



Community News Update

JANUARY 2022



President's Message - New Year

I thought I'd be writing about how 2021 was over, and how good it would be to see that year and COVID largely behind us. I was wrong. I sent this message in mid-January with COVID still a force we deal with. It seems we are being trapped in a time loop with the COVID nemesis that has found multiple ways to reinvent itself just when we thought the worst was over, like an incredibly sad version of Groundhog Day. In trying to do our part, DSCA is tracking the weekly County Health Department COVID numbers on a city zip code basis. This information is shared with city officials and DSCA members with the hope this data can be used for all city residents to help in making personal decisions as well as policy decisions for buildings in which you live. This following quote reflects much of what I have heard over the past 2 years in our own downtown community.

"COVID may have generated uncertainty, anxiety and loss, but it also brought insight, inspiration, motivation. ... But the unique context of the pandemic also catalyzed community engagement in more diverse and inclusive ways."

[[Restorative Cities](#) ©2021] As you recall, our 2020 Annual Member Meeting scheduled for April 1, 2020 became our first Zoom meeting that enabled us to stay engaged with each other during that very uncertain time. We thank you all for your support and engagement as we work together to enhance our downtown's future experience.

Even in the midst of COVID, the area

In anticipation of new growth and to foster 'smart growth' the DSCA board, with its active committees, is making progress on several important fronts. Key city initiatives on which we are working with city staff include streetscape projects on Main Street, Boulevard of the Arts, and 10th Ave.

In addition, we have supported the development of a new park in the Rosemary District. These projects are aimed to help make our city more walkable, greener and, to the extent possible, reduce vehicle traffic congestion downtown. We know a more walkable city supports local business activity and improves property values as well.

With this rapid increase in downtown residents, the impact on our downtown neighborhood of these land development projects, and lessons learned from COVID impact downtown, we have been considering what steps DSCA can take in 2022 to further our mission and goals. Our updated mission is to engage in activities to **"enhance the lives of the residents and property values of its member condominiums and townhouse associations"**. An opportunity has arisen to allow us to learn about a framework to use when reviewing the results and accomplishments of the Downtown Master Plan 2020 and to help shape a new downtown plan - one based on principles of urban design for mental health and wellbeing. The 7 Pillars of the **Restorative City** Framework provide a healthy way to view our beloved city. This could help as we work with

represented by DSCA (i.e. greater downtown) is attracting a lot of positive real estate activity. According to MLS data, during the year 2021:

- There were over 669 closed real estate transactions;
- This is a 49% increase over 2020 and an 85% increase over 2019;
- Our smallish DSCA boundary area (1.7 sq files) accounted for 34% of the real estate sales in the entire city;
- For 2021 there was just short of \$1 Billion in real estate transactions;
- The median sales price of \$879,000 has increased 13% from 2020 and 28% from 2019.

Sarasota will continue to grow and do so rapidly. There are over 607 new residential units downtown under construction or with building permits now. In total, just over 1,800 new units downtown are being built or their development application has been brought to the city for initial building plan approval. This will bring about 3,600 new residents to downtown, a 25% increase in the coming 5 years.

the City Commission and staff management on a major update to the Downtown Master Plan and updating strategic plans. Read more below about the upcoming DSCA **Workshop on Restorative Cities** with co-author Jenny Roe.

A final note: City Manager, Marlon Brown is scheduled to be the guest speaker at DSCA's February 2nd board meeting. Marlon will be bringing news of DSCA focused projects, the city's newly updated strategic plan and preliminary information on next year's budget priorities. As is customary Marlon will also be taking questions. I know we will all be interested in his plans.

Wishing all stay safe,

David Lough

DSCA President

DavidLough1@gmail.com

[DowntownSarasotaCondoAssoc.com](https://downtownsarasotacdoassoc.com)

DSCA Board News January Wrap Up

DSCA Board Meeting | January 5, 2022 Guest Speaker, Mary Davis Wallace, Senior Planner, City Public Art Office. Wallace presented the Public Art Master Plan and Survey for the City of Sarasota via slideshow. The slideshow gave a brief overview of the Public Art and Culture Plan Overview and Process. Topics included in the presentation consisted of the City of Sarasota's visions, goals, economic impact, recommendations, budgeting approach and timeline, fundraising/fundraising goals.

[Click here to view Mary Davis Wallace Video Presentation](#)

[Click here to view Public Art Master Plan Presentation Slides](#)

[Click here to view Board Meeting Video](#)

Public Art Master Plan

Public Art Master Plan meetings set for artists, businesses, and public

Beginning this month, the city's Office of Public Art will host a series of meetings for artists, business owners and the general public to join in the creation of a Public Art Master Plan for Sarasota.

Feedback gathered at the meetings will be incorporated into the master plan, which will provide recommendations on implementing public art resources citywide and prioritizing opportunities to best serve the community.

The meetings will be held virtually, via Zoom, and will be held in three sessions:

- Artist roundtable, at 5 p.m., January 20, open to all local artists, art professionals and arts and cultural nonprofits.
- Business owners meeting, at 5 p.m., February 15, open to all local business owners in Sarasota
- General public meeting, at 5 p.m., March 10.

To register for any meeting and receive a Zoom link, visit [SarasotaFL.gov/our-city/public-art](https://www.sarasotaFL.gov/our-city/public-art) or email publicart@sarasotaFL.gov.

Contact: Jason Bartolone, Communications Specialist, 941-928-3988; jason.bartolone@sarasotaFL.gov

Office of Public Art - Artist Workshop - January 25 at 5 p.m. an artist workshop will be held to discuss three proposed artworks for the roundabout located at the Fruitville Rd., U.S. 41 intersection. The three artists have been selected as finalists by the City's Public Art Committee and will present their proposals to gain public input and feedback. Register for the Zoom meeting [HERE](#). Also, on January 27 at 9 a.m., the three artists will come to city hall to present to the Public Art Committee, and the PAC will make a recommendation of the preferred project to the city commission.

Bay Park Update

Significant Progress continues at the Bay Park. 36 new palms have just been planted along Boulevard of the Arts, each almost 40 foot tall. Over time, The Bay will introduce thousands of new trees and native, Florida-friendly plants. The photos below show the introduction of over thirty newly-planted Royal Palms which creates an inspiring arrival to the park through Blvd of the Arts. New light poles are on-site and will be installed in the coming weeks along with a 12 foot wide sidewalk will be added adjacent to the trees by summer.



Some highlights from The Bay Park Board meeting from 01-18-2022:

- 13 million dollars in the bank with the next fundraising goal of 24 million dollars
- There are 1,000 members contributing to Friends of the Bay that have contributed almost \$200,000.
- The Park design team has grown from 2 to 16 people
- 30-40 ft. palm trees are now installed along Boulevard of the Arts
- New light poles are on site and will be installed along Boulevard of the Arts

Park project completion goal is 8-10 years. Phase 1 is scheduled for completion late summer, early fall. A 12 foot wide sidewalk will be added along the south side by summer

- The Sunset Boardwalk permit approvals will be another 12-18 months
- FDOT has approved a \$100,000 grant for improved landscaping along the front of the property on Tamiami Trail
- There will be temporary 3-5 year improvements: lighting, walkways and landscaping along the waterfront to the abandoned Coast Guard Station
- The Coast Guard station will be demolished and the area will be designed for food trucks
The concession/restroom area is "out of the ground" in Phase 1
- The activities director will continue scheduling exercise and entertainment events, including dance and movie nights

THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS FOR THE BAY PARK BE ONE OF THE TOP 10 PUBLIC PARKS IN THE COUNTRY.

-Submitted by Bob Pirollo

DSCA Upcoming Events

Next Board Meeting

**Wednesday, February 2, 2022 | DSCA Board Meeting | 4:00 – 5:30 PM
| held via Zoom ONLY**

DSCA Board Meetings are for board directors, with designated Condo & Associate Member Representatives, Liaison Association Representatives, and invited guests attending as observers. Contact President, David Lough at (760) 497-9230 or email DavidLough1@gmail.com, if you wish to be invited.



Keynote Speaker:

Marlon Brown , City Manager, City of
Sarasota

[Register](#)

Originally from the twin islands of Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean, Marlon Brown received his bachelor's degree from West Virginia University and his master's degree from Georgia Tech.

In 1988 and 1989, he served as a Management Trainee with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey at the now destroyed World Trade Center Complex. In 1993, Marlon joined the Tallahassee/Leon County Planning Department (Florida) as a Transportation Planner, and within a year, quickly rose to the top position of Transportation Planning Administrator and Metropolitan Planning Organization Administrator. In this position, he was responsible for or assisted in the planning, management, negotiation and coordination of multi-million dollar transportation projects in Leon County, leading to successful design and construction. Marlon played an integral role in creating the statewide process that provided cities and counties the ability to fund transportation projects in advance of their scheduled construction date.

In 1999, Marlon was promoted to Assistant to the City Manager with the City of Tallahassee. Under the mentorship of the nationally renowned City Manager, Anita Favors Thompson, he honed his public service skills in city/county management, learning how to handle the daily challenges he will encounter. This led to Marlon being appointed as the County Administrator for Gadsden County, Florida, in 2005. Here, Marlon launched an intensive and highly successful capital improvement effort in the county and was also appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to serve on the State of Florida Blueprint Commission on Juvenile Justice to improve Florida's Juvenile Justice System.

Marlon is currently the City Manager for the City of Sarasota. He holds/held numerous certifications in public administration and memberships in many professional/public/civic entities. He formerly served on the Board of the United Way Suncoast, the Board of Doctors' Hospital, and chaired the United Way's Community Impact Committee.

In his free time, Brown enjoys sports, traveling, exploring Sarasota's diverse cultural, recreational, and culinary offerings; and spending time with his family.

Annual Member Meeting & Workshop

March 24, 2022 | 4:00 - 7:00pm | Location and details to be announced.

Upcoming Community Events

PINCFest - RADD event

January 20-22, 2022 | PINCFest is an open-air festival celebrating creativity. The Rosemary Art + Design District is hosting three days of music, murals, dynamic dinners and a celebration of young creatives' in our community.

[Learn More](#)

Thursday, 1/20/2022

Live Mural Painting
All Day, Multiple Locations.
RADD Night Market
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
PINC Bike Ride
5:15 p.m. - Free, limited availability
[\(Reserve your spot!\)](#)

Friday, 1/21/2022

Live Mural Painting
All Day, Multiple Locations
PINCFest Ideas Dinner
6:00 - 10:00 p.m. - Ticketed, extremely limited availability
[\(Reserve your seat at the table!\)](#)
Music, Murals, Mapping
6:00 - 10:00 p.m. - Free + open to public

Saturday, 1/22/2022

Ringling Student Art Showcase
4:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Free + open to public
Music, Murals, Mapping
4:00 p.m. - Free + open to public
PINCFest After Party
10:00 p.m. - Ticketed, extremely limited availability

Lawn Bowling Condo Challenge



You don't want to miss out on this year's Lawn Bowling Condo Challenge!! For one evening, future lawn bowlers from the Downtown Sarasota Condominiums will come together to compete for the traveling trophy that goes to the winning team. All the fun happens **Tuesday, February 1, 2022 | 6:30 - 9:30 PM**

TEAMS MUST BE SIGNED UP BY JANUARY 26, 2022

Download Entry Form / Rules / Waiver [HERE](#)

Practice Sessions held January 19 & 26, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Sarasota Orchestra performing in Payne Park

Mark your calendar for a fun Sarasota Orchestra outdoor concert in Payne Park on **Sunday, February 20 at 2:30 p.m.!**

This will be the second season for "On the Road with SO: Parks and Partners," featuring orchestra musicians performing in public parks in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. While the events are free, attendees are required to register online to reserve a space. Registration opens one month prior to each concert. Registration links and more details about the concert series, venues, and parking can be found at www.sarasotaorchestra.org

Associate Member Events

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW EVENTS OR SUBMIT YOUR EVENT](#)

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