

*Welcome to*



*Florida*

*A Plan for  
Downtown*

# Acknowledgements

## Mayor and City Commission

Mayor Paul Puletti  
Greg Bone  
David A. Lyons  
Joseph R. Miller  
Hilda Zimmerly

## City Staff

Michael Boyle, Superintendent of Public Works

## Downtown LaBelle Committee

Julie Wilkins, Chair	Emily Ankeney
Estela Hernandez	Hilda Zimmerly
Janice Groves	Linda McVey
Michael Boyle	Nikki Yeager
Patti Brant	Paul Puletti
Paul Pass	Vince Cautero
Trisha Arnold	David Farmer
Sara Townsend	Norm Dillman
Scott Royal	Kim Hamilton
Shary Weckwerth	Craig Bartoshuk
Sherri Denning	Paul Roser
Jeff Lazar	Terri Lazar
Lois James	David Whidden
Darrell Harris	Debbie Klemmer
Donna Kane	Jason Dyess
Jeni Dyess	Judy Reinbot
Kim Harris White	Lori Howard

## Contents

<b>Vision</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Community Visioning</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Existing Community Character</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Constraints and Opportunities</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Downtown Plan</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Impact Projects</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Concurrent Projects/Activities</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Options for Organizational Setup</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Funding &amp; Programming Sources</b>	<b>77</b>

## Special Thanks

We would like to thank the **entire community** for helping us to prepare this report. A special thanks goes to the following:

Joe Thomas for assistance with understanding and relaying the history of LaBelle

Lori Howard & Staff from Barron Library for hosting the public workshop on Barron Park and the Waterfront

Patty Brant with the Caloosa Belle for providing coverage of events and assisting with photographs

Charlie Harris with Bridge Street Coffee Shop for providing great coffee and a great space

Debbie Klemmer with Flora & Ella's for supplying the world's best pies

Janice Groves and Staff with Hendry County EDC for their support especially relating to the Visit Florida Workshop

David Barth and Team from Glatting Jackson for their excellent work during the Visit Florida Workshop

Sherri Martin with Visit Florida for coordinating and assisting with the Visit Florida Workshop

Gwen Pipkin with FDOT and Martin Peate with URS for their help with transportation issues and for their willingness to participate in the Transportation Workshop

The Bonita Bay Group represented by Paul Pass and Scott Connell for their support of this project and commitment to quality communities

## Project Consultant



With the assistance of Genus Loci Studios