

From the beginning, the Sarasota Bayfront Planning Organization and the Bay Park Conservancy (BPC) have worked closely as partners with neighbors on the 53-acre city-owned site on Sarasota Bay.

No entity is more important to the current success of the site or the future design and plan of the Bay Park than the Performing Arts Center.

The current Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall (VWH) is far and away the most frequently attended facility on the site.

Each year, the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall serves more than 240,000 people through its programming in the Hall and on the South Lawn adjacent to the Bay. This includes serving:

- 30,000 students through its Education & Community Engagement programming sponsored, in part, through the Van Wezel Foundation;
- More than 7,000 patrons who attend Friday Fest, and other special events which use the lawn (e.g., weddings, proms and graduations); and,
- 65,000 patrons who attend partners' performances – including, the Sarasota Orchestra, Sarasota Ballet, Ringling College Library Association Town Hall Lecture Series, Sarasota Concert Association, etc.

The future Bay Park will feature a new Sarasota Performing Arts Center as its main cultural and arts venue located near 10th Street and North Tamiami Trail.

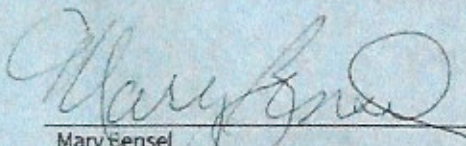
Every step along the way in the design and planning for the Bay Park, Bay Park Conservancy management (Bill Waddill and AG Lafley) have worked collaboratively with the current Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall Executive Director (Mary Bense) and the Van Wezel Foundation CEO (Cheryl Mendelson).

In particular, the BPC and the VWH have worked very closely together on the design and plan for the first phase of the park which is adjacent to the South Lawn of the Hall. This collaborative effort helped lead to the City Commission's approval of Phase 1 of the Bay Park. As a result, the Hall continues to support the Bay's plans.

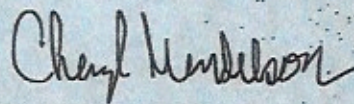
Both the Mangrove Bayou Walkway and the Sunset Boardwalk have been designed, located and planned to minimize environmental impact and promote sustainability of the bay, the shoreline, the mangroves, bayou, and associated wildlife... and optimize the continuing, smooth operations of the current Performing Arts Hall until the new Performing Arts Center is up and running.

The current design and plan for Phase 1 of the Park accomplishes both objectives and success criteria to the expectations and satisfaction of all partners.

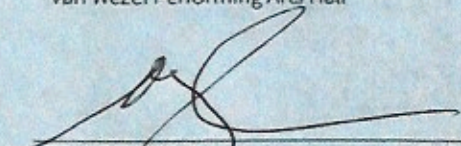
We look forward to continuing to work closely together to create a Bay Park with a new world-class Performing Arts Center that is open and accessible to the Sarasota community.



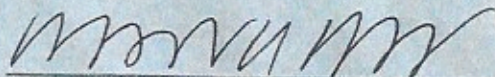
Mary Bense
Executive Director
Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall



Cheryl Mendelson
Chief Executive Officer
Van Wezel Foundation



AG Lafley
Founding Chief Executive Officer
Bay Park Conservancy



Bill Waddill
Chief Implementation Officer
Bay Park Conservancy

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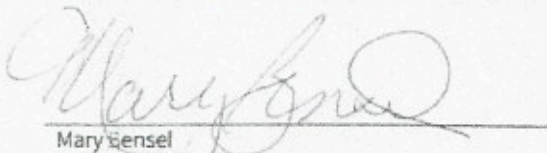
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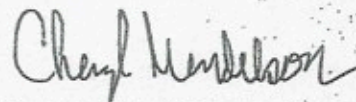
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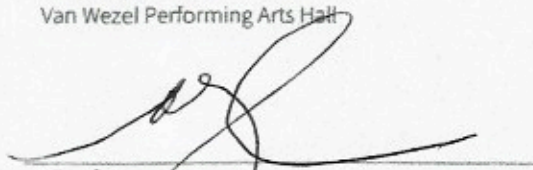
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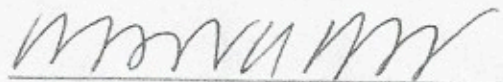
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