one mile between Lime and Pineapple avenues and features protected bike lanes for a safer road experience for recreational cyclists and commuters.

The Project of the Year award was given in the category "Transportation: \$2 million - \$5 million". Click [here](#) for the full story.

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## SRQ AIRPORT OPENS NEW CELL PHONE LOT - *124 New Spaces!*



Photo courtesy of SRQ Airport

The Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority (SMAA) announced the opening of their new and improved Cell Phone Lot at the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport. It is located at 1180 Rental Car Road, Sarasota, Florida, directly across from the previous temporary location, and offers easy access from Old Bradenton Road or the main airport entrance off University Parkway. The new Cell Phone Lot consists of 124 paved parking spaces, 5 of them handicapped accessible, restrooms, and vending machines. The lot is well lit with LED lighting and secured with fencing. Two 8'x16' flight information screens are scheduled to be installed within the next 6 months, providing updated information on flight arrival times. In the interim, cell phone lot users can find flight information on the airport web site or by downloading the AeroCloud app. Click [here](#) to read the full article.

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## GULFSTREAM ROUNDABOUT



Courtesy of WWSB

The construction of the roundabout at US 41 at Gulfstream is completed! The Florida Department of Transportation says that now that the construction project is complete, a separate contract will start this week to begin landscaping in the area.

This will take approximately four months. Lane closures will be during overnight hours, and noise from landscaping vehicles and lighting are to be expected. Keep an eye out if you are driving through the area.

The FDOT team continues to strive to minimize interruptions so lane closures will be limited to overnight hours. Noise and light from landscaping equipment is possible and do be alert for workers in the area.

Questions, please contact: Barbara Catlin, Community Outreach Manager, FDOT Sarasota | Manatee Operations Center at: Call or text: 941-302-5048  
Email: [Barbara.Catlin@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Barbara.Catlin@dot.state.fl.us)





For those interested, you can watch progress live on a webcam. Click on the image or link [here](#).

\* Note - once the link loads, hover over the image and click on the play (>) button. [READ MORE on the Project Overview](#)

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## The Bay Park Conservancy



## THE BAY MASTER PLAN

A park master plan is a conceptual design that shows a plan of possible uses by park goers. The original master plan for the 53-acre site and Phase 1 was approved by the Sarasota City Commission in September 2018.

LEARN MORE: View the slideshow [here](#) From Master Plan to Phase 1.

The BPC is preparing amendments to the Bay Park Master Plan.

[Aug 31 - COMMUNITY MEETING - THE BAY 12:00 - 1:30 PM](#)

[Aug 31 - COMMUNITY MEETING - THE BAY 4:30 - 6:00 PM](#)

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## **NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TAKES LEADERSHIP OF THE BAY PARK PROJECT**

Sarasota's Bay Park Conservancy has a new chief executive – Stephanie Crockatt – who succeeds the volunteer lead for the past four years, AG Lafley.

Crockatt is the executive director of Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, the nonprofit that manages an 850-acre park system in Buffalo, New York.

As The Bay Park Conservancy's president and chief executive officer, Crockatt will assume overall responsibility for the building of The Bay, a 53-acre park on Sarasota's bayfront, according to a news release. The first phase of the project has already been built, but the second and third phases have not.

Design work for the second phase I began in May, according to Bill Waddill, the conservancy's CEO. Click [here](#) to read more.



### **SARASOTA BAY LIVE FEED**

Many residents and visitors eagerly anticipate seeing and experiencing the new Mangrove Bayou Walkway and pedestrian boardwalk that will be built in the coming years. Enjoy the view of The Bay – virtually gaze at the ocean, watch the sun rise, or experience a signature Sarasota sunset 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Just click [here](#) or on the image above to start viewing!

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## **DSCA Board August Wrap Up**

As has been the recent practice, the 8/2 DSCA Board meeting was held in hybrid fashion, both in person at the Broadway Promenade Club Room and via Zoom. Following are links to the full Board meeting and guest speaker presentation.

- Guest Speaker: Liz Alpert, Vice Mayor, City of Sarasota Commission
- View Meeting Video [HERE](#)
- View Guest Speaker Video [HERE](#)

# DSCA Upcoming Events

## DSCA Board Meeting

### **DSCA Board Meeting - Wednesday, September 6, 2023**

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM @ Zoom & Broadway Promenade, 1064 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236

[Register](#)

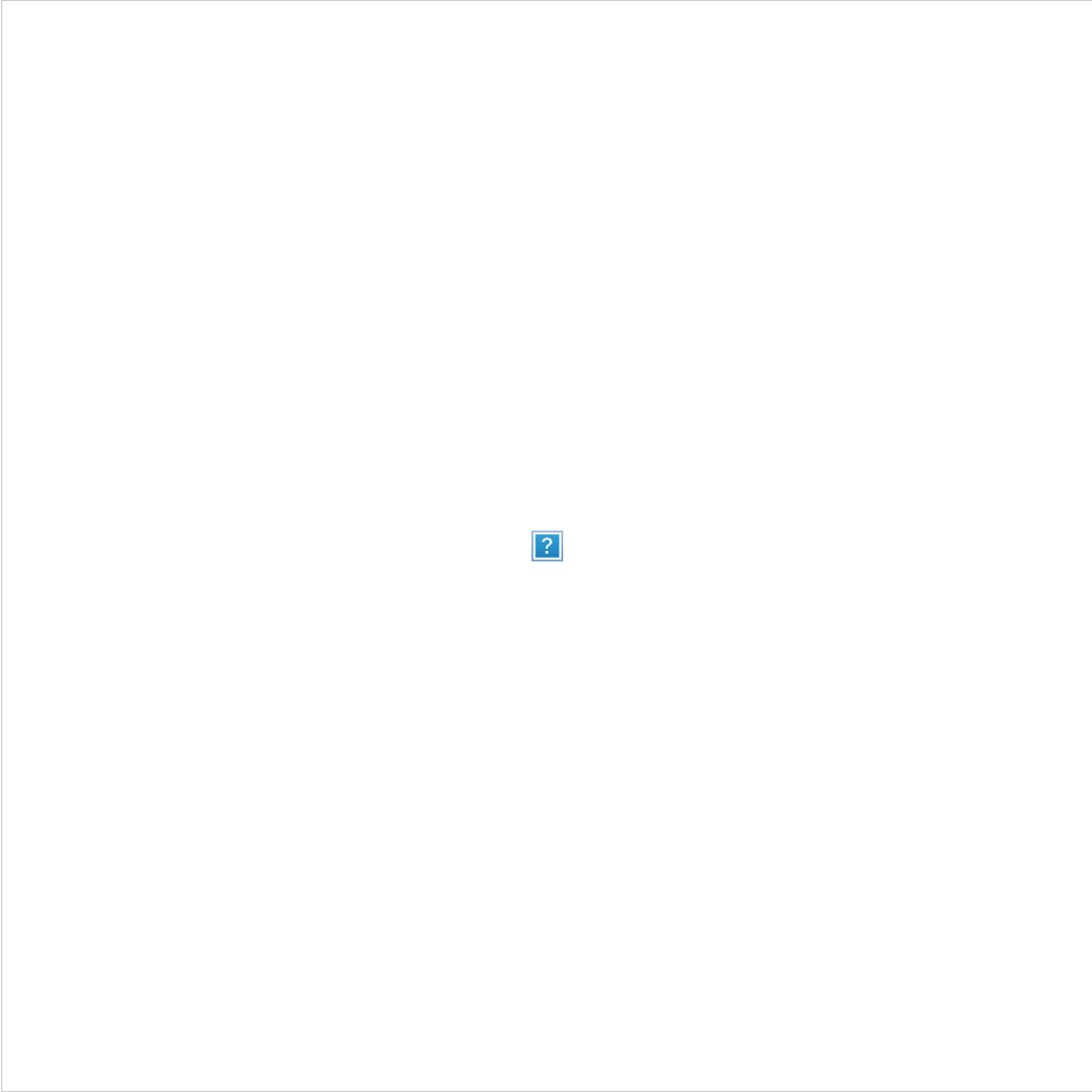
DSCA Board Meetings are for Board Directors, with designated Condo Member Representatives, Liaison Association Representatives and invited Guests attending as observers. Contact President, David Lough (760) 497-9230, if you wish to be invited.

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## October Workshop

**DSCA Workshop: Sarasota's Rapid Growth | Thu, October 19, 2023**  
4:00 PM – 7:00 PM @ 222 S Palm Ave Ste B, Sarasota, FL 34236

[Click here for more details and to Register!](#)



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## Associate Member Events

**Associate Members - Post your event on our DSCA Calendar to share with the community!**

**CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR EVENT**

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## Upcoming Community Events



### **SARASOTA FARMERS MARKET | 7 AM - 1 PM**

The Market is open every Saturday all year round! In the heart of downtown Sarasota, centered at the intersection of Main Street and Lemon Avenue, extending to First Street on the North End, and Pineapple Avenue on the South End, with Vendors also located on State Street.

Click [here](#) for more information.



### **FRESH FRIDAYS Back for Fall!**

The ultimate celebration of all things Downtown, Fresh Fridays, will be back this fall for another round of spectacular events! Its third season will be filled with old favorites and new surprises, featuring local hospitality partners, live music, and toothsome food & beverages!

Stay tuned in [here](#) for all the latest info.



City of Sarasota Public Art Program

## CALL FOR WALLS



The City of Sarasota Public Art Program is seeking property owners in the city of Sarasota to dedicate space for original art.

Murals will be funded by the Public Art Program and will be in partnership with property owners and the surrounding community.

If you are a property owner and would like to dedicate a blank wall of your building for consideration, please email [publicart@sarasotafl.gov](mailto:publicart@sarasotafl.gov) for more information.

Sarasota Public Art. Building Community.



### CALL FOR WALLS: *Attn Property Owners!*

The City of Sarasota Public Art Program is seeking blank walls in good order within the city limits to support future mural projects. If accepted, wall locations will be added to the roster of available properties for consideration of upcoming mural initiatives. If you are a property owner and are interested in dedicating a blank wall of your building for consideration, please email [publicart@sarasotafl.gov](mailto:publicart@sarasotafl.gov) for more information.

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**MURALIST MEET-UP | AUGUST 30th 3:00 PM | SRQ MEDIA STUDIO**



**City of Sarasota Public Art Program**

**MURALIST MEET-UP**

The Public Art Program invites local muralists, visual artists, and all who are interested to learn more about the City's mural initiatives to a special information and networking session.

**Wednesday, August 30**

3:00pm

SRQ Media Studio

City Hall Annex Building

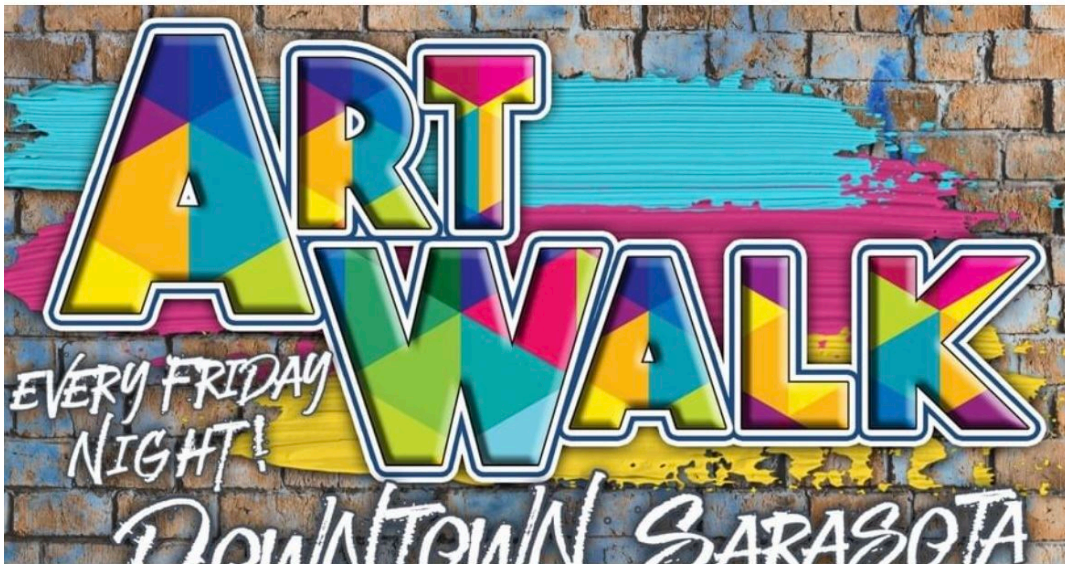
To RSVP or for more information, email [publicart@sarasotafl.gov](mailto:publicart@sarasotafl.gov)



Sarasota Public Art. Building Community.

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**PALM AVENUE GALLERY WALK**



*Courtesy:keys2sarasota.com*

A casual walk down Palm will lead you on an art walk, housing exceptional pieces curated by downtown galleries and murals created by local artists.

The City of Sarasota is committed to the aesthetic enrichment of the community through private and public acquisition of works of art so that citizens and visitors to the City are afforded an opportunity to enjoy and appreciate art.

Click [here](#) for an audio tour guide and for more information.



### **VAN WEZEL FRIDAY FEST | Sept 22nd | Jah Movement**

Friday Fest, the free, outdoor summertime concert series at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall returned this year with an exciting lineup of bands who brings the audience to their feet! The event runs from 5-9 p.m. and is located on the lawn of the Van Wezel.

Bring blankets or lawn chairs, take in the music and sunset, and enjoy food and beverage from local vendors. Bringing in food, drinks and coolers from outside Friday Fest is prohibited.

For additional information, visit [VanWezel.org](http://VanWezel.org).

**Check out the latest news and events happening in the Rosemary District**, a blend of modern culture, food and activities you can schedule your whole day around.

[Click here to view Rosemary District Events](#)

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### **The Bay Park | Calendar of Events**

Sarasota's bayfront is an iconic, public destination that welcomes the diversity of Sarasota, enhances our status as a cultural capital and serves as a venue for multi-generational, inter-neighborhood, broad-based enjoyment of our bayfront.

[View the updates from The Bay Park Conservancy](#)

[View The Bay Park - Calendar of Events](#)

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**If you missed any of our newsletters [Click here](#) to view past issues to share with your condo community**

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### **We Are Downtown Sarasota Residents partnering with Businesses!**

Are your neighbors receiving our emails? ***Help your neighbors stay connected and forward this email to downtown condo residents!*** Click here to [subscribe here](#).



[unsubscribe](#)

<https://downtownsarasotacondoassoc.com/>