

Summer Newsletter

AUGUST 2019

Try This On for Sustainability: Porous Sidewalks and Grass-Covered Roofs

A parking garage beneath a sand-covered dike. Porous sidewalks with dirt beneath to absorb water. Roofs covered in vegetation. An urban “bathtub” that doubles as a concert venue and holding tank for stormwater.



Photo courtesy of Henk Ovink

Porous sidewalks are a growing trend in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

These are a few of the examples of sustainable development that international resiliency expert Henk Ovink shared in a recent lecture co-sponsored by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. Planners, government officials, developers, students and the media gathered May 22 to hear the native of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which has been dealing with flooding for centuries.

He applauded the establishment of the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition, saying long-term planning is key to combating natural disasters and sea level rise. The Coalition plans to develop a regional resiliency action plan next year that will recommend best practices for local governments.

Visit the Planning Council’s website www.tbrpc.org to read more about the session and click on a link to coverage in the Tampa Bay Times.

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Ingenuity and Cooperation Take Center Stage at Future of the Region Awards

Achievements in resource planning, innovation and regionalism were honored at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's 27th annual Future of the Region Awards on April 26.

Victor Crist, who has served in government for more than 30 years as an elected official as well as on numerous regional boards, was awarded with the Herman W. Goldner Award for Regional Leadership.

The One Bay McIntosh Award was given to Tom and Mary James, Harvard Jolly Architecture, Yann Weymouth and Wannemacher Jensen Architects for the James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art. The Jameses established the museum to house their extensive collection of western art. It was designed by Harvard Jolly, Weymouth and Wannemacher Jensen.

The following were also recognized for innovative projects and programs:

Built Environment: Capitol Theatre, City of Clearwater; Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park, City of Tampa; Seminole City Center, NADQ/Primerica Group One.

Community Preparedness and Resiliency: USF-Dunedin Community partnership; Manatee County EMS Raptor; Pinellas County Sea Level Rise Planning Tool.

Community Service: LiveWell Dunedin, Dunedin Parks & Recreation; Largo's Library in Your Neighborhood Bookmobile; Move Safe Pinellas, Pinellas Public Works.

Economy and Energy: Big Bend Channel Deepening and Widening, Port Tampa Bay; Creating Together Bradenton, City of Bradenton and Realize Bradenton; Hillsborough County Economic Development Veterans Florida Agriculture Program, in partnership with UF/IFAS Research and Education Centers.

Natural Environment: Waterfront Park, City of Safety Harbor; Gulf Coast Oyster Recycle & Renewal Program, Solutions to Avoid Red Tide; Old Tampa Bay Water Quality Improvement Project, Florida Department of Transportation.

Transportation and Mobility: Big Bend Road Preliminary Land Use and Transportation Study, Hillsborough County Public Works; Planes, Trains, & Buses, Hillsborough County Aviation Authority; Cross Bay Ferry, City of St. Petersburg.

Visit the Planning Council's website www.tbrpc.org to click on a link to coverage and photos in the St. Petersburg Catalyst.

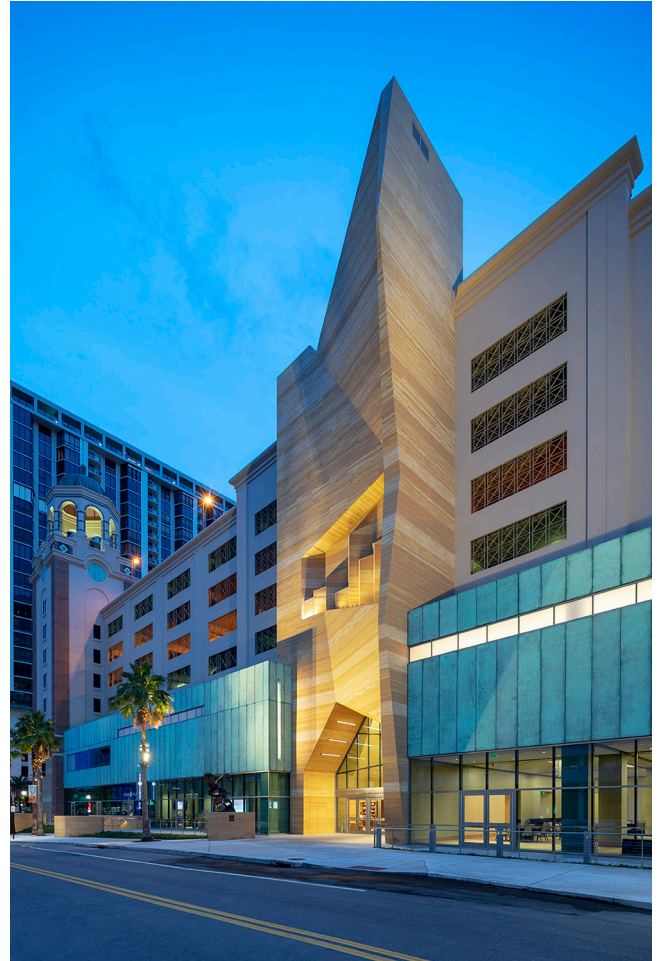


Photo courtesy Harvard Jolly Architecture

The team behind the James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art was honored for its innovation.

Government Planners Get a Harvard Education

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council hosted an all-day Climate Finance Workshop focused on resilience and mitigation for sea level rise. Government planners from throughout west-central Florida packed the Council’s Pinellas Park office for a variety of speakers on May 1.

A top priority of the recently formed Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition is increasing local governments’ capacity to support mitigation and adaption efforts.

John Macomber, Senior Lecturer at Harvard Business School, told the crowd that governments planning infrastructure need to start thinking like banks and insurance companies and make decisions based on probabilities and possibilities. Laura O’Connell of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government led a session on Methodologies for Financing Resilience. Chubb Insurance discussed Reducing Insurance Risks Along Vulnerable Coastlines.

The Nature Conservancy partnered with the Planning Council to sponsor the day of important discussions.

To read more about the workshop and click on a link to coverage in the Tampa Bay Times, visit the Planning Council’s website www.tbrpc.org.

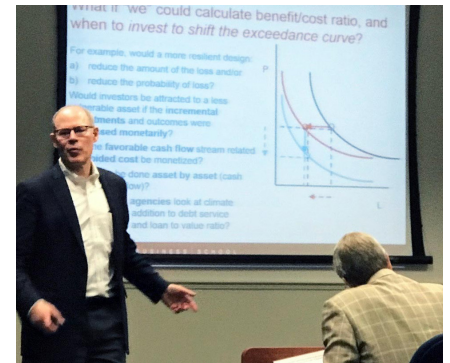


Photo courtesy; Katherine Snow Smith, B2 Communications

John Macomber of Harvard Business School discussed the costs associated with preparing for disaster at a resiliency workshop.

About the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council works with Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco and Pinellas counties and 21 west-central Florida municipalities to assist the municipalities as they make long-range plans related to the future of the Tampa Bay region. It is chaired by Ronald E. Kitchen, Jr., Citrus County Commissioner. The vice chair is Bradenton City Councilman Patrick Roff and Secretary Treasurer is Seminole City Councilor Bob Matthews.



Disaster Planning Guides Help Thousands of Residents Prepare for Hurricane Season

Disaster Planning Guides containing evacuation maps, shelter updates and hurricane preparation tips have been distributed throughout Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota counties.

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council published the 16-page color guides, which are available at post offices, libraries and government buildings while supplies last. Spanish editions are available in Hillsborough, Manatee, and Sarasota counties. A digital version of each county’s guide is available at TampaBayPrepares.org.

TBRPC senior planner Sarah Vitale spoke on the air with WMNF general manager Rob Lorei about the guide and the importance of preparing well before a hurricane is forming.

To read more about the guide, hear the radio interview and link to stories by Planning Council experts in the Tampa Bay Times, visit the Planning Council’s website www.tbrpc.org.

Disaster Planning Guides are available in five Tampa Bay counties.



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Grants Will Further Resiliency Efforts for the Environment and Business

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council has received two federal grants to help its work in limiting storms' impacts on the area's small businesses and to identify the region's resiliency priorities.

A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Gulf of Mexico Program grant of \$299,255 will support a series of workshops in late 2019 and early 2020 throughout the region. These workshops will engage a broad community of stakeholders to identify priorities and will result in a comprehensive Regional Resiliency Action Plan.

The U.S. Department of Commerce awarded the Planning Council a \$175,000 grant. This funding will be used to develop a Category 5 hurricane simulation so governments can practice responses to area businesses that have needs after a major storm.

To read more about the grants and find a link to the news release, visit the Planning Council's website www.tbrpc.org.



A hurricane simulation will help local businesses prepare for the impact of a storm.