

# Downtown as a Neighborhood

Surrounded by wonderful neighborhoods, Tampa's Downtown is quickly becoming a central gathering place for all of Tampa's residents. Often referred to as Tampa's Cultural District, downtown will soon provide additional cultural and leisure opportunities for all of Tampa's residents and visitors.

## Tampa Theatre

In order to protect the future of this historic building, the city plans to acquire ownership of the Tampa Theatre lobby and two adjacent ground level spaces. The \$2 million transaction will eliminate the lease payments and the Tampa Theatre Foundation is partnering with the city by paying the closing costs.

## Riverwalk

Work continues on the Tampa Riverwalk project. During 2008, the city opened the Platt Street segment, connecting USF Park on the Riverwalk to the Tampa





Convention Center. Reflecting the public-private partnership that is supporting this 2.2 mile pedestrian-friendly walkway, the city is allocating \$210,000 to design the segment from Brorein Street to Whiting Street.

### **Cultural Arts District**

In April 2008, construction began on the new Tampa Museum of Art (TMA) as well as the new Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park. With completion slated on both projects for summer 2009, the city's \$37 million construction contract was pulled together from a variety of funding sources including CIT and Downtown Tax Increment Financing funds. In

addition to the city's contribution toward the construction of the museum, TMA is also providing \$8.3 million toward the new facility. The design of the park also provides an area for the new Glazer Children's Museum that is expected to break ground later this year.

### **Kiley Park**

Located adjacent to the new Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, Kiley Park will help create a new landscape for the downtown waterfront. The \$4.4 million project includes restoration and repair of the garage located beneath the park.