



SARASOTA ALLIANCE FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

QUARTERLY PRESERVATION NEWS FOR SARASOTA COUNTY

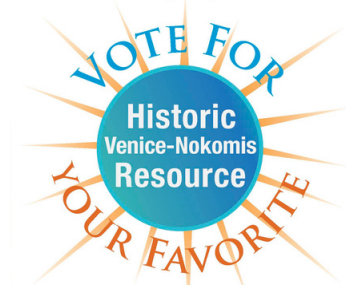
A GLIMPSE INSIDE



Venice Heritage has a flower
for you



A closer look at some of the
2023 Heritage Awards Winners



Venice-Nokomis celebrates
Preservation Month with a
friendly competition

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Lorrie Muldowney, *President*

Dear Members,

Once again it is that time of year when our social season calms down and the weather heats up encouraging me to think about the busy year past and the enjoyable activities that lay ahead to further our mission to preserve and enhance our historic spaces through advocacy, education, technical and financial support and celebration. Here at the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation our season ended on a high note at our annual Heritage Awards Ceremony celebrated on May 6, 2023. Hosted at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, over 100 guests helped to celebrate our many achievements of the past year. Congratulations to all our award winners. We are very thankful to our generous sponsors and John McCarthy, Vice-President for Regional History of Selby Botanical Gardens for serving as our very knowledgeable Master of Ceremonies and the efforts of all our members in making this event a great success. A summary of the evening's festivities follows.

Over the summer months we will be planning our fall and spring schedules. Activities under discussion include a members' event at St. Paul Lutheran Church located at 2256 Bahia Vista Street in early September. As currently planned a tour of this important church campus completed by master architect Victor Lundy will be conducted by Dave Baber, Vice-President of the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation and members of the congregation.

In other news, work continues on developing the Alliance's Sarasota Preservation Program. Did you know that the only way to truly preserve a historic building in perpetuity is by creating a historic preservation easement. Learn more about his new program on our [website](https://www.preservesrq.org).

In closing I am saddened to report the passing of Veronica Morgan whose vision and hard work created the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation in 1985. Active in the local community in the 1980s and 1990's, it was through Veronica's hard work and vision that the Bidwell-Wood House and

I Crocker Memorial Church were preserved. In addition to her love of historic preservation she was a talented artist and designer. Many community members have shared fond memories of Veronica with me over the past days. For more information on this important community leader click [here](#).

We need your time and talent. We have standing committees that devote their efforts to events, education and programming, fundraising, governance and historic preservation advocacy. Please join us! Many wishes for a happy and healthy summer ahead.

Lorrie

ADVOCACY UPDATE

THE COMMUNITY UNITES IN SUPPORT OF THE PURPLE COW

By Kelly Franklin, *Guest Writer*



Despite considerable community pushback, the Sarasota Performing Arts Center Foundation has continued its exploration of the idea of replacing the Van Wezel at the Bay Park.

Leading architects, like Carl Abbott, FAIA have raised concerns about the rush to replace the structurally sound Wright-rooted iconic presenting hall which literally put Sarasota on the map as an arts destination.

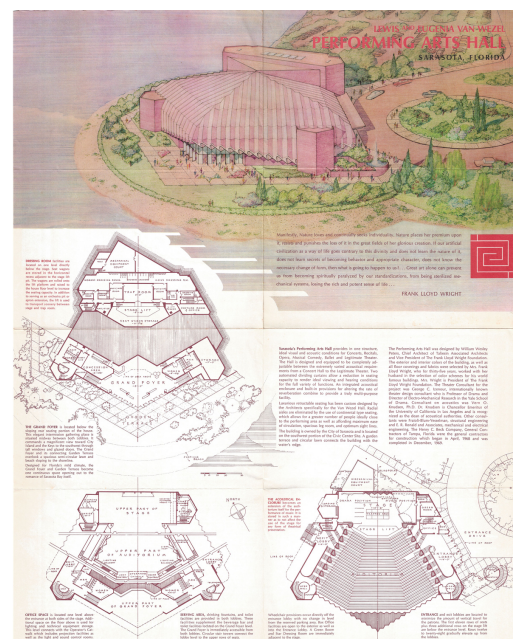
Analysis by CPA Ron Kashden, former auditor of most of New York's Broadway theaters, showed that the 1,723 seat Van Wezel has only reached capacity 11% of the time in the last decade, so there is no need to add seats. Moreover, Tampa's Straz Center continues to enforce blackouts on certain first-run Broadway shows, blocking both Sarasota and the 2,180 seat Clearwater theater. Adding more seats would not change the blackout situation.

Despite that inherent market limit, the Van Wezel continues to attract top acts, and next season is a blockbuster...featuring Hamilton, Pretty Woman, Jagged Little Pill, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, and the Paul Taylor Dance Company.

A champion for Sarasota's unique architectural heritage and culture

The great performances, great architecture, and great history emplaced in the Van Wezel have found a champion in District 2 County Commissioner Mark Smith, AIA. Commissioner Smith is past president of the Florida chapter of the American Institute of Architecture, and spoke about preservation and flood-proofing options for the Van Wezel at the Crocker Church presentation the Alliance co-sponsored in January.

Commissioner Smith is also one of the county representatives on the Bay Park Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) oversight board, which is one of three bodies (along with the city and county commissions) which must approve any use of property tax expenditures for The Bay Park. After the Bay Park Phase 2 bond is paid, there will be about \$50-\$60 million left to complete the park (and any new facilities in it).



Show us the money! - SPAC vision public funding

What does that mean for the SPAC and the Van Wezel? Well, it means there simply won't be enough tax dollars available to fund the city's anticipated \$240 million dollar cost (with capital expenses plus interest) of its half of the expense of the \$300 million dollar complex the Sarasota Performing Arts Center has proposed.

However, the Van Wezel Foundation (now SPAC Foundation), has historically supported capital improvements at the Van Wezel, and raised \$10 million before it changed its mission and focus. Those funds could be made available to refurbish and protect what legendary Sarasota School architect Carl Abbott called "Sarasota's icon" - the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.

What's next? - Purple Ribbon Committee

In May, the city will be hearing an ordinance to seat a 7-member "purple ribbon committee" to look at options for the Van Wezel. There will be seats available for a preservation architect, an environmental sustainability expert, a historic preservationist, a performing arts business analyst, a theatrical operations expert, and two at-large citizen representatives. We encourage qualified members of SAHP to apply for these roles.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Want to do something right now to save a piece of Sarasota's history?



Anyone can nominate!

Nominate a
threatened building



Accepting nominations for the 2023 Sarasota Six to Save through **May 31, 2023**.

Learn more

Worried you don't have enough information to complete the nomination? [Email us](#) and we will find someone who can help!

RECOMMENDED READING

For more information, click to visit websites



Historic Homes Are Green Homes in the Evening Sun


Tampa Bay Times discusses **FL State Historic Tax Credit**



Restoring the Vacant Middle, Planetizen explores the link


VENICE HERITAGE SUPPORTS PRESERVATION

WANT A PIECE OF VENICE HISTORY ON YOUR HOME OR BUILDING?



Since 1966, the Hibiscus has been the City Flower of Venice. Show off your sense of community and pride in history by displaying a hibiscus painting on your home or business.

Venice Heritage will commission a local artist for your project. The artist will call you to plan the location, format, and colors for your personalized painting. To get started, choose your size and pay for the project, then sign the purchaser agreement. Your hibiscus purchase supports community artists and local history.



12x12 = \$150, 18x18 = \$220, 24x24 = \$280, larger sizes available, call for a quote.

GET STARTED TODAY AT
veniceheritage.org/hibiscus

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Florida

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A CLOSER LOOK

AT SOME OF THE 2023 HERITAGE AWARD WINNERS



HISTORY HEROES

Check Out the 2023 Sarasota Heritage Award Winners

The awards honor the work of people and organizations committed to preserving Sarasota County's historical resources.

By [Kim Doleatto](#) • March 31, 2023



The McCulloch Pavilion on Orange Avenue in Sarasota.

(IMAGE: RYAN GAMMA)

Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation's Heritage Awards Celebrated Achievements in Preservation

May 10, 2023 by Post



(Left to right): Doug Driscoll, SAHP board member; Erin DiFazio, SAHP program director; and Franklin Wright, Jan Vertefeuille, Zacharias Peri, Tom McCardle, Lorie Muldowney and David Baber, all SAHP board members, at the 2023 Heritage Awards. Photo by Harry Sayer.

Master of Ceremonies John McCarthy's enthusiasm and passion was contagious.



Dave Baber, SAHP's VP presented Pastor Ashley Nicolls of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, designed by Victor Lundy, with a contribution from our Preservation Fund to the restoration of the Education Building.



2023 Heritage Award Winners



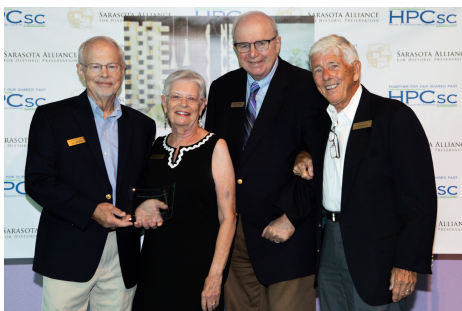
*The McCullough Pavilion
Guy Peterson, Cindy Peterson, Anne
Essner, Frank Cassell*



*Time Sifters Archaeological Society
Lorrie Muldowney, Frank Cassell, Sherry
Svekis, Smitty Smith*



*Marie Selby Botanical Gardens
Lorrie Muldowney, Jennifer Rominiecki,
Frank Cassell, John McCarthy*



*Venice Area Historical Society
George Miller, Mary Huba, Frank Cassell,
Franklin Wright*



*Old Miakka, Florida
Becky Ayeck, Frank Cassell*



*US Modernist (Modernist Archive Inc.)
Frank Cassell, George Smart, Lorrie
Muldowney*



*Frank Cassell, Don Bayley, Lorrie
Muldowney*



*Lorrie Muldowney, Ana McGrath, Frank
Cassell*



*The Eagle House
Dave Baber, Ken Cox, Carrie Cox, Frank
Cassell*



*Caldwell Trust Building
Lorrie Muldowney, Kelly Caldwell, Frank
Cassell*



*Sarasota Waterworks
Lorrie Muldowney, Ian Black, Frank Cassell*

*Not pictured:
Harold Bubil, Distinguished Service
Award
Denise Kowal and Avenida de Colores
(Chalk Festival) Honorable Mention
Organizational Achievement*

COMING SOON

In just a few weeks, the SAHP Sarasota Preservation Program will announce the launch of the ...

Historic Loan Program

Learn more

The goal of this program is to provide members of the community access to low cost loans for the repair and restoration of historic properties, providing hands-on technical support and project coordination every step of the way.

To concentrate our impact, the program will initially launch in the pilot neighborhoods of Central Coconut National Historic District and Newtown.

SIX TO SAVE...UPDATE

THE LINDH OFFICE BUILDING WAS DEMOLISHED

After years of demolition by neglect from the building owner, this unique example of midcentury design by the same professionals responsible for the Venice Beach Pavilion's hyperbolic parabola now resides in the landfill. The Six to Save committee tried to communicate the resources available and benefits of preservation, but all attempts were unsuccessful.



LEAVE A LEGACY

The Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation is now offering Lifetime Legacy Memberships. You can also help preserve the past for the future by leaving a gift to the SAHP in your will. [Learn More](#)

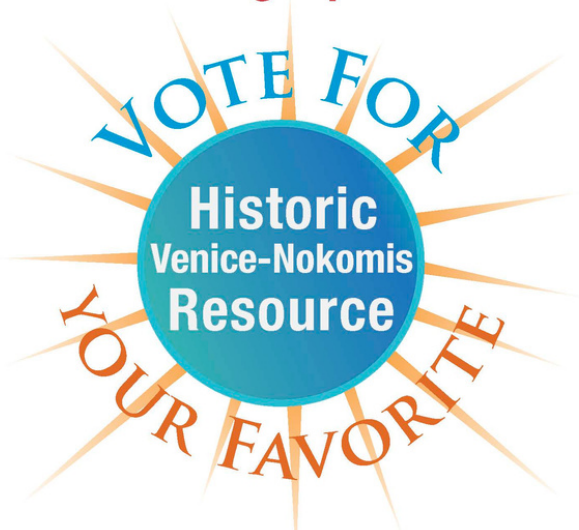


PLAY ALONG



Historic Venice-Nokomis Bracket Tournament

Starting April 7th



In Honor of March Madness
and Preservation Month



The Historic Venice – Nokomis Bracket Tournament pairs up sixty-four different historical resources in the area.

Go to: tinyurl.com/HistoricBracketTournament, learn about these historic resources, find where they are, and vote for your favorites. Top vote getters in each contest move on to the next round until our community selects a champion in June.

There are four regions of competition:

- Eagle Point & Nokomis
- Venice Island North
- Venice Island South
- Edgewood.

Each region has historic resources seeded from #1 (most well known) to #16 (maybe you haven't heard of it). Contestants range from archaeological sites, to Mid-Century Modern homes, to some of the finest Nolen-Era buildings we have. This is your opportunity to learn more about the amazing historic resources we have.

Remember to vote as often as you can and return to vote in each round.

Which is the most historic place in Venice and Nokomis? **The answer lies in your vote!**

Venice MUSEUM
& ARCHIVES



SARASOTA PRESERVATION PROGRAM (SP²)

Now accepting Preservation Easements



Who should consider donating a preservation easement?

An owner of a historic property, such as those listed on the Local or National Register of Historic Places may wish to donate a preservation easement to ensure that the significant character-defining elements of their unique property are protected for future generations. Historic designation is not a requirement for easement donation, however additional tax benefits may be available to designated properties.

Leveraging the owner's private property rights, an easement does not require Commission or Council approval, cannot be appealed by determined builders, and enlists the SAHP as a partner in good stewardship of the property forever.

[Learn more on our website.](#)

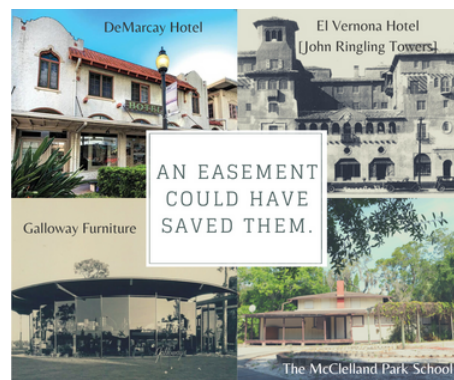
What is an easement?

A preservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement that protects the significant architectural features of a historic property, while allowing the owner to continue to occupy and use the building. Easements also limit future owners from demolishing or inappropriately altering the building.

Why are easements an important tool?

Local legislation can only do so much to protect the historic fabric of a community. Even the strongest preservation ordinances are still vulnerable to up-zoning, the political goals of specific leaders, and the financial incentives of developers with other plans for the land.

An easement is the only way to legally protect a historic property forever.



Call today to discuss how an easement might be a good preservation tool for your property.

preservesrq@gmail.com

941-529-1833

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