



# Community News Update

April 2022

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## Presidents Message

Looking out the window and driving around I think the height of the season has passed. We've survived, albeit grudgingly, the Gulfstream roundabout construction. Thankfully the roundabout is planned to be completed before the peak visitor season later this year. The good news is, work continues at the Bay Park with enormous progress being made. Further, construction work at Selby Gardens has "gone vertical" now that the foundation work is well on its way.

An important part of DSCA's mission is to ensure Sarasota stays the special, unique city it is. In keeping with this goal, thank you to those of you who attended the Restorative Cities: Building a Healthy Tomorrow Workshop held at the Senior Friendship Center on March 24.

Looking ahead, I'm pleased DSCA will host yet another workshop on May 10. This event is designed to help educate all on how new and emerging technologies can be our friend in improving building efficiencies, reducing costs, and providing added amenities to residents. Details follow.

I'm also pleased to report that the Planning Department has announced a new "Pedestrian Connectivity" initiative. The city is at the research and analysis phase and will be further refining the goals and purposes of this work. Members of the Transportation staff in the City's Planning Department will be providing more information on this at the May 4th DSCA board meeting.



### **David Lough**

DSCA President

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## DSCA Restorative Cities and Members Meeting Wrap Up



Panelists: Moderator, Jon Thaxton (Gulf Coast Community Foundation), Craig Ceretta (Soethby International), Mary Davis Wallace (City of Sarasota) and, Dr. William Nields (Cognitive Health Centers). Shown in foreground is Mayor Erik Arroyo.

**View more workshop photos** [HERE](#)

The DSCA Workshop on Restorative Cities, featuring Jenny Roe was deemed a huge success! With around 170 participants to the various events coordinated by DSCA created to educate local decision makers and leaders about her Seven Pillars approach to urban planning centered on mental health and well-being. Dr. Roe stated that she is very impressed by what she saw in Sarasota, the ever developing Bay Park especially, and by her interactions with community representatives, and she plans to make Sarasota into a case study for her current and future students to learn from.

We are grateful for our moderator, Jon Thaxton, Senior Vice President of the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, who helped bring local specific discussion to Dr. Roe's, 7 pillar principles.

**Special thanks** goes to Sarasota's Downtown Improvement District, Visit Sarasota and the County's Economic Development Corporation for their sponsorship and funding contributions of Jenny's visit. These contributions along with a DSCA's receipt of a City of Sarasota, \$3,000 Neighborhood Grant were greatly appreciated for helping cover the costs of Jenny's multi-day visit.

View the DSCA Restorative Cities Workshop Video [HERE](#)

View Jenny Roe Presentation Slides [HERE](#)

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## DSCA April Board Meeting Wrap Up

## DSCA Board Meeting | April 6, 2022

Guest Speaker, Brendan Ragan, Artistic Director, Urbanite Theatre

Brendan Ragan explained that the mission of Sarasota's professional "Black Box" theatre, Urbanite, houses playwrights authoring plays that focus on current issues and themes sometimes described as "edgy". Professional directors and actors from across the country spend months in Sarasota working on these plays and presenting them to appreciative audiences looking for alternatives to more "traditional", theater fare (e.g. Asolo, FST). Urbanite features flexible/changeable staging in an intimate setting – only 70 seats for most performances.

The building's location at 1487 Second Street is walkable for lots of downtowners and has plenty of audience parking nearby. The theatre does face a few challenges, the lack of on-site storage space for things like props, scenery, and costumes and housing for directors and actors for the four to ten weeks they are in our downtown area. Urbanite has been renting air BnB's and similar accommodations at affordable costs given the income limit set by having only 70 seats to fill, and some donors have generously served as hosts. Before the pandemic almost all performances were sold out, and as Urbanite is now live again, that degree of success seems to be repeating itself. Mr. Regan's hope for the future is that Urbanite can expand seating but keep its current location, find close storage space, and secure dependable and affordable housing for its visiting artists.

MAKE A DONATION to help support Urbanite Theatre [HERE](#)

VIEW April Board Meeting Video [HERE](#)

View Brendan Ragan video excerpt [HERE](#)

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## Arts and Culture Council Update



### Roundabout Public Art

In March, the City Commission accepted the recommendation of the Public Art Committee to purchase "DWELL" a colorful resin cast sculpture by Sujin Lim representing sea coral for installation in the Fruitville Road roundabout on US 41. The Public Art Committee characterized the piece as "playful, colorful, and easy to understand!"

## Scooter and Bike Share Program / Bay Runner Trolley Updates



### Statistics update on Bay Runner, Scooters

There is good news to report from recently launched Bay Runner program and micromobility system:

- The trolley has already carried over 17,000 passengers making one consider how many cars trips across the bridge are being mitigated because of the trolley!
- All trolleys are now equipped with advance signal remote control - this allows trolleys to expedite light signals to green to speed up their headways.
- The scooters/bikes have been used 6,800 trips over 11,700 miles.

Hats are off to city staff and all involved in bringing these new mobility options to Sarasota. Residents and visitors alike are certainly giving these a try! Learn more [HERE](#) about these micromobility options.

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## DSCA Upcoming Events

### DSCA Board Meeting

**DSCA Board Meeting | May 4, 2022 | 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.** held via Zoom & at Broadway Promenade, 1064 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236

**Guest Speaker:** Alvimarie Corales, Chief Transportation Planner and Corinne Arriaga, Transportation Planner - City of Sarasota

**Topics:** Learn more about Boulevard of the Arts & 10th Residents Survey results and initial streetscape design status, the improved Blvd of the Art/41 intersection concept and more.

[Register](#)

**Guest Speaker:**

Alvimarie Corales,  
Chief Transportation  
Planner  
City of Sarasota

Alvimarie has a Master of Urban and Regional Planning with a focus on Geographic Information Systems and Urban Design from the University of Florida and a BA in Sociology from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez. Alvimarie began her professional career as a Multi Modal Planner for the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization and eventually led the planning team as their Planning Manager. She is currently the Chief Transportation Planner for the City of Sarasota and leads transportation efforts throughout the City. Alvimarie enjoys being part of the community and is a vendor at local Farmers' Markets around Manatee and Sarasota Counties.

**Guest Speaker:**

Corinne Arriaga,  
Transportation Planner  
City of Sarasota

Corinne Arriaga first received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of South Florida, followed by Masters in Public Health from the University of South Florida. She has since worked within the public sector as a Public Involvement Coordinator and Multi Modal Planner for the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization. Corinne currently works for the City of Sarasota as their Transportation Planner. She is responsible for key transportation initiatives including ADA accessibility, pedestrian connectivity, traffic calming, complete streets, and more!

Corinne is a member of Florida's American Planning Association (APA) Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee. She is the Co-Chair of the Communities and Partnerships subcommittee and serves as the Manatee County Area Director for the Sun Coast APA Board.

In her spare time, Corinne enjoys being outdoors, reading, and spending time with her family and two dogs.

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.

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## Workshop: New Condo Association Technologies: Helpful or Hurtful?



**DSCA Workshop:  
New Condo Association  
Technologies: Helpful or Hurtful?**

**Tuesday, May 10, 2022  
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**Location:  
Art Ovation, 1255 N Palm Ave,  
Sarasota, FL 34236**

[Register](#)

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## Associate Member Events

**New Hope Girls Fundraiser Event****Apr 22, 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM****Location: Bayfront Community Center**[REGISTER HERE](#) to Support New Hope Girls Organization

New Hope Girls is based in the Dominican Republic and fights trafficking, abuse, and exploitation. Check out the beautiful creations from this amazing group of women! No purchase is necessary, but you will be tempted to buy these beautiful moderately priced bags! 100% of the proceeds go straight back to New Hope Girls Inc. to provide housing, education, and jobs! Small bites and wine will be served! You could win a Limited Edition VERA BRADLEY PURSE SET!!! Entry is free!

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

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## Upcoming Community Events

### Fresh Fridays

**First Friday's | May 6th | 7 - 10 p.m. | BLOOM IN THE PARK** A folksy first-Friday downtown block party with headlined by local folk stars, Cassie Jean and the Fireflies. Featuring: dancing, free signature party favors, free polaroid portraits, beverages al fresco, light bites and more! Located at Paul N. Thorpe Jr. Park at the intersection of Lemon Ave and Pineapple Ave.

[For more details...](#)

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