

Summarized Questions and Responses from Sasaki April 17-19 Visit

Topic	Questions	Response
Access	Will access be free of charge? Please?	Access to the park will be free of charge, with a possible exception of occasional special events.
Access	My concern is one's cost visiting the area. It has been mentioned several times this afternoon that the community wants plenty of restaurants. How do you make sure these eateries will be affordable and not all high end? It is important to have a walking area like Island Park that doesn't cost anything. Is this possible?	Yes, access to the park will be free of charge. The desire will be to have a mix of restaurants/cafes at different price points.
Access	How high are walkways over 41? Enclosed?	Walkways will meet minimum clearances required by FDOT. Also, they will likely be open.
Access	Will the general non paying public have access to the sound of music? Check out the Oslo Opera House. Used by the general public, not just those that can afford the expensive tickets	The early thinking is there will be ticketed events inside venues, and at times a mix of ticketed and free events in the park. Most days, the park and its amenities will be free for access.
Air space	How tall can buildings be on site? Will they block the view?	The building heights can be 45' above FEMA finish floor (FF), plus up to 2 cultural venues at 90' above FEMA FF.
Air space	What is the planned height of the tallest structure to be part of the process?	Structures will meet the required 45' above FEMA FF maximum, plus up to 2 cultural venues at 90' above FEMA FF.
Amphitheater	Will the outdoor performing space (amphitheater) be shared/covered? Please consider this.	Will do. No design has been prepared yet.
Art Center	What happens to the Art Center?	The Art Center is working on plans to expand on site.
Ballet	The orchestra and VW is always mentioned. What about our greatest cultural gem/treasure the Sarasota Ballet?	While the Sarasota Ballet is currently off site, SBPO is coordinating with them to understand their future plans.
Ballet	Has the Sarasota Ballet been considered in the planning? If not, why not?	Yes! SBPO is coordinating with them to understand their future plans.
Ballet	How will you include the Ballet?	Same as above.
Bay health	What happens to the water intake for the sewage treatment plant?	The City plans to decommission it in the future.
Belle Haven	Is Belle Haven being considered on the site? Other Sarasota parks benefitting from this arrangement is Urfer Family Park, which includes Wilson House and Phillipi Creek which includes a home connected to B. Palmer.	The Quay project currently has a development agreement to restore the Belle Haven and retain it on site.
Boating	How do design concepts impact of enhance the experience for boaters?	SBPO is currently working with local boater organizations and individuals to envision an even better boat destination at The Bay.
Boating	Are you making provision for boaters to come to events and restaurants?	Yes, SBPO envisions day docks as a part of the master plan.
Boating	Centennial Park was designed to serve the boating public. If that is further decimated, what will be the impact on the boating industry overall.	Appreciate concerns shared by the boating community. In fact, SBPO is currently working with local boater organizations and individuals to envision an even better boat destination at The Bay.
Boating	Your boat survey was only 3 weeks during construction so underestimates use. How can you.	Same as above.

Questions from Herald Tribune Community Forum
April 18, 2018

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Boating	Re Bridge the Divide #2. Boat noise and "donzies".	Boat noise as an issue was expressed by several attendees at our workshops, and is being considered by the Sasaki team.
Boating	On Plan 3 Village and Island. Whose the unlucky loser to be positioned close to the Boat Ramp? The noise level is incredible- power boats, etc.	Same as above.
Buildings on 41	Why is it assumed that the buildings currently on Tamiami Trail being left as is?	Several of the 5 buildings along US 41 are on the Historic Register and are envisioned as a part of a local historic and cultural district.
Collaboration	Is there any coordination of collaboration with the developers of the Quay property, as well as FDOT and the proposed roundabouts at 14th St., 10th St. and Blvd. of the Arts.	Yes! SBPO is coordinating with them to understand their future plans.
Concept	In the Shift the Horizon model is there a floating performance barge positioned between the two arms that reach out into the bay?	Yes, however that idea resonated less than other ideas, so it will likely not be in the final master plan. The idea could still be deployed on a temporary basis for special events in the future.
Connectivity	What, if anything, has been discussed and/or done with regard to connecting the Bay project to Whitiker Gateway Park along the waterfront in front of FPL Power Installation and the Sara Bay Club?	Enhancing connectivity North and South was raised by a majority of workshop attendees. SBPO will continue coordinating with the City and our neighbors regarding the best way(s) to achieve that.
Costs	What are the ballpark capital construction cost ranges for each option?	Estimated costs and funding options will be provided over the next few months as we get closer to one concept.
Costs	What is the cost projection for the proposal? Pick one	See answer above.
Engagement	Are you listening to citizens who live in the county or only to those who live in the city? Based on request for zip codes, is that request used to eliminate county residents?	All attendees are being listened to, and their input valued.
Environment	Given sea level rise and the high degree of likelihood of hurricane activity, which of the three options is most resilient to these forces of nature? Short and Long Term?	All concepts consider sea level rise as an important issue, and the final master plan will address the issue as well.
Environment	What consideration and mandate is part of the design that will ensure no degradation to the health of the bay, which is already stressed?	Our project is expected to improve water quality of the bay near our site, as most of the site stormwater currently drains untreated directly into the bay. Our project envisions utilizing many state of the art stormwater quality techniques as a part of project implementation.
Environment	Why was the NOAA 2017 moderate to aggressive sea level rise used instead of the more accepted/lower models and what is the impact on costs/elevations (noaa 2017 aggressive has methodology issues).	That is the assumption the City adopted in their Climate Adaptation Plan, and our independent consultant believes that is an appropriate baseline assumption.
Environment	How do you cope with flooding with depressed roadways or parking facilities?	There are many engineering solutions to address this issue. Our engineering consultant will be outlining more details in the future.
Environment	How will you allow for normal roadway flooding when it rains in the "Shift the Horizon" road underpass?	There are engineering solutions to this issue, however, that connectivity solution was not selected to advance forward based upon community feedback.

Questions from Herald Tribune Community Forum
April 18, 2018

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Environment	Water level rise will be 8-12" in 30 years. FEMA standards -does this plan accommodate this rise?	Yes, sea level rise is among the environmental issues being incorporated into our design.
Environment	Option 1- Consult with Mote? What will effects on longshore current tidal exchange be?	Thank you for expressing the issue. The Sasaki team includes a coastal consultant who will consider that issue.
Environment	Fetch from New Pass= plus or minus 1 mile- has that been considered?	See answer above.
Environment	Village and Island concept- any study of sediment deposing and a need for repeated maintenance and dredging.	That was an issue that was considered, however, that design solution was not selected to advance forward based on community input.
Environment	Swimming hole?	That design idea was not selected to advance forward based on community input.
Environment	How about sea level rise and how would tides be affected?	All concepts consider sea level rise as an important issue, and the final master plan will address the issue as well.
Environment	#3 idea- mangroves and wetlands need to be preserved	Our design team is aspiring to improve the environmental quality of our site using many state of the art design techniques, and reducing site impervious coverage.
Environment	Will all energy supplied to this new project be clean energy?	Our design team will be considering US Green Building Council (USGBC) standards and other design techniques during the implementation phase of the project.
Environment	Clean energy using solar and wind is rapidly becoming our future...what are the planners doing to incorporate full use of clean energy in the concept? Will solar panels and/or solar shingles be planned for. Eventual complete sources of energy needs?	See answer above.
Ferry	Has any considersation been given to providing a water taxi ferry to Longboat to relieve traffic on St Armands bridge?	Yes! Our team has been in contact with the ferry operator who is proposing a ferry to/from this site.
Financing	What is the financing plan?	More funding and cost details will be presented in the next few months as we are moving toward 1 concept plan.
Financing	Why is no one mentioning the TAX impact for Sarasota residents both from tax and bonds. Yes, you don't have a final plan but ballpark is possible. Don't surprise the citizens	See answer above.
Financing	To what extent does this project depend on private investment by commercial developers?	This project will not include large commercial or residential development. We are anticipating several food/beverage venues as that was among the top 3 desired items by the community.
Financing	How much and where will it come from?	More funding and cost details will be presented in the next few months as we are moving toward 1 concept plan.
Financing	Where is the money coming from?	See answer above.
Financing	Is there a plan for funding an endowment to support programming and maintenance on the halls?	More funding and cost details will be presented in the next few months as we are moving toward 1 concept plan. Maintenance and activation costs are definitely being considered as a part of our financial recommendations.

Questions from Herald Tribune Community Forum
April 18, 2018

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Food	On plans A and C why are food buildings located in rather undesirable area. Why not orient on water? Plan B- canal district is best option for this but could be even better.	Thank you for your feedback. Our design team is evaluating better water orientation for some of the venues.
Garden Club	What happens to Garden Club?	SBPO and the Sasaki team are recommending that the Garden Club remain in place on site.
General	Tell us how this project benefits the community more than the designers, developers and owners? You cannot improve on nature. We have seen too much development, crowding and traffic here. Show me how this wont just be more of that. Please admit if it is true, that the idea behind this is for a few people to make a lot of money.	Environmental sustainability is a guiding principle of the design. This project is incorporating substantial community feedback, and the 30+ acres of parking lot will be largely replaced with a public park and other related amenities.
General	My personal priorities in order are: shade and benches, parking, pedestrian crossing, safe, convenient, quality acoustics for orchestra, water views. I like #1, #3, #2.	Thank you for your feedback!
General	The Jefferson Center at Rt 41 and 10th St has over 200 limited income elderly tenants. How will their facility be changed or affected by this bayfront development?	They are outside our study area, although we will be improving connectivity across US 41.
General	Who owns the land the Quay was on? Is there any part of that land is public?	No, and they are outside our study area.
General	Has a bridge been considered to the area to LBK?	No, it is not currently under consideration.
General	I would like to see Pioneer Park at 41 and 12th St included in the process	Pioneer Park is outside our study area, but we are considering a connection point over US 41 to the park.
General	Is/will there be a 3D interactive application for residents to experience the 3 options at eye level?	Not yet, but 3D studies may be included in the future.
General	How will the final architects be chosen?	Final design consultants or process for selection has not been determined yet, but will likely be through an RFP process.
Gwiz	What happens to Gwiz?	The old Gwiz building is not currently incorporated into the 50 year master plan vision, and the City will ultimately decide its near term future.
Gwiz	What are the plans for the GWiz? Why not for Gwiz to be included in project?	See answer above.
Gwiz	Please can you address the fate of the (?) first Selby Library (Gwiz) beyond "the trace" project	See answer above.
Gwiz	Why did the city of Sarasota accept demolition bids for the former Gwiz building in 2016?	That decision was outside of our current master plan process.
Lawn Bowling	What happens to Lawn Bowling?	Lawn Bowling Club leadership and the City are currently in discussion about their future, with a goal of helping them become financially sustainable into the future.

Questions from Herald Tribune Community Forum
April 18, 2018

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Lawn Bowling	All 3 proposals have eliminated the SLBC which has been in place for over 70 years. The SLBC sent Sasaki a plan to replace our clubhouse with a new 2 story structure that would house the club and on the 2nd floor, a restaurant for viewing the greens and the bay. Why was our proposal ignored in all 3 plans.	See answer above.
Maintenance	After ok of plans who in city maintains?	Future governance and maintenance will be included in SBPO recommendations in the coming months.
Maintenance	Maintenance will obviously be expensive. Which of the 3 schemes will be least costly to taxpayers? Will this be the responsibility of the city county or state?	See answer above.
Orchestra	What happens to Orchestra?	SBPO is currently coordinating with the Sarasota Orchestra regarding their future plans.
Orchestra	Is the Orchestra planning on being a part of the Bay, or are they moving?	SBPO is currently coordinating with the Sarasota Orchestra regarding their future plans.
Performing Arts Hall	Have you or will you consider moving the PAC off the site?	The Van Wezel Management and Foundation has expressed a desire to remain on The Bay property.
Performing Arts Hall	What about the idea of moving the VW and Symphony inland? This would make the land into a more recreational venue	The Van Wezel Management and Foundation has expressed a desire to remain on The Bay property.
Performing Arts Hall	How many seats in the performance venue(s)?	The Van Wezel Management and Foundation will be releasing their recommendations in the next few weeks.
Performing Arts Hall	Have you given any thought to moving the halls offsite?	The Van Wezel Management and Foundation has expressed a desire to remain on The Bay property.
Performing Arts Hall	Will the public have input into the design of the cultural facilities that will be built specifically, the size of the auditorium themselves? Sarasota needs another 1000 seat plus 500 seat theater.	The Van Wezel Management and Foundation will be releasing their recommendations in the next few weeks. SBPO has been coordinating with many other local arts groups about their needs and desires for The Bay site as well.
Performing Arts Hall	Why can't we have one performance venue?	The Van Wezel Management and Foundation will be releasing their recommendations in the next few weeks. SBPO has been coordinating with many additional local arts groups about their needs and desires for The Bay site as well. These organizations are recommending a 3-4 venue new performing arts center to sustain our community for the next 50+ years.
Performing Arts Hall	Does the Sarasota Orchestra want a new separate venue or combined with the VW?	SBPO is currently coordinating with the Sarasota Orchestra regarding their future plans.
Performing Arts Hall	In schemes 2 and 3, two performing arts centers were proposed. What are the total # of seats? I believe that the site is not large enough to accommodate 3500-4000 patrons at once.	The Bay master plan envisions a multi-venue performing arts center, based upon Van Wezel, Sarasota Orchestra, and other organizations' feedback. For example, the Straz in Tampa, along with arts museums, parking, and Curtis Hixon Park are on 23 acres. The Bay is 53 acres.
Parking	Have you considered moving some, if not all of the parking offsite and using shuttles to ease the impact of traffic on the site directly?	Yes, our team believes we need to retain 1,800 spaces on site, with remote overflow parking in the Rosemary District and possibly at The Quay.

Questions from Herald Tribune Community Forum
April 18, 2018

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Parking	Will parking be free or part of the ticket price- like at the VW now. Same for both VW and Orchestra?	Those details have not been determined yet.
Parking	One of more of the plans has underground parking. Won't it flood- "yes, but parking can deal with it"	The "underground" parking would actually be built on existing grade at elevation 6 or 7, and go up from there. On top, the park would be approximately elevation 30. It will also be designed to be resilient to flooding.
Parking	Why would you provide 1 or 2 parking structures on Blvd of the Arts. It is only a 2 lane road and will get a lot of traffic when the Quay is built.	We heard this concern from several in the community, and will likely not recommend a garage on Blvd. of the Arts.
Phasing	What is the estimate of timing to complete the project? Will parts of the area be enjoyed before it is completed?	This project will likely take 10-15 years to fully complete, but we will have more detail in the next few months about a first phase that could perhaps be complete within a few years.
Phasing	What is the estimated completion date?	See answer above.
Roads	How do these underground roads and parking garages work with the FL watertable, especially in a waterfront context and from an engineering perspective?	The "underground" parking would actually be built on existing grade at elevation 6 or 7, and go up from there. On top, the park would be approximately elevation 30. It will also be designed to be resilient to flooding.
Sarasota Art Center	What happens to art center?	The Art Center is working on plans to expand on site. Their expansion plans could potentially occur within the first or second phase of the project.
Sasaki	have done anything like this before? Where?	Many communities in the US have done large urban parks, and arts/cultural districts. Smale Riverfront Park in Cincinnati, and Klyde Warren Park in the Dallas Arts District are 2 good examples. Sasaki was involved in part on both of those projects.
Sasaki	What projects around the country might we recognize that Sasaki has done?	See answer above.
Site	Are there any plans for small performing space for local artists to play and entertain visitors? Gazebo sized? Ir jazz trio, or guitar, magician?	The master plan definitely envisions opportunities in the park for performances on that scale.
Site	View of the bay from the road is a treasure here- looks as if you are blocking it	Our team has heard this concern and is working on preserving/enhancing views of the bay.
Site	Beyond the VW and the Sarasota Orchestra, what other cultural organizations might become tenants on the site?	It is early to know for sure, but our team has had many meetings with arts groups and organizations in our community interested in being a part of the project. For this reason, our plan accomodates a 3-4 venue performing arts center with venues of different sizes.
Site	Are you considering an iconic permanent art structure similar but less elaborate than the BEAN. (??Amish Kafor??) design in Chicago. It is world renoun and attracts young, old. Its impact our lives the (?) of viewers	Our master plan definitely envisions large and small art installations throughout the site.

Questions from Herald Tribune Community Forum
April 18, 2018

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Site	Why have there been no studies to repurpose the former Selby Library/Gwiz building and the Van Wezel?	We heard this concern about the Van Wezel from several in the community, and the Sasaki team is studying sustainable ways to retain the building in the future once a new performing arts center opens. There has been much less interest in the community on preserving the G Wiz, and there is currently no tenant in the building. The City will ultimately decide what to do with both buildings.
Site	What will happen to the pond at Blvd of the Arts and 41 at the Garden Club, which is a certified wildlife sanctuary with a varied wildlife population?	The master plan envisions retaining the existing pond. Minor reshaping may be required to accommodate a roundabout at Blvd of the Arts.
Site	What support will be available for those cultural organizations which are current tenants of some of the bayfront to adapt to the dramatic changes that will occur around them with bayfront development?	All the organizations on site are responsible for developing a plan for a sustainable future for their organizations. SBPO is coordinating with all, based on feedback on each organization's future plans, for incorporation in the master plan or a future facility off site.
Site	Centennial Park is toxic- it was prevented from being developed when the current ramp and parking was created. How do you plan to build on it?	Our team has built many park projects on land with environmental issues. Any issues encountered will be addressed as a part of the implementation phase.
Site	Miles of walking and hiking trails/ways?	Many miles of trails and sidewalks are envisioned as a part of the master plan.
Site	Don't like commercial use - want more of an exclusive outdoor park feel.	Thank you for sharing your thoughts.
Site	What about waterfront dining? Nobody is going to walk when Sarasota doesn't know how to build safe sidewalks. No space between walkers and cars.	Waterfront dining venues are being considered as a part of the master plan.
Site	Will the auditorium be taken down.	The team anticipates recommending to the City that the Auditorium be retained as part of the cultural historic district envisioned for the site.
Site	#2 idea- better amount of green space	Thank you for sharing your thoughts.
Site	Is there a consideration of including tennis courts in the area? They could be included as part of a public park offering	The master plan does not currently envision tennis courts as the City has a large tennis facility nearby at Payne Park.
Site	What will happen to Gwiz, Van Wezel, Garden Club and Community Center?	The Garden Club is envisioned to remain as a part of the cultural historic district on site. Additionally, we heard a concern about the Van Wezel from several in the community, so the SBPO directed the Sasaki team to study sustainable ways to retain the building in the future once a new performing arts center opens. There has been much less interest in the community on preserving the G Wiz, and there is currently no tenant in the building. The City will ultimately decide what to do with both buildings..
Site	Will there be a restaurant on site especially a boating eatery?	The master plan envisions several restaurant/café venues on site, including several in close proximity to expanded boating areas.
Site	Given the interest shown in the surveys for outside music, what options have you considered? E.G. a Carillon?	Our team has envisioned a number of different ideas for outdoor music on site, and more detail will be provided in the next few months.

Questions from Herald Tribune Community Forum
April 18, 2018

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Traffic	What is impact of underpass on 41? Gridlock?	While the underpass/overpass idea received a lot of community support, the logistics of integrating it in between the roundabouts is challenging. Therefore, the team is proceeding with multiple overpasses similar to those shown in concept #2.
Traffic	What is the coordination of roundabouts with FDOT?	SBPO and the team's transportation consultants are in close coordination with FDOT.
Traffic	Won't the proposal to shrink US 41 a major arterial road, into a narrow lane, perhaps meandering under the frontage of the Municipal Auditorium, create even more traffic gridlock?	US 41 is a state road, and there are no plans to reduce the capacity on the roadway adjacent to our site.
Traffic	Can you explain the access points across US41 in each scenario. Which scenario has the best access and most access points over 41?	The 3 concepts contemplated at grade, multiple overpass, and underpass/overpass options to move east/west across US 41. Based upon community feedback, the team is proceeding with multiple overpasses across US 41.
Traffic	Rt 41 traffic during season. Could Mr. Barwin comment on how plans to improve traffic flow on Rt41 are being factored into the ingress/egress of Bayfront	FDOT is implementing multiple roundabouts to reduce congestion on US 41, which is not a part of our project. Our team is recommending multiple overpasses over the road for pedestrians, bikes, and possibly small iRide type vehicle, to further reduce congestion along US 41.
Transportation	Public transportation is an issues. Have discussions taken place on SCAT access? For example, I live south of site and would not consider SCAT bus for a concert cuz I need to transfer at a hub. Why not a bus up and down 41? I'd use it	The transportation team is considering multiple options for public transportation, including rubber tire vehicles, (iRide, etc.), ride share, and boat taxis.
Transportation	Please expand on how the Bayfront will unlock the potential of turning 10th street into a new urban throughfare.	10th will continue provide access to our site, but may also provide access to a calmed park multi-modal roadway.
Venue	Do any of the designs incorporate a wedding venue?	The final master plan will definitely include venues for weddings.
Van Wezel	What happens to VW? Why demolish?	Initial community and stakeholder input led to consideration of replacement of the Van Wezel with a new performing arts facility, and honoring the existing building in some way, (ie an artist interpretation or "trace"). Based upon community feedback in April, SBPO directed the Sasaki team to instead consider ideas for repurposing the VW building in a sustainable way, in addition to providing a new multi-venue performing arts center for the next 50+ years. These ideas will be presented in May and June for additional community feedback.
Van Wezel	What is VW trace?	See answer above.
Van Wezel	When you say Van Wezel trace, does that mean you will retain the exterior of the current VW architecture?	See answer above.
Van Wezel	If you are seeking public input, why do all three of the schemes demolish the VW, giving the public no choice on that?	See answer above.
Van Wezel	Explain 21st century VW trace	See answer above.
Van Wezel	Please can you address the fate of the Tausin Architects building (VW)	See answer above.

Questions from Herald Tribune Community Forum
April 18, 2018

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Van Wezel	Is the VW trace keeping the original VW shell?	See answer above.
Van Wezel	I understand from Sasaki consultants that flooding the Van Wezel is a code problem in the basement, so if the basement was sealed off, why can't the Van Wezel be combined with a reduced size new building for a great performing arts facility?	A new performing arts center is recommended to be at a much higher finish floor than the existing building, at around elevation 18, to make it more resilient for the next 50-75 years.
Van Wezel	Presumably the virtue of keeping VW is its exterior. If so, why not leave the exterior alone, gut the interior, and make it into a more modest sized auditorium with the latest in interior design- acoustics, seating, internal access, lavatories, etc?	Initial community and stakeholder input led to consideration of replacement of the Van Wezel with a new performing arts facility, and honoring the existing building in some way, (ie an artist interpretation or "trace"). Based upon community feedback in April, SBPO directed the Sasaki team to instead consider ideas for repurposing the VW building in a sustainable way, in addition to providing a new multi-venue performing arts center for the next 50+ years. These ideas will be presented in May and June for additional community feedback.
Van Wezel	Why are you considering tearing down the most iconic building in Sarasota?	See answer above.