



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## TAMPA CRA TAKES TOP HONORS FOR SEVERAL PROJECTS



Tampa CRA was recognized for its efforts in strengthening communities with several awards at the 43rd Annual Planning and Design Awards hosted by the Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission. The annual event recognizes projects that enhance quality of life, strengthen economic development, and preserve the region's natural and historic assets. The awards included:

### DOWNTOWN

Kid Mason  
Community Center

**Award for  
Excellence**

Entertainment Category

### DOWNTOWN

Tampa Union  
Station

**Award for Outstanding  
Contribution to  
the Community**

Historic Preservation Category

### EAST TAMPA

The Skills  
Center

**Award for  
Outstanding  
Contribution to  
the Community**

Investment Category

### YBOR CITY

Historic 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Bricking Project

1) Outstanding  
Contribution to the  
Community

2) Jan Abell Award

Historic Preservation Category

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The Florida Redevelopment Association recognized the late Councilwoman Gwendolyn Henderson with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognized her commitment to enhancing Tampa's communities and her role as a dedicated educator, community leader, and elected official. Her daughter, Ariel Amirah Danley, and sister, Sonya Henderson, proudly accepted the posthumous award.



## WEST TAMPA

### WEST RIVER BUILD PROJECT OFFICIALLY BREAKS GROUND

Tampa CRA Board members, staff, and Community Advisory Committee members celebrated the official groundbreaking of the West Riverwalk expansion on October 28, 2025. The project entails a 0.2-mile expansion of the award-winning Tampa Riverwalk on the west side of the Hillsborough River with enhanced lighting, improved sidewalks, and new cycling trails. The project provides car-free transportation routes and improve the safety and mobility between neighborhoods. Tampa CRA is funding \$10 million for improvements within the West Tampa community redevelopment area.



## EAST TAMPA

### FLORIDA NEGRO WORLD WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY RESTORATION

Tampa CRA partnered with The Cemetery Society, Tampa Parks and Recreation, and Hillsborough County to restore the Florida Negro World War Veterans Memorial, located at Memorial Park Cemetery. The restoration work was completed by RLA Conservation, a leading art and sculpture conservation group, ensuring the 102-year-old monument maintained its original look.

## DREW PARK

### ROADWAY AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Safety, connectivity, and mobility are the top priorities for Drew Park's Intersection Improvement Projects. Areas receiving upgrades include N. Hesperides Street, W. Crest Avenue, and various intersections on N. Hubert Avenue and N. Lois Avenue. This project is currently in the design review phase and anticipated to break ground in summer 2026.

## TAMPA HEIGHTS RIVERFRONT

### NEW ROUNDABOUT ART

The CRA Art Selection Committee received, reviewed, and scored 150 applications for a roundabout art sculpture project to increase public art in the district. The committee will meet again in January 2026 to select the finalists for the new public art installations.



## DOWNTOWN

### HERMAN MASSEY PARK UPDATE



Herman Massey Park renovations continues to make progress inDowntown. In October, the park's new sculpture, created by Miami-based visual artist Alexandre Arrechea, was installed. The renovations also include new paving and lighting which are planned to be completed this winter.

## CENTRAL PARK

### GASWORX UPDATE

In late October, the six-story office building in the new Gasworx development officially topped out. This building will serve as the future headquarters of Grow Financial. Gasworx also announced the names of three new buildings in the development: The Luisa, Olivette, and Stevedore. Each building honors the city's rich history and will serve as future residential buildings, adding more than 900 residential units to the area, as well as thousands of square feet of ground-floor retail space.







## CHANNEL DISTRICT

The CRA Board approved the purchase of a commercial property at 1125 and 1127 E. Twiggs St. in September. This strategic acquisition will enable the addition of more green space in the Channel District and the expansion of Madison Street Park.

## STRATEGIC PARK LAND ACQUISITION



## YBOR CITY



## HISTORIC 7TH AVENUE BRICKING PROJECT UPDATE

The next phase of the historic 7th Avenue bricking project from 17th to 19th Street is planned to commence in spring 2026. Ahead of the project's start, CRA staff will host a community outreach meeting to provide project insights and the construction schedule. Stay tuned for more updates!

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



### DEVELOPMENT TOURS - AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION

Tampa CRA Director, Cedric McCray and CRA Development Managers, Courtney Orr and Brenda Thrower hosted a Downtown Streetcar and Historic Ybor City Walking Tour for a delegation of Australian City Managers during the International City Management Association in Tampa in October.



### 2025 FLORIDA REDEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (FRA) CONFERENCE

Several Tampa CRA staff and Community Advisory Committee (CAC) leaders from Drew Park, Downtown, East Tampa and West Tampa attended the 2025 FRA Conference in West Palm Beach in October to network with CRA professionals across the state and learn best practices. In addition, several CRA staff members graduated from the Florida Redevelopment Academy and now are certified redevelopment professionals. CRA Director Cedric McCray was elected to the FRA Board to represent Tampa following the term limit of FRA Past President Brenda Thrower.



## COMMERCIAL GRANT SUCCESS STORIES

### YBOR CITY - HJGE PROPERTY GROUP

The Tampa CRA awarded HJGE Property Group a Commercial Exterior Grant for 1814 N. 15th St. to replace and update exterior windows and doors, preserving the historic building's appearance.



### WEST TAMPA - MITSARU SERVICES, LLC

The Tampa CRA awarded Commercial Exterior and Interior Grants to Mitsaru Services, LLC, to help transform 1702 W. Main St. into a vibrant commercial space for future restaurants and local entrepreneurs.





## MAYOR JANE CASTOR

### COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CRA) BOARD

**Luis Viera**

*CRA Chair – District 7*

**Lynn Hurtak**

*Chair Pro-Tem – District 3  
At-large*

**Alan Clendenin**

*District 1 At-large*

**Guido Maniscalco**

*District 2 At-large*

**Bill Carlson**

*District 4*

**Naya Young**

*District 5*

**Charlie Miranda**

*District 6*

**Meeting Location:**

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

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Upcoming CRA Board meetings:**

- January 15
- February 12
- March 12



## WELCOME NAYA YOUNG TO THE CRA BOARD

Councilwoman Young was elected on October 28 to represent District 5, which includes downtown Tampa, Channel District, Ybor City, East Tampa, and parts of West Tampa.

## TAMPA CRA'S TEAM GROWS

Tampa CRA is excited to introduce three new team members to further enhance the team's ability to strengthen our communities.



### **Felix Nuñez – CRA Development Manager**

Felix Nuñez is the new CRA Development Manager for the East Tampa and Drew Park community redevelopment areas. Nuñez brings 20 years of public sector, nonprofit, and redevelopment experience to the team.

### **Latasha Hicks – Community Development Specialist I**

Latasha Hicks joins the CRA Housing Team bringing 20 years of City of Tampa experience with housing, community partnerships, compliance, and program delivery.

### **Tayler Faulkner – Office Support Specialist IV**

Tayler Faulkner joins the CRA Administrative Team bringing 10 years of administrative and procurement experience. She was previously employed with the City of Dunedin.

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# TAMPACRA

**STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES**

City of Tampa Community Redevelopment Agency  
(813) 274-8325 • [tampa.gov/cras](http://tampa.gov/cras)  
Cedric McCray, CRA Director