



YBOR LEGEND



WINTER 2024



Owning a Piece of History: Words from the Winners of the Original Iconic 7th Avenue Archway Lights

After 32 years of maintaining their post among the hustle and bustle of Ybor City’s iconic 7th Avenue, the dazzling aluminum archways that illuminated the city’s main thoroughfare were replaced with newly reinforced, innovative, sustainable lights.

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To preserve the legacy of the iconic structures, Ybor City CRA auctioned the original archways off to the public. The archways were split into five lots of four, giving winners a chance to own a beloved piece of the Ybor City’s history. We contacted each winner to find out where those legacies lie now that they’ve been placed in the hands of the people and businesses that admired them for the past three decades.

A full story will be available on our website at www.yborcityonline.com for an immersive deep dive into each winner’s experience bidding on these prized pieces of history. Hear more details on each archway’s new home and the interesting stories of each lucky bidder.

COMING UP

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 27, 2024,
AT THE ECC
2101 E. PALM AVE.**





YBOR CITY CRA AND TECO RECEIVE MULTIPLE AWARDS FOR ARCHWAY LIGHTS RESTORATION PROJECT

The Ybor City CRA along with Tampa Electric accepted two awards in recognition of their partnership on the restoration of Ybor’s iconic 7th Avenue archway lights.

Representatives from the two entities along with members from the Tampa CRA staff accepted the 2023 Ybor City Business Impact Award from the Ybor Chamber of Commerce, followed by two awards from the Hillsborough County Planning Commission; one for Outstanding Contribution to the Community in the Lighting Category as well as the Jan Abell Award for Outstanding Contribution in Historic Preservation.



TREE TRIMMING IN YBOR CITY

In late October, palm trees throughout Ybor City were trimmed and pruned to help with beautification enhancements to the district. Streets included parts of Nick Nuccio Parkway, 7th Avenue, 16th Street, Palm Avenue, 21st Street, and 22nd Street.

TECO STREETCAR TO REMAIN FREE THANKS TO \$700,000 GRANT FROM FDOT

In September, the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority, the streetcar’s operator, received a \$700,000 commuter assistance grant from the Florida Department of Transportation. This allows the streetcar to operate fare-free during the 2024 fiscal year. The streetcar, which runs from Whiting Street in Downtown Tampa to 20th Street in Ybor City, saw record ridership in FY 2023, with 1,313,103 riders reported.



TOWNHOMES NEAR GAS WORX GROUNDBREAKING

On September 15, crews officially broke ground on Canvas GWX, a new industrial-style townhome development. The upcoming townhome development is the first development project to happen just outside of the 50-acre Gas Worx district, which broke ground in March 2023.

BRENDA THROWER PROMOTED TO YBOR CITY INTERIM CRA MANAGER

Via @Tampa CRA on Facebook: “We’re thrilled to announce that our very own Brenda Thrower is now the new Interim Ybor City Community Redevelopment Area Manager for the Tampa CRA! With over 15 years of experience in the Ybor City Historic District, Brenda is a treasure trove of knowledge about Ybor’s businesses and community. But that’s not all: She is also the incoming Florida Redevelopment Association President and will bring the latest CRA practices and knowledge to enhance economic growth for all residents. Join us in congratulating Brenda and let’s continue to ‘Strengthen Communities’ one district at a time!”



CRA FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS BRING MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS TO TWO 7TH AVENUE STOREFRONTS

King Corona Cigar Bar and Café is one of the many reminders of Ybor City's rich cigar culture and history. It sits within the historic building located at 1521 E 7th Avenue, which also harbors Ybor's beloved artists loft's and will be the home of the much-awaited Cheeseology. Newly completed improvements to the building's façade shine a light on the power of historic preservation and public investment. When removing stucco from the façade, original blonde brick was exposed, revealing a design that, once restored, would pay homage to construction once considered a hallmark of the district's architecture. The Ybor City CRA funded half of the project with a \$30,000 Façade Grant, awarded to the business to help beautify and restore the historic storefront.



Meanwhile, down the road at 1710 E 7th Avenue, a new canopy was installed, adding much needed shade to the balcony of this historic building. Funded in part by a CRA grant, the improvements sought to increase functionality, desirability, and appearance of the surrounding property by replacing windows and installing the balcony canopy. Covered balconies lend to the historic feel of the district, while the new windows increase the value of the building while matching the ones in the surrounding buildings. The Ybor City CRA celebrates the completion of these projects, and its alignment with our foundations to strengthen communities through economic development, beautification, and historic preservation.



YES! TEAM MARCHES IN RELIAQUEST BOWL NEW YEAR'S EVE PARADE



The Ybor City YES! Team took part in the ReliaQuest Bowl New Year's Eve Parade to cap off their first full year in the historic district. The team provides essential services in keeping our beloved Ybor City streets and neighborhood clean and safe for residents and visitors.

TAMPA CRA: WHAT IS A CRA?

The Tampa Community Redevelopment Agency is a public entity established under the guidelines of the Community Redevelopment Act (Chapter 163, Part III, Florida Statutes) to implement community redevelopment activities within designated Community Redevelopment Areas or districts. Tampa's Community Redevelopment Areas or districts include Central Park, Channel District, Downtown, Drew Park, East Tampa, Tampa Heights Riverfront, West Tampa, and Ybor City. Members of Tampa City Council serve as the Community Redevelopment Agency board and work closely with City staff to manage projects, programs, and redevelopment funding. The Tampa's Community Redevelopment Agency board along with their Community Advisory Committees (CAC) work together to improve the quality of life within these areas or districts.



NEW BUSINESSES



Ybor Seoul

This new restaurant, located on the 1500 block of East 7th Avenue, serves popular Korean fare and opened in Ybor City this August.



Trellis Pub at Buchman

Trellis Pub located in the Buchman building is a new concept brought to you by the same visionaries at Fermented Reality beer garden. They welcomed visitors for a soft opening in November and are now serving up fresh craft beer and wine in their new space at 1910 E 7th Avenue.



Pepper's Island

Pepper's Island opened its doors in August. Located on East 4th Avenue, Pepper's Island specializes in Trinidadian food, serving cultural delicacies such as curry chicken and roti.



FMoPA

The Florida Museum of Photographic Arts celebrated its move to the historic Kress Building in November with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony. The new space includes 3,000 square feet for exhibits, talks, and lectures.



Rosenheim

Rosenheim opened in September and offers a variety of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern cuisine at their location on North 22nd Street.

EVENTS CALENDAR:

Ybor Saturday Market - Every Saturday; 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.

2/3 - Carmada en Ybor

2/10 - Sant' Yago Knight Parade

2/11 - Ybor City Flea

2/24 - Fiesta Day

CRA BOARD MEETING DATES

Meetings are held at the Tampa City Hall. All meetings are open to the public.

Monthly

February 8 March 21 April 11

MAYOR JANE CASTOR

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CRA) BOARD

Gwendolyn Henderson – District 5, Chairwoman

Luis Viera – District 7, Vice-chairman

Alan Clendenin – District 1, At-large

Charlie Miranda – District, 2 At-large

Lynn Hurtak – District 3, At-large

Bill Carlson – District 4

Guido Maniscalco – District 6

Meeting Location:

Tampa City Council Chambers, City Hall, 315 E. Kennedy Blvd.

Time: 9 a.m.

Dates: Second Thursday of the month

YBOR CAC BOARD

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| Rich Simmons. | Chairman, At-Large |
| Liz Welch | Vice-chairman, Barrio Latino Commission |
| Larissa Baia | Hillsborough Community College |
| David Bailey. | Historic Ybor Neighborhood Civic Assoc. |
| Stephen Barbas | Ybor City Museum Society |
| Tom DeGeorge. | Ybor Merchants Assoc. |
| Cristal Lastra | Historic Social Clubs |
| Carolyn Cheatham Rhodes. | Historic East Ybor & Gary Neighborhood Assoc. |
| Walter Pinillos. | Gaybor District Coalition |
| Damon Shiver | Ybor Chamber of Commerce |
| Vacant | Ybor City Development Corporation |
| Marcia Austin | At-Large |
| Olivia Aye | At-Large |
| Brittney Barrie. | At-Large |
| Carissa Erion | At-Large |
| Michael Murphy | At-Large |
| Arnold Trueba. | At-Large |
| Christopher Wojtowicz | At-Large |
| Peter Wright. | At-Large |
| Vacant | At-Large |
| Joe Capitano, Sr | Emeritus Member |
| Fran Costantino. | Emeritus Member |

TAMPACRA

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

City of Tampa Community Redevelopment Agency

Ybor City Community Redevelopment Areas

(813) 274-7917 • tampa.gov/cras

Erica Moody, CRA Director • Be Parks, CRA Communications and Project Coordinator
• Brenda Thrower, Interim CRA Manager