

DSCA 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Commentary & Advocacy:

During 2023 the DSCA has continued to build on its significantly high profile with outreach efforts on issues relevant to our members:

- DSCA continues reaching out to City Commissioners and staff in relevant City departments including the Planning, Development Services, Public Works, Engineering, Parks & Recreation, IT; as well as City Advisory Boards and other civic organizations (CCNA, Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Improvement District Association).
- DSCA invites members of the press to our public events and keeps them informed of residential key concerns.
- DSCA members have engaged with a host of local businesses to get further involvement of these important stakeholders.

The following are some of the outreach and advisory activities that DSCA board members conducted on behalf of our downtown residents.

Greenspace:

- **Rosemary District Park**
 - The DSCA in combination with RDA successfully advocated for a Rosemary District park, the neighborhood's first. This five-year effort has resulted in:
 - Identification of the best park site in the Rosemary District, at the intersection of Central Avenue and Blvd. of the Arts
 - Construction started November 2023.
- **Bay Park**
 - Contributed input to Bay Park Phase 1 Operations including advocacy for installation of Composting Station (next to Garden Club driveway circle).
 - Contributed input to Bay Park Phase 2 Design & Community Workshop.
- **Roundabout Landscaping & Street Trees**
 - Influenced FDOT design resulting in more canopy trees for Gulfstream Roundabout Landscaping
 - Successful advocacy for street trees along Fruitville at new 780SRQ condo project

Transportation:

- **Streetscapes**
 - DSCA advocated to keep BotA and 10th Streetscape projects included in the City budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as high priorities. These streets will be reimagined, with the objective of making them more suitable for pedestrians and bicycles as well as cars, with wider sidewalks, canopy trees, improved lighting, better biking lanes, etc.
 - Funding is included for 60% design for both projects is in this year's budget with construction on some elements of the projects expected in 2025.
 - DSCA continues advocacy for reevaluation of Fruitville Streetscape with roundabout options on 3 westernmost intersections that link Rosemary District.
- **BotA and 41 Intersection Options**

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- DSCA continued to support options for slowing traffic, safer pedestrian and bicycle crossing.
- Current plans are for a raised intersection; with the City coordinating with FDOT.

Zoning Code:

- **Zoning Text Amendments (ZTAs)**
 - DSCA provided input on attainable housing bonus density ZTAs.
 - DSCA provided input on ZTAs for Restaurants, bars, and nightclubs.
- **Obsidian on North Palm**
 - Provided input on process and not supporting developer amendments

Arts and Culture:

- **Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall (VWPAH)**
 - DSCA facilitated tours of Van Wezel backstage for downtown residents
 - Purple Ribbon Committee Members were selected and have begun their review.
- **Sarasota Performing Arts Center (SPAC)**
 - DSCA kept members informed of the SPAC Architect Selection process and outcomes.

Health and Safety:

- **Homeless Committee**
 - Homeless committee facilitated tours of Salvation Army facilities and met with representatives from City Homeless Response Coordinator, Sun Coast Partnership to End Homelessness, and Second Heart Homes.
- **Pilot City Watch program**
 - DSCA is working with SPD on a pilot program to enable resident volunteers to provide direct input to SPD on relevant issues.

Community Outreach Information:

- **Greater downtown Construction, Population and Related Data**
 - DSCA has independently developed important analyses of greater downtown population growth, property taxes, park impact fees and multimodal impact fee, and tree removal.
 - This information has proved valuable as DSCA is increasingly known for backing its positions with well-researched facts and projections, often including financial data.

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Here are some of the Education and Outreach highlights for the year 2023.

Education & Outreach:

DSCA Board Meeting Guest Speakers:

- **Camden Mills**, Manager of Capital Projects, City Public Works Department, addressed a range of public works projects, and reviewed the 5-year Capital Improvements Program. (Jan. 4)
- **Marlon Brown**, Sarasota City Manager, overviewed the progress the City has made on several projects (e.g. Bobby Jones Golf Course restoration, affordable housing). (Feb. 1)
- **Florida Department of Transportation** reps gave a presentation on a range of safety initiatives and EV charging, and answered member questions. (May 3)
- **Jake Hartvigsen**, Associate Director of Marketing and Community Partnerships, WEDU PBS and WEDQ PBS, presented on the wide range of TV programs and other media resources. (June 7)
- **Lucia Panica**, Development Services Director, & **Myra Schwarz**, Development Services General Manager, City of Sarasota, described the range of services and features available online. (July 5)
- **Liz Alpert**, Vice Mayor, City of Sarasota Commission, gave an update on recent commission actions and answered several questions (e.g. sound ordinance, Fruitville Streetscape). (Aug. 2)
- **Broxton Harvey**, General Manager, Parking Division, City of Sarasota, presented proposals to make parking operations downtown more efficient, expand metered parking & increase fees. (Oct. 4)
- **Jennifer Jorgensen**, Governmental Relations Manager, City of Sarasota, described her varied roles including tracking state & federal legislation, grant applications, & public event ordinance (Nov. 1)

DSCA Workshops & Town Halls:

- **DSCA Platinum Workshop: The Exploding Costs of Living in Paradise!** (Mar 16)
- **DSCA Townhall – Downtown: Dysfunction or Diversity?** (Apr. 4)
- **DSCA-City Outreach Session: Restaurants, Bars & Nightclubs Zoning Text Amend.** (Jun. 22)
- **DSCA Platinum Workshop: Sarasota’s Rapid Growth: Boom, Bubble or Bust** (Oct. 19)

DSCA News:

- [DSCA 2023 January News Update](#) was issued on Jan. 26, 2023 which highlighted:
 - Zoning Code Committee met with City Staff on Affordable Housing Density Bonus
 - Sarasota Performing Arts Center (SPAC) plans
 - Gulfstream Roundabout open
- [DSCA 2023 1st Quarter Newsletter](#) was issued on Feb. 22, 2023 which highlighted:
 - Zoning Code Committee Zoom meeting with City Staff on Affordable Housing Density Bonus
 - Bay Runner Trolley Update
- [DSCA 2023 March News Update](#) was issued on Mar. 21, 2023 which highlighted:
 - Summary of DSCA's recent workshop, "The Exploding Costs of Living in Paradise"
 - Sarasota Performing Arts Center Task Force on Architect Selection
 - Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall Purple Ribbon Committee to study building reuse
- [DSCA 2023 April News Update](#) was issued on Apr. 20, 2023 which highlighted:
 - Summary of DSCA's Member Meeting & Town Hall; with DSCA 25th Anniversary Celebration
 - Sarasota Police Department Updates

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- [DSCA 2023 2nd Quarter Newsletter](#) was issued on May 19, 2023 which highlighted:
 - Update on City Affordable Housing Density Bonus plans
 - WEDU PBS Original Documentary: “The Sarasota Experience”
 - City Parks & Recreation Update
 - Ringling Trail Complete Streets – “Project of the Year” (APWA FL Chapter)
- [DSCA 2023 June News Update](#) was issued on Jun. 19, 2023 which highlighted:
 - DSCA 2023 Community Association Survey Status
 - Sarasota Performing Arts Center Architect Selection
 - Sarasota Airport Updates with new airlines and planned trolley from SRQ to downtown
 - Residential Development Impacts on North Palm Ave (Obsidian project)
 - City meeting notices on Parklets; DSCA Workshop on Redefining Bars & Restaurants
- [DSCA 2023 July News Update](#) was issued on Jul. 27, 2023 which highlighted:
 - Update on City Affordable Housing Density Bonus plans, Bars/Restaurants ZTA, EDCM Update, & FY2024 City Budget priorities
 - City Public Art Plan introduced
 - Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall Purple Ribbon Committee Members Selected
 - Gulfstream Roundabout Construction Completed
- [DSCA 2023 3rd Quarter Newsletter](#) was issued on Aug. 21, 2023 which highlighted:
 - Update on City Affordable Housing Density Bonus plans
 - Bay Park Master Plan Updates & new CEO Stephanie Crockatt
- [DSCA 2023 September News Update](#) was issued on Sep. 15, 2023 which highlighted:
 - DSCA 2023 Community Association Survey Report
 - City Affordable Housing Density Bonus for Downtown Zoning Text Amendment approved
 - Sarasota Police Department update on new officers
 - City Public Art Plan approved
 - DSCA Condo Corner highlight feature introduced
- DSCA 2023 October **News Update** was issued on Oct. 16, 2023 which highlighted:
 - DSCA Presidents Thank You to Associate Members & Board/Committee Members
 - Update on Residential Development on North Palm Ave (Obsidian) & the Quay (OnePark)
 - Roundabout Safety with Zebra sightings
- [DSCA 2023 4th Quarter Newsletter](#) was issued on Nov. 18, 2018 which highlighted:
 - Remembering Veterans Day
 - Summary of DSCA's workshop, "Sarasota's Rapid Growth: Boom, Bubble or Bust"
 - City Commission Elects new Mayor (Alpert) & Vice Mayor (Ahearn-Koch)
 - Update on City Bars/Restaurants ZTA; Bay Park Master Plan & Bay Runner Trolley
- DSCA 2023 December **News Update** was issued on Dec. 15, 2023 which highlighted:
 - Bay Park Master Plan update
 - Update on City Bars/Restaurants ZTA

DSCA Website

- The DSCA website was consolidated and updated in 2023 to better support our members and the public. This consolidation will give members easier access to Member-only Forum for topical discussions and to post questions for other member condos.
- DSCA maintains a focus on key Issues of interest to downtown residents through our DSCA Committees. <https://downtownsarasotacondoassoc.com/Board-of-Directors>

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- All member residents are invited to participate in these interest areas.
<https://downtownsarasotacondoassoc.com/Topics>
 - Arts & Cultural
 - Associate & Events
 - Greenspace, Trees and Parks
 - Health & Safety
 - Homelessness
 - Transportation, Traffic, Roundabouts and Sidewalks
 - Zoning Code, Land Development and Construction Staging
- DSCA Board Directors and Member Representatives were sent notice of monthly Board meetings and Board Meeting Minutes each month.
- DSCA Board representatives attended monthly meetings of our liaison organizations:
 - [Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations](#) (CCNA)
 - [Downtown Improvement District](#) (DID)
 - [Rosemary District Association](#) (RDA)
 - [Bay Park Conservancy for The Bay](#) – (BPC)
- DSCA continued to use its social media pages to promote news of interests to its members public:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/DowntownSarasotaCondoAssoc/>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDvRv-0mdvc0T1-Fi0CGZQw>

DSCA Membership

- DSCA Board accepted the following new **Regular Condo Members in 2023:**
 - **Library Mews**
 - **One Hundred Central**
 - **The Q HOA**
 - **Risdon on 5th**
- DSCA Board accepted the following new **Associate Members in 2023:**
 - **Ball Janik LLP** (Gold)
 - **Bird Key Yacht Club** (Gold)
 - **Boo's Ice House & Dog Bar** (Silver)
 - **BuildingLink** (Gold)
 - **Burns Square Boutique Hotel** (Silver)
 - **Crew Bank & Trust** (Gold)
 - **KW Property Management Consultants** (Gold)
 - **Photo SRQ** (Gold)
 - **Rapid Response Team** (Gold)
 - **Sarasota Contemporary Dance** (Gold)
 - **Smart Water Protection** (Gold)