

# CHANNEL DISTRICT



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## Mayor Bob Buckhorn



The Channel District continues to grow and exemplify the best of urban living.

Skyhouse Channelside, the 23-story apartment tower adjacent to the Washington Street Park is actively leasing studio, one, two and three bedroom units. The building will open to residents later this spring.

The highly anticipated redevelopment of the former Amazon Hose and Rubber property is also on the horizon. Last year, Florida Crystals purchased the site and is moving forward with plans to construct a seven-story, 270-unit apartment complex that will be complemented by retail space.

The Madison Street improvement project was recently completed just north of Grand Central at Kennedy. With this project complete, we are ready to move forward with designing the new Madison Street Park. The new park will be a fantastic addition to the neighborhood and will become a hub of community activity.

Finally, Port Tampa Bay is advancing in its effort to create a viable

master plan for all of its property within the Channel District. Those future developments, paired with the repositioning of the Channelside Bay Plaza and the planned redevelopment of land around Amalie Arena, will create



Florida Crystals has released a rendering of the apartment complex it's planning on the Amazon Hose site. Credit: Florida Crystals

opportunities for economic growth for many years to come.

I look forward to working with you as we continue to press ahead in achieving great things in the Channel District.

Thank you,

Bob Buckhorn

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# Skyhouse Channelside Sets Summer 2015 Opening



Site work is nearing completion at Skyhouse Channelside. The 23-story apartment tower is expected to open in Summer 2015.

[Skyhouse Channelside](#), the highly anticipated new apartment tower on 12th Street in Channel District, has set a Summer 2015 opening date. Currently, approximately 25 of its 320 units have been reserved.

Units in the 23-story high-rise building have floor-to-ceiling windows that provide sweeping skyline views of downtown Tampa and waterfront views of the Port of Tampa and Harbour Island. Floor plans include studio, one-, two- and three-bedrooms units.

Skyhouse Channelside has incorporated green living aspects into the design and amenities. Units have energy-efficient Kohler and Whirlpool appliances and access to bicycle storage. Residents can participate in a bike-share program and use the TECO Line Streetcar system or walk to nearby downtown Tampa or historic Ybor City.

Currently, Skyhouse Channelside is finishing the interior build-out and installing life safety systems before the property opens this summer. The tower crane will be removed in March.

A temporary leasing office is open at 110 North 11th Street, directly across the street from the project, on Monday-Saturday. In it, view a mock kitchen, complete with cabinets, backsplash, and appliances, to get a sense for the overall interior motif and examine unit-by-unit renderings to envision each unit's view.

Details for a grand opening event will be released in the months leading up to the opening in Summer 2015. Open house events will be added soon.



Skyhouse Channelside's amenities include a rooftop deck with a saline pool, clubroom and fitness center.

## Neighborhood Association Forming

Last November, a group of friends who are Channel District business owners and residents got together to talk about their neighborhood. This informal meeting among friends evolved into the initial steps to form a neighborhood association.

The group organized their first neighborhood association meeting, co-hosted by the Tampa Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, at Stageworks Theatre in January. More than 50 Channel District residents, business owners and stakeholders attended the meeting. Those in attendance agreed they wanted to see the meetings move forward, with the overarching goal of having the ability to rebrand their unique district as an arts district and bring the arts back into focus.

The group is working with the City of Tampa's Community Partnerships and Neighborhood Engagement division to follow the process necessary to be a registered neighborhood association. This formal registration process is a helpful tool to facilitate information exchange among neighborhood groups and to encourage civic involvement. All stakeholders within the Channel District are encouraged, as one unified voice, to

provide input through the neighborhood association regarding matters involving Tampa City Council, the Channel District CRA and other City departments on the City of Tampa's plans for infrastructure, parks, transportation alternatives and recreational opportunities in the Channel District.

Residents and business owners who are interested in finding out more information can contact steering committee president, Lauren Campbell at [laurenmcapo@gmail.com](mailto:laurenmcapo@gmail.com) or steering committee member Vance Arnett at [vance.arnett@gmail.com](mailto:vance.arnett@gmail.com).

## Music in the Park

Make it a glorious evening with the Music in the Park series. These free shows are held on the second Thursday of each month from 4:30-7:00 pm.

The spring line-up includes:

- March 12 - Ray Gurka
- April 9 - Kathy McGuire
- May 14 - Henry Page
- June 11 - Glenn Colvin

## Stageworks Presents Neil Simon Comedy



Middle-aged, overweight and married restaurant owner Barney Cashman tries to join the sexual revolution before its too late in Stageworks Theatre's March 13 – 19 production of *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers*. The Neil Simon comedy follows Cashman and three women: Elaine Navazio, a promiscuous sexpot with a penchant for other women's husbands;

Bobbi Michele, a free-spirited, unemployed actress; and Jeannette Fisher, a family friend with morality on her mind. The play follows Cashman on three afternoons with three shots at living La Dolce Vita. But his gentle nature leaves the crowd roaring with laughter as his efforts to seduce the women fail.

Performances run Thursday – Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. General admission tickets for *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers* start at \$30, with a special admission rate of \$15 for a preview performance on Thursday, March 12 at 8 p.m. A flex-pass subscription for six shows during the remainder of the 2014-2015 season can be purchased for \$165.

Channel District residents are invited to enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments before select Stageworks Theatre performances as part of "Channel District Nights." The special events were funded by a Channelside District CRA grant. Dates will be announced soon.

To purchase tickets, call the box office at (813) 374-2416, visit [StageworksTheatre.org](http://StageworksTheatre.org) or email [info@StageworksTheatre.org](mailto:info@StageworksTheatre.org). To purchase a flex-pass, contact Andrea Graham at (813) 784-6832 or [graham@aol.com](mailto:graham@aol.com).

## Input Needed on Madison Street Park

The City's Parks and Recreation Department, along with Stantec Consulting Services, will soon host a series of public meetings (anticipated to start in March) to solicit input on the desired features and amenities that should be constructed in the new Madison Street Park. The park land, purchased last year with Channel District TIF funds, will be the neighborhood's third public park and will be a gathering spot and activity center for residents of Bell Channelside, Grand Central at Kennedy, Ventana, and future developments. For more information and project updates, contact Laurie Potier-Brown, City of Tampa Parks and Recreation, at 274-5137.

## New Cruise Line Serving Tampa Port

The German-based cruise line AIDA Cruises added Port Tampa Bay to their itinerary as a port of call for the cruise ship AIDAvita, which made her first port of call in December 2014 and will make a stop every 3 weeks in Tampa through April 2015. AIDA Cruises has already announced Tampa will remain as a port of call for the 2015-2016 season.



*AIDA's distinctive bow design is recognized as the most beautiful smile on the seas.* Credit: Port Tampa Bay

AIDAvita's 1,200 cruise ship passengers have the opportunity to explore Tampa Bay attractions with each stop in Tampa.

"More than six thousand German tourists will arrive into our community this winter cruise season to spend dollars at local attractions, restaurants and for taxis and transportation while they explore Tampa Bay," said Greg Lovelace, Port Tampa Bay's director of marketing and business development for cargo and cruise.

TECO Line Streetcar added three hours to its schedule to help visitors explore the area. Ridership increased by 450 percent on Jan. 28, the day that AIDAvita was in port.

Four other cruise lines continue to have cruise itineraries originate from Port Tampa Bay.

## Madison Street Improvements Complete

Dallas 1 Construction completed the Madison Street improvement project in late January. Improvements included burying the overhead power lines, utility upgrades, 19 on-street parking spaces, an enhanced shell-aggregate sidewalk, planting beds and pooch stations.

The \$1.1 million project was funded entirely by Channel District CRA tax increment revenue.

# Master Plan Coming for Key Properties

A master plan is in the works for the 47 acres of undeveloped land owned by the Tampa Port Authority in the Channel District. The area — east of Meridian Avenue along Channelside Drive — is in a prime waterfront location, surrounded by civic, sport, hospitality, entertainment and newly developed residential neighborhoods.

The area is poised to undergo a major transformation during the next decade. Port Tampa Bay's master plan, along with Tampa Bay Lightning owner Jeff Vinik's billion-dollar "Vision Plan" to the west of Meridian Avenue, has the unique opportunity to create a link between downtown Tampa and historic Ybor City.

Port Tampa Bay hired internationally recognized architecture and engineering firm, Bermello Ajamil & Partners, in 2013 to create a master plan for these underutilized assets. The firm has been working closely with Port Tampa Bay and the City of Tampa to develop the plans, and gathered ideas and input from Channel District residents and business owners during community meetings last year.

"The master plan will balance the needs of the community with those of the maritime community," said Luis Ajamil, principal of Bermello, Ajamil & Partners, Inc. "We want to continue to make Channel District a cool place to live and enjoy."

The plan is expected to be completed and approved by Port Tampa Bay in Fall 2015.

## Connecting the District

A neighborhood improvement project is underway at the southwestern corner of 11th and Washington Streets. A short segment of sidewalk was recently constructed and the City's Parks and Recreation Department will soon be replacing the oleander and installing a new irrigation system. The new sidewalk is part of a neighborhood goal of establishing that at least one side of each street in the district is served by a continuous sidewalk from end-to-end.

## Important Phone Numbers

### Police

District III Crime Prevention Team

Officer Jarda Bradford  
(813) 242-3859

Community Service Officer  
Kinnette Scallo  
(813) 242-3867

Non-Emergency Dispatch  
(813) 231-6130

### Fire

Information - (813) 232-6800

### Code Enforcement

(813) 274-5545

### Comments or Concerns

Michael Hatchett  
Urban Development Manager  
(813) 274-8812  
[Michael.Hatchett@TampaGov.net](mailto:Michael.Hatchett@TampaGov.net)

Economic & Urban Development Department, 306 East Jackson Street, Floor 2N, Tampa, Florida 33602

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## Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

## Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board

Frank Reddick, *Chairperson*

Yvonne Yolie Capin, *Vice-Chairperson*

Harry Cohen

Charlie Miranda

Lisa J. Montelione

Mary Mulhern

Mike Suarez

The CRA Board meets the second Thursday of each month. Everyone is welcome.

**Location:** Tampa City Council  
Chambers, City Hall  
315 East Kennedy Boulevard

**Time:** 9:00 am

**March 12, April 9, May 14**

## Community Advisory Committee

Abbey Dohring Ahern, *Chairperson*

Vance Arnett

Ed Busansky

Lauren Marie Campbell

Jason Carroll

James Englert

Katherine O'Donniley

Kevin Riley

The Community Advisory Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month. Everyone is welcome.

**Location:** Florida Aquarium,  
701 Channelside Drive

**Time:** 5:30 pm

**March 4, April 1, May 6**