

Fort Myers Downtown Redevelopment Information

Updated November 20, 2014

Downtown amenities:

- Downtown is a dining and special events destination:
 - 52 Restaurants, Lounges & Nightclubs
 - 42 Retail Shops
 - 23 Art Galleries & Cultural Attractions
 - Includes Florida Repertory Theatre, who is “One of America’s Top Repertory Companies” according to the *Wall Street Journal*
 - Florida Arts, Inc., the non-profit that leases the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, performing and visual arts venue
- Weekly Farmers’ Market
- 75 Special Events held annually, with an average attendance ranging from 500-55,000 participants for each event

Location/Economy:

- Over 98% of the 1,200 downtown residential units completed during the real estate boom have been acquired
- Downtown is a national historic district and is located adjacent to two other historic districts
- Downtown is located adjacent to the Edison-Ford Winter Estates, which averages 225,000 visitors per year
- Downtown is located adjacent to the Butterfly Estates
- A \$20 million library, opened in January 2014 and located in the Downtown, averages over 500,000 patrons per year

Streetscape:

- \$54 million, 54-block utility replacement and streetscape project
- Spurred a dramatic rise in pedestrian and vehicular traffic
- 56 new restaurant and retail businesses have opened since project’s completion
- Maintained the historic integrity of downtown and supported a green construction initiative by reusing bricks from the 1920s on the main roadways
- Award winning project—Streetscape has won 7 awards on both the national and international level

River Basin:

- Created 1,200 linear feet of additional waterfront property for hotel, restaurants and retail development
- Basin is an additional, new focal point for social activities and special events
- Provides stormwater mitigation for 15 acres of riverfront property, including new hotel and restaurant pads
- Project completed without incurring new debt
- Ties the waterfront into the downtown historic district

- Symbolically returned a portion of the river back to its original location

New development

- Ground lease signed with *Western National* to develop a 225+ guest room Sheraton, full-service hotel and 210+ parking spot parking garage.
- Hotel will be managed by Sheraton staff, who will also oversee the Harborside Event Center