



**SARASOTA ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION
SARASOTA BAYFRONT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS POSITION STATEMENT
April 2018**

Following the release of Sasaski Associates' most recent conceptual ideas to develop the Sarasota bayfront between Boulevard of the Arts and Tenth Street, the Sarasota Architectural Foundation (SAF), a globally-known and locally-based 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to educate about, advocate for and celebrate Sarasota's Modernist architectural heritage, would like to make its opinion known.

The Sarasota bayfront property is an assemblage of significant architectural assets such as The Municipal Auditorium (Thomas Reed Martin, 1938), Art Center Sarasota (Frank Martin, 1949), The Chidsey Library (Thomas Reed Martin, 1941), Sarasota Chamber of Commerce (aka "Blue Pagoda," Victor Lundy, 1956), Garden Club of Sarasota (John Crowell, 1959 and Bert Brosmith, 1961), Van Wezel Performing Arts Center (Taliesen Architects, 1970) and the first Selby Library (Skidmore, Owings and Merrill [SOM], 1976; renovated into GWIZ by CCP Architects, 2000).

The SAF commends Sasaki Associates for proposing a "Culture Zone" along the eastern edge of the site because this matches The Bay Sarasota's second guiding principle of the planning exercise, Cultural Heritage, "strengthening the bayfront's identity as a cultural, arts and educational destination."

However, the exact fate of the Taliesen Architects and SOM buildings in the conceptual planning schemes presented by Sasaski Associates is unclear. The SAF advocates for the preservation of Sarasota's architectural heritage with regards to these structures, especially in terms of re-purposing them for new and different uses, which would both ecologically and financially match with The Bay Sarasota's sixth guiding principle of the planning exercise, Sustainability.

The SAF looks forward to the enrichment of the Sarasota bayfront through the retention and creative usage of all the historic structures listed above.