



CITY OF TAMPA

Jane Castor, Mayor

Community Redevelopment Areas

CHANNEL DISTRICT CRA COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2023

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

		Committee Attendees		City of Tampa Representatives	
1	P	Kimberlee Curtis, Chair	Downtown Partnership	Jeff Burton	P
2	P	Abbey Ahern, Vice Chair		Melisa Martinez	P
3	P	Katie Gower		Captain Alex Thiel	A
4	P	Andy Scaglione			
5	P	Ron Glessing	Port Tampa	Additional Attendees	
6	P	David Aylesworth		Tony Rokita	A
7	P	Joseph Valdez	Channel District Council	Andy Wood	A
8	P	Rita Ugianskis			
9	A	Michael Leeds			

2. Public Comment – None

3. Channel District Development – John Zemina from Kimmins reported on various public realm projects.

4. Tampa Police Department Update – None

5. Tampa Downtown Partnership – Discussion was held regarding Partnership cost/benefit.

6. The Florida Aquarium Update - None.

7. Real Estate (Land Acquisition) – The RV Lot Purchased was discussed.

8. Action Items

8.1. The January 4, 2023, regular meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

8.2. The draft Redevelopment Grant Policy was distributed.

8.3. A motion to recommend the reprogram of \$150,000 for the Riverwalk and Beneficial Bridge intersection from Land and Planning was unanimously approved.

8.4. Move to explore 1127 Twiggs for Purchase was unanimous.

9. New Business - None

10. Unfinished Business

Channelside traffic calming, pressure cleaning contract, above and beyond landscaping contract, mural update, and Channel District personnel were discussed.

11. Announcements/Discussion

11.1. Tampa

11.2. Next CAC Meeting: March 1, 2023 @ 5:30 PM - Location: Port Tampa Bay Boardroom

11.3. Next CRA Board Meeting: February 9, 2023 @ 9AM - Location: Tampa City Hall

12. Adjournment



February 21, 2023

Mr. Alis Drumgo
Deputy Administrator
Development & Economic Opportunity
City of Tampa
306 East Jackson Street
Tampa, FL 33602

Dear Mr. Drumgo,

The Florida Aquarium, Inc. (the Aquarium) appreciates the opportunity to submit a request for funding to the Channel District CRA. We are seeking \$15 million in support of the Aquarium's \$40 million Sea Change expansion. This is the largest, most ambitious and exciting expansion since opening our doors in 1995. There are 4 primary components to the expansion:

- A special rotating exhibits gallery, currently under construction, opening this Memorial Day
- A new Rugged Coast-themed gallery, featuring a two-story, multidimensional habitat of puffins, opening in 2024/2025
- A new outdoor pavilion featuring a sea lion exhibit and expanded African penguin habitat, opening by fall 2025.
- Outdoor enhancements creating green spaces around the Aquarium building (queue gardens, parking area) and connectivity with an extended Riverwalk along the wharf, in alignment with the CRA's strategic action plan.

This expansion will bring rich and lasting experiences and education to our neighbors and visitors from across the world and supports our purpose to save marine wildlife in our backyard and throughout Florida. It will drive visitation to the Channel District, supporting local establishments and increasing economic impact.

Funding Summary

The Aquarium currently has \$13 million on hand to support this project, earned through operations. That total will grow to \$15 million. A fundraising Capital Campaign has recently been announced, chaired by local developer, Darryl Shaw. Other members of the campaign committee include Board Chair, John Couris, Jim and Celia Ferman, Andrea Gonzmart-Williams, and Dave Bevirt. Board participation in the campaign is already at 100%.

The \$15 million CRA request will also be leveraged with funding requests to Hillsborough County and the State of Florida. As Darryl Shaw has stated, the Aquarium is a vibrant, thriving cultural attraction that enhances quality of life for our Channel District neighborhood, our city and state. We hope you feel the same and will support this important project.

We are flexible regarding disbursement of the potential CRA commitment as we have already met with lenders willing to support cash flow needs. Currently, if funded, we would request the following disbursement timeline for the CRA funds:

FY2023 (current year)	\$3 million
FY2024	\$7 million
FY2025	\$5 million

We look forward to sharing with you and the CRA any additional information you request regarding our project.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Germann", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Roger Germann
President & CEO