

Downtown as a Neighborhood

The year 2008 will usher in many changes for the Cultural District of Downtown. Projects large and small will get underway forever changing our downtown. Creating a residential community downtown continues to be one of our top priorities. We are focused on the transformation of downtown from a traditional business and government center into a thriving, walkable, urban neighborhood. Improved crosswalks, two-way east/west roads, countdown pedestrian signals, The Tampa Riverwalk and a new museum all make for an enjoyable neighborhood experience.

Tampa Museum of Art



Construction for the new Tampa Museum of Art (TMA) will finally get underway in early 2008. This project has been planned for many years - funds for its construction were borrowed in 2001 using the Community Investment Tax.

This year \$19.9 million of Community Investment Tax revenue will be allocated for the demolition of the existing building, improvements to the site as well as construction of the new facility. Additional monies from the private sector are being generated through a museum capital fundraising initiative. Site work is expected to begin in December 2007 and the opening of the new facility is anticipated by April 2009. The new museum will continue to provide a broad range of art-related experiences for visitors of all ages and will be a featured attraction along our downtown waterfront. It will be a significant addition to the cultural life of the region.

New Curtis Hixon Park

Designed by nationally known landscape architect Thomas Balsely, with a great deal of public input, the newly redesigned Curtis Hixon Park is scheduled to go to construction in conjunction with the new Tampa Museum of Art. This new design invites the public to enjoy Tampa's beautiful riverfront. Adding 3.5 acres of green space to our riverfront, the Curtis Hixon Park will be the front door to not only TMA but the future home of the new Children's Museum. It will become Tampa's focal point for community events and festivals and will enliven downtown. Funding for the park, which we estimate at \$15 million, comes

from the bonding of downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenues. This means that only property tax revenues collected from the downtown tax base will pay for this project.



Safer Streets

Downtown's east/west roads are continuing to be converted to accommodate two-way traffic. We began this program in 2006 with the conversion of Madison Street. Twiggs Street was converted in 2007 and for fiscal year 2008 Polk Street is scheduled for conversion. The \$1 million project, funded by downtown TIF revenue, will further support a more pedestrian-friendly environment for our urban core. We will also begin the design work for Zack Street, slated to become Tampa's Avenue of the Arts.

The Tampa Riverwalk

We are continuing to move forward on The Tampa Riverwalk project one segment at a time. This year, \$700,000 will be invested in the 2.2 mile pedestrian walkway that will

one day provide an urban waterfront experience that connects some of our most important cultural assets for both residents and visitors. This project is being built as a public/private partnership to open up Tampa's waterfront to the people.

Massey Park

This pocket park in the north part of downtown has never been widely used. Today, Massey Park is in the middle of a growing neighborhood. This year's budget, again from the downtown TIF, will allocate \$1 million for the redesign and reconstruction of this park so that it can better serve visitors and residents alike.

Kiley Park

For many years Kiley Park has sat neglected adjacent to one of Tampa's most distinctive buildings and Curtis Hixon Park. Problems with Kiley Park have resulted in leaks into the parking garage located beneath the park. This fiscal year we will fix the longstanding structural problems with the park and the garage, creating a new landscape that will allow it to be enjoyed by the public.