



655 North Tamiami Trail
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For more information, visit:
www.TheBaySarasota.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Open Houses Announced to Gain Community Input on *The Bay*

Design and planning firm Sasaki solicits ideas to help imagine the future of the site

SARASOTA, FL (February 1, 2018) – The Board of Directors of *The Bay* and design and planning firm Sasaki seek public input for opportunities to improve the environmental and economic sustainability of the 53 acres along US 41 between Boulevard of the Arts and 10th Street, ensuring it will be an enlivened, cultural destination with open, public access to the Bayfront.

“The future of *The Bay* is truly for our entire community and all ages,” said Bill Waddill, Managing Director of *The Bay*. “We want the entire community to give us their feedback from the interactive open house sessions to better imagine the possibilities.”

Three open houses will take place next week that will include interactive stations introducing the Master Planning team and process, exploring the history of the Bayfront, providing a summary of existing site conditions, and imagining the future. The community is invited to participate in any one of the three open houses to address what activities, destinations, and open spaces they would like to experience on the site. Open Houses are scheduled for:

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Robert L. Taylor Center
1845 34th Street, Sarasota

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Van Wezel Grand Foyer
777 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

Thursday, February 8, 2018

8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Van Wezel Grand Foyer

777 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

The community is encouraged to attend at their convenience and stay for as little or as long as they prefer. There will be no formal presentation.

The feedback from the community will help Sasaki develop options for the site, which will be presented at the next major community open house scheduled for April.

If you aren't able to make one of the three scheduled open houses, an online survey will be launched next week to also gather community input. For more information, go to www.thebaysarasota.org. For press inquiries, contact Mike Marraccini at 941-914-5324 or at mcm@largeinc.com.

About Sarasota Bayfront Planning Organization (SBPO)

The Sarasota Bayfront Planning Organization (SBPO), a 501(c)(3) corporation, was formed in 2016, building on work completed by the Sarasota Bayfront 20:20 organization to advance the development of City-owned land along the Sarasota Bayfront. This private-public partnership is headed by a nine-person board comprised of trusted and experienced individuals with a diverse set of competencies and is privately funded by the private sector and local foundations, including The Patterson Foundation, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Selby Foundation, Barancik Foundation and Berlin Foundation. The SBPO is tasked with ensuring the delivery of a professionally prepared master plan for the sustainable development of the 53-acre Sarasota Bayfront in accordance with the Guiding Principles established by Bayfront 20:20 constituents which were subsequently adopted and approved by the City of Sarasota Commission. The SBPO will propose an operating structure that will professionally manage the Sarasota Bayfront Project during and following construction. For more information, visit www.sbp.org.

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