



SARASOTA ALLIANCE FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

QUARTERLY PRESERVATION NEWS FOR SARASOTA COUNTY

A GLIMPSE INSIDE



Our Year in Review
by Erin DiFazio



What Were They
Thinking?
by Barry Preston



2022 Annual Preservation
Awards Program
by Lorrie Muldowney

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Erin DiFazio, *President*

We have come so far, and we have so far yet to go. Reflecting on the activities of the SAHP over the past year, I was reminded just how much ground we covered over the last twelve months. Still in the grips of the pandemic, which seems to surge just when we think we might glimpse normal, a handful of board members have worked doggedly at what basically has become a part time (ahem) unpaid job, to build preservation programs, responding to imminent demolition threats, and creating more effective education tools.



The Board enjoyed an alfresco new year's celebration at the local legendary Bahi Hut.

One of the least glamorous, yet impactful projects has been to build out the systems required to manage a full membership program. We were able to launch our membership campaign earlier this month and will be thrilled to say 'Look! We are not the only ones who care!' The community is invested in preserving its history, saving the character and essence of Sarasota.

There are exciting projects on the horizon this year that the SAHP hopes will fulfill a need for additional tools to empower homeowners and citizens to preserve their historic homes and highlight the importance of the built environment as part of our cultural heritage. These programs will be a game changer—certainly for the SAHP, requiring major shifts in the internal structure of the organization, but also we hope for the community members who want to make a difference, to improve the decisions being made by public leaders and developers, to leave a legacy to the next generation that reflects more than just the profit margins of the 1%.

“We cannot survive if we cannot draw on our history, heritage and community. Culture gives us the strength to move forward.”

Richard Kurin, Smithsonianmag.com, How the Smithsonian Protects Cultural Heritage Around the World, 1/4/22.

We cannot do it alone. Each of us struggling, siloed, we will fail. We must all work together to create the world that we want to live in. We cannot rely on someone else to take action even when it seems that surely there must be someone more qualified, better prepared, with more resources. Each of us must stand up where we are, with the tools and resources we have and do everything we can to turn this ship around. It isn't really just about the preservation of beautiful architecture; we need to show the world that preserving our built environment is one small step in preserving our planet and ourselves.

Fondly,

RECOMMENDED READING

For more information, click to visit websites



FULL STORY **Preservation**

The Chinese-American Experience in St. Louis and How Preservation Cements Our Stories and Sense of Place

Midcentury Modern **Throughout the Years**



Annual Report on the **Economic Impact of** **the Federal Historic** **Tax Credits**

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



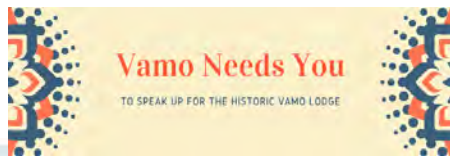
Engaged in a Feasibility Study, funded by a grant from the 1772 Foundation, to explore a Historic Properties Redevelopment Program (easement and revolving fund) with highly regarded Preservation Consultant Kirk Huffaker.

Partnered with the Center for Architecture, Sarasota and the Sarasota Architectural Foundation to create the Designing Sarasota, An Architectural History exhibit at the McCullough Pavillion



Advocated for the preservation of McClellan Park School, which was ultimately demolished, and a Ralph Twitchell house at 1701 Hashay, where the City Commission over turned the ruling of their Preservation Board; the home was bulldozed and now the lot has been split and is being sold for multiple mcmansions

Collaborated with the Central Coconut Neighborhood in the grassroots initiative to create a local historic district within the National District to make the City's tools and incentives available to residents in their goal of preserving their beautifully diverse neighborhood



Provided support and recommendations to the County for the preservation of the historic structures at the Vamo Drive Park, in the form of a preservation charrette, and subsequent report exploring potential funding strategies





Hosted a historic walking tour of the Arlington Park Neighborhood



Advocated for the Coastal Zone Setback Variance required to save the Walter Farley House in Venice



Hosted a historic walking tour of the Granada Neighborhood



Published a pictorial history of the North Tamiami Trail, written by Jeff LaHurd (Click on the book image to purchase)



Hired a consultant to prepare a National Register Nomination for the Vamo Lodge



Advocated for the preservation of the locally designated Twin Motel, which is still standing in spite of an approved demolition permit --a direct result of the forethought by the City's Preservation Board to require approval of the future use plans prior to the bulldozing of the structure (still in active use)

Reviewed and provided meaningful suggestions on the proposed land use code revision to the Planning Commission in Venice (which threatens to undermine the security of all their historic resources)



Participated in the Venice Area Historical Society's speaker series to expand community awareness of the importance of historic preservation



Participated in the History & Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County's (HPCSC) Centennial Program

Served on the HPCSC's Six To Save Sarasota 2021 Committee and later assumed responsibility for this and the Heritage Awards programs going forward



Completed an assessment of the organization's greatest needs and developed a multi year strategy for enhancing the organization's reach and impact. Accomplishments in 2021 included implementing enhancements to Committee organization, web site utilization, marketing and record keeping.

Conducted a survey of our membership to inform future programming goals



Advocated for the preservation use of the Penny Sales Tax Funds

AND ON THAT NOTE...

SARASOTA ALLIANCE FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
growing community
COMMITTEE AND BOARD SEATS AVAILABLE



The Board of Directors

There is currently a need for legal expertise, social media prowess, and those with time to commit to help strengthen the culture of preservation within our community. The Board is active, engaging, and accomplishing things many said couldn't be done.

Ability to persevere in an always uphill battle, and creative problem solving skills always appreciated. Directors are members of the organization and generous contributions of time or treasure are welcomed.

Inquire today



The Board meets at 5:15pm on the 3rd Wednesday of every month via zoom.

Committees

- Governance
- Historic Preservation/Advocacy
- Education, Events & Programing
- Six to Save Program
- Heritage Awards Program
- Easement/Revolving Fund



Committees generally meet 1x per month, via zoom in the evening. Special program related committees meet only a couple of times throughout the year.

Which one will you join?

2022 HERITAGE AWARDS FOR SARASOTA COUNTY

Lorrie Muldowney, *Chair*

Members of the Board of Directors of your Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation recently voted to chair the annual Historic Preservation Awards Program for Sarasota County. The project will build upon the program started several years ago by the History and Preservation Coalition. It was developed to recognize outstanding achievement in the areas of history education, archives management, historic preservation and archaeological research. As in the past a goal of the program is to consider nominations from individuals and non-profit organizations throughout the county. These nominations will be reviewed by professionals and enthusiasts with knowledge about the established categories and award winners will be announced on **April 30, 2022**, at an **Awards Luncheon** to be held at the Garden Club.

NOMINATIONS
NOW BEING
ACCEPTED

To access the nomination categories and forms, [click here](#)



2020 Award Winner for Adaptive Reuse, the Sarasota Art Museum

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](#)



ADVOCACY ALERT

A group of concerned citizens in Venice are leading the fight against destructive changes to the City's legislation that would undermine the community's ability to preserve any of its architectural heritage.

On February 8th, the Planning Commission met with City Council for direction on the important changes currently being discussed, including an increase of the allowable building heights, and the merger of the Architectural Review Board with the Historic Preservation Board, thereby eliminating the possibility for Venice to become a Certified Local Government (which can provide valuable funding and resources to a historic preservation program).

For more information and talking points to share with Council Members, click on the infographic below.

Preserve What Makes Venice Special

-  Protecting Venice's vibrant downtown and historic districts enhances the whole city's property values.
-  Historic buildings are small-business incubators, create jobs and contribute to a thriving business district.
-  Vibrant historic towns like Venice attract tourism dollars. International visitors interested in historic areas stay longer, visit more places, and spend more per day than other tourists.

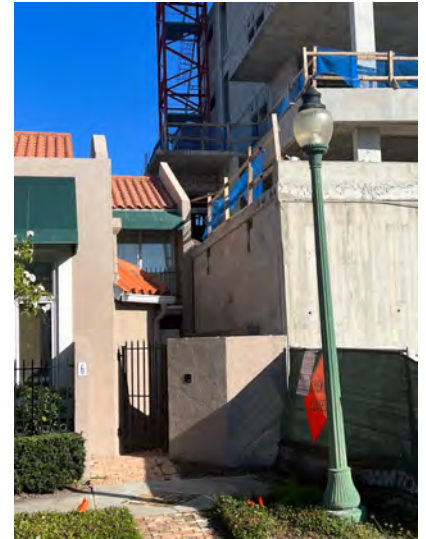
Preserving Venice's historic assets is good for our economy, our way of life and job creation. Let's keep our historic buildings alive and in use for future generations.

Concerned Citizens for Historic Venice.

WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?

Barry Preston, *Director*

The Collection at 1335 2nd Street,
between Cocoanut and Central, across
from the Selby Library



Once again, our City Commission has approved an undistinguished, monstrous, out-of-scale and out-of-context building downtown on what was formerly a quiet and well-designed street.

Our City Commission gave the developer the right to build eight stories in a three and four story neighborhood, and the right to push its building all the way to the edge of the sidewalk, despite the fact that the properties on both sides are set back. This building towers over the lovely two story library townhouses at 200 Cocoanut Ave. and the nicely designed three story office at 1345 2nd Street.

The building itself is common and unremarkable and just another luxury condo high-rise. Has the City Commission forgotten the distinguished architectural history of Sarasota or do they just not see its importance?

The public received no benefit from the developer for these concessions, no distinguished design, no setbacks, no open space, no landscaping and no respect for the character of its neighbors.



Our cultural heritage is a finite resource. If you destroy it all, there will be nothing left to attract multi-million dollar condo purchasers.

Any reasonable observer would conclude that, outside the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation and Architecture Sarasota, there is no widespread culture of appreciation in Sarasota for its amazing architectural heritage nor it's fine collection of historic neighborhoods and buildings.

One may surmise that few people know that downtown Sarasota is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Indeed, it may be said that most folks who came to Sarasota in the last 15 to 20 years were looking for something pricey and shiny and waterfront, instead of old and storied; a tear down instead of a renovation, new instead of historic. Perhaps as recent arrivals, they have not formed an attachment to either the historic character of the city or the buildings and neighborhoods that make Sarasota distinctive and historically significant. Or maybe new arrivals are attracted to Sarasota as it exists, a more livable alternative to other high rise and densely developed communities along Florida's coasts.

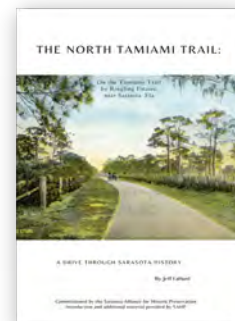
We will continue to advocate for and work on saving historic buildings and structures and are looking for ways to more effectively communicate about these efforts to the entire community.

Your comments and suggestions will be welcomed and acted on.

Preserve a house. Preserve the planet!

SAVE THE DATE

Virtual & In Person Book Signing
with Jeff LaHurd
at Bookstore One, 117 S. Pineapple
12:00 - 1:00 PM
Thursday, March 10, 2022



SAHP Annual Meeting
South Gate Community Center
Wednesday, March 23, 2022 from 6:30-8:30pm

Join us for the announcement of the 2022 Sarasota Six to Save, election of officers and exciting news and engaging speakers. Be on the lookout for your invitation!

SAHP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Erin DiFazio, <i>President</i> | Zacharias Pieri | Vicky Urban | Allison Dayan-Juceam |
| Dave Baber, <i>Vice President</i> | Barry Preston | Nancy DeForge | Betty Intagliata |
| Tom McArdle, <i>Treasurer & Secretary</i> | Tony Souza | Frank Wright | |
| Lorrie Muldowney, <i>Past President</i> | Cassie Yacovazzi | Doug Driscoll | |