



News Release
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CITY AWARDED \$500,000 HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT FOR MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

Sarasota, FL: The City of Sarasota was awarded a significant historic preservation grant by the State of Florida for planned capital improvements to the Municipal Auditorium, 801 North Tamiami Trail, to maintain the historic integrity of this community treasure.

A \$500,000 grant was awarded by the Department of State – Division of Historical Resources for a Special Category Historical Preservation Grant. The grant requires a \$279,000 match by the City, bringing the total project cost to \$779,000.

The grant will cover the following costs: restoration of 18 windows, new exterior metal doors, rehabilitation of the existing restrooms, reconstructing four flat roofs, repairing existing water damage and waterproofing the glass block.

“With over 1,720 Historic Places listed in the Florida National Register and 50 applications being submitted for this cycle of funding alone, this award is significant in that the Municipal Auditorium award represents the top one percent in Florida as a building of historical significance,” said Laura Wittenbauer, City of Sarasota Grants Coordinator. “The funding will rehabilitate and restore this unique and celebrated gem of Sarasota, thus allowing many generations the ability to enjoy and embrace this historic treasure for years to come.”



The required grant application was lengthy -- 21 pages. An additional 100 pages of supporting documents were compiled and submitted by Ms. Wittenbauer in coordination with Debbie Perez, Municipal Auditorium Manager.

“Applying for a grant of this magnitude is a major undertaking,” said City Manager Tom Barwin. “The City Commission supported the creation of a grants coordinator staff

position just over year ago, so the City could be competitive with these kinds of grant applications. That foresight is paying off. Securing a \$500,000 grant is significant and we're very pleased with this successful grant writing effort."

Renovation to the Municipal Auditorium is expected to begin as soon as July 2016.

Built in 1938 as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Work Progress Administration, the Municipal Auditorium is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. Over the years, it has hosted the Florida West Coast Symphony, the Miss Florida Pageant, high school proms, and a variety of concerts. Now it has become a popular venue for trade shows and exhibits. Throughout it all, the original Art Deco design has been maintained, and with the help of this grant will continue to be for generations to come.



For more information, contact [Laura Wittenbauer](#), Grants Coordinator: 941-365-2200 ext. 4285.

-30-

About the City of Sarasota: Distinguished by Google as a Digital Capital in the U.S., the City of Sarasota is a diverse community located on Florida's Suncoast with 53,000 year round residents, several internationally recognized cultural arts venues, stunning sunsets along Lido Beach, a 45-hole municipal golf course at the historic Bobby Jones Golf Club, and Major League spring training baseball with the Baltimore Orioles. Learn more about us at www.SarasotaGov.com

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