

MAYOR JANE CASTOR

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CRA) BOARD

Gwendolyn Henderson
CRA Chair – District 5

Luis Viera
CRA Pro-Tem – District 7

Alan Clendenin
District 1 At-large

Guido Maniscalco
District 2 At-large

Lynn Hurtak
District 3 At-large

Bill Carlson
District 4

Charlie Miranda
District 6

Meeting Location:

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

Time: 9 a.m.

Upcoming CRA Board meetings:

- June 12
- July 24
- August 14
- September 11



TAMPA CRA: WHAT IS A CRA?

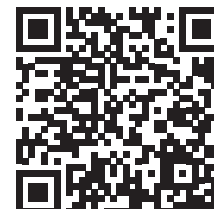
The Tampa Community Redevelopment Agency is a public entity established under the guidelines of the Community Redevelopment Act (Chapter 163, Part III, Florida Statutes) to implement community redevelopment activities within designated Community Redevelopment Areas or districts.

Tampa has nine Community Redevelopment Areas: Central Park; Channel District; Downtown; Drew Park; East Tampa; Tampa Heights Riverfront; West Tampa; and Ybor City I and II. Tampa City Council serves as the Community Redevelopment Agency for the City of Tampa, working closely with CRA staff and the community to improve the quality of life within each of the community redevelopment areas.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES (CAC) MEETING SCHEDULES

Tampa CRA has eight Community Advisory Committees (CACs) servicing its nine redevelopment areas. These CACs hold monthly meetings, except for July and December, to solicit input from the community on redevelopment activities in their respective Community Redevelopment Plans.

All meetings are open to the public. Dates and times can be found by scanning the QR code.



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

TAMPACRA

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

SPRING 2025



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WEST TAMPA BUSINESS LANDS FIRST COMMERCIAL INTERIOR GRANT

Born out of what started as a necessary means to make ends meet during the pandemic, owners of Lucky Tigre Julie and Sean Loughlin started a fledgling business of making Filipino desserts, snacks, and other dishes to sell to friends. As this “side hustle” gained popularity, the Loughlin’s decided to legitimize their business by operating as a pop-up in Downtown Tampa.

“It has always been my dream since I was little to work in a restaurant and cook. I feel like food in my culture is so synonymous with care and showing someone you love them. My husband has been super supportive, and we did it!” co-owner, Julie stated.

After operating as a pop-up store, the Loughlins wanted to operate in a permanent location. Through word of mouth and personal preference, they settled in West Tampa where they currently operate as a food truck. Soon after, they learned about the CRA’s Commercial Grant initiative and now they are the first restaurant awarded the CRA Commercial Interior Grant.

The Loughlins originally heard about the grant initiative from their landlord’s realtor and West Tampa CAC Committee member Mike Braccia.

“I don’t really have any generational wealth, it’s really just me, my husband, and supportive friends, family, and colleagues who have given us advice and helped us so much along the way. The grant is both super necessary and appreciated and has opened up so many doors for us,” Julie stated.



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CRA Grant Programs and How to Start the Process

The Commercial Interior Grant is one of four commercial grants offered by the Tampa CRA. All grants offered by the Tampa CRA are intended to revitalize underused areas, stimulate economic growth, and help remedy blighted conditions. To learn more about Tampa CRA’s commercial grants, scan the QR code.



CRA SOCIAL MEDIA/GET CONNECTED WITH TAMPACRA TAMPA.GOV/CRAS



REDEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT

DOWNTOWN DOWNTOWN TRANSFORMATION UNDERWAY WITH MAJOR CRA-BACKED PROJECTS

The Tampa CRA is supporting major revitalization projects in the Downtown area, including the renovation and expansion of the Straz Center for the Performing Arts and the transformation of Herman Massey Park. The Straz Center broke ground in April and will feature new outdoor performance spaces and expanded facilities by summer 2027, while Herman Massey Park is undergoing upgrades like new paving, lighting, public art, and more, with completion expected in fall 2025.



WEST TAMPA SALCINES PARK GROUNDBREAKING

Renovations to Salcines Park in historic West Tampa began in April, featuring upgrades like new fencing, lighting, seating, signage, and improved public access. CRA Chairwoman, Gwendolyn Henderson, Mayor Jane Castor, Joe Robinson and E.J. Salcines marked the groundbreaking with speeches celebrating a renewed focus on West Tampa. The project is set for completion by February 2026.

EAST TAMPA NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SITE OPPORTUNITY

The demolition of the former Destination Church, located at 1102 E. Curtis St. in East Tampa, began in March. The process includes the removal of outdated structures on the property, as well as environmental cleanup of asbestos and lead paint on the property. Strategic acquisitions like this allow the Tampa CRA to create more spaces for future attainable housing projects for residents.



YBOR CITY, CHANNEL, DOWNTOWN TECO STREETCAR

In March, the Tampa CRA approved \$700,000 in additional funding to help maintain the Historic Streetcar's fare-free program through September 2025. Funding was provided from the Channel District, Downtown, and Ybor City Community Redevelopment Areas. This program provides residents and visitors with a car-free alternative, improving connectivity between these communities.



DREW PARK HUBERT PARK DESIGN PLANS

In FY2024, the Tampa CRA invested \$177,550 to design a new neighborhood park in Drew Park, a community with limited public spaces. Planned for North Hubert Avenue, the park will include playgrounds, recreation areas, lighting, restrooms, and streetscape improvements to enhance safety, community well-being, and economic opportunities.



REDEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT

TAMPA HEIGHTS RIVERFRONT

NEW PUBLIC ART FOR THE NORTH BOULEVARD ROUNDABOUTS

This summer, the Tampa Heights Riverfront CRA will advertise a call for artists to design sculptures for the two roundabouts on Palm Avenue. This initiative, with public input, will build on existing neighborhood beautification efforts that honor the unique and vibrant identity of Tampa Heights.



CENTRAL PARK

RESTORATION IS UNDERWAY AT THE JOHNSON BROTHERS' HOUSES

Restoration is underway at the Johnson Brothers' Houses, the last historic "Scrub" cottages in Central Park. Plans include a coffee and gift shop that honor neighborhood heritage and support new local redevelopment.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

Tampa CRA staff connected with the community to share information about CRA housing and commercial grant programs. Tampa CRA had booths at the 78th Annual Fiesta Day in Ybor City and Senior Day at the Park in West Tampa.



NEW CRA HOUSING OFFICE OPENS IN EAST TAMPA

The Tampa CRA Housing Team's offices are now located at the TPD District 3 Station (3808 N. 22nd St.) located in East Tampa. This outreach office provides community members with easier access to various housing programs and allows easy accessibility to residents. Whether you are looking to schedule a CRA consultation for eligibility or are looking to pick up or drop off a housing application, the District 3 Office is the place to go!

