

Let's Explore the Future of Our Community!

DOWNTOWN SARASOTA: BEYOND OUR BORDERS



ARCHITECTURE
SARASOTA

*Transforming Places.
Inspiring lives.*

Following up on last year's sell-out speaker series, **Downtown Sarasota: Hindsight, Insight and Foresight**, Architecture Sarasota is presenting a new speaker series, **Downtown Sarasota: Beyond Our Borders**. Our 2024 speaker series was cited by the City of Sarasota as the catalyst for the recent decision to move forward with the preparation of a new downtown master plan. This year's series will feature renowned urbanists based outside the United States, providing thought-provoking international perspectives on Sarasota and its prospects.

Presenters include Gil Penalosa (February 11th), Brent Toderain (February 25th) and Paul Kalbfleish (March 11th) - each selected for his unique point of view, deep experience, and engaging presentation style. Speakers will offer comments specific to Sarasota, informed by time spent in the city in advance of their presentations. Once again, our aim is to inform, stimulate, and engage our audience, with the practical result of continuing to elevate a community-wide conversation and allowing us to take more effective steps toward a better future for Sarasota.

Downtown Sarasota Speaker Series
February 11th and 25th and March 11th, 2025, 6:00pm
Church of the Redeemer Main Sanctuary
222 S Palm Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236
For more information, visit www.ArchitectureSarasota.org

Presenters and Topics



Lecture 1

Cities for Everyone: Creating Healthy, Equitable, and Sustainable Communities

Tuesday February 11, 2025, 6:00pm to 7:30pm
Church of the Redeemer, Main Sanctuary, 222 S Palm Ave

Gil Penalosa

President, Gil Penalosa & Associates

Gil Penalosa is passionate about cities for all people. Because of his unique blend of experience, pragmatism, and passion, many cities worldwide seek his leadership and valuable advice. He has worked in over 350 cities.

Gil is the Founder and Chair of the successful Canadian non-profit organization 8 80 Cities and founder of Cities for Everyone. In 2022 Gil ran for mayor of Toronto. In 100 days, he got 100,000 votes, and changed much of the conversation. Currently Gil is an academic chair at the Norman Foster Institute for Sustainable Cities, as well as Expert Advisor to the International Society for Urban Health. He also runs his consultancy, Gil Penalosa & Associates.

Gil was elected twice as chair of World Urban Parks. He holds an MBA from UCLA's Anderson School of Management, received a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the Faculty of Urban Planning at Swedish SLU. In 2023 Gil was voted to Planetizen's Top 100 Most Influential Contemporary Urbanists, at #13.

Lecture 2

Cities for Thriving: Creating Innovative and Successful Urban Environments

Tuesday February 25, 2025, 6:00pm to 7:30pm
Church of the Redeemer, Main Sanctuary, 222 S Palm Ave

Brent Toderian

TODERIAN urbanWORKS

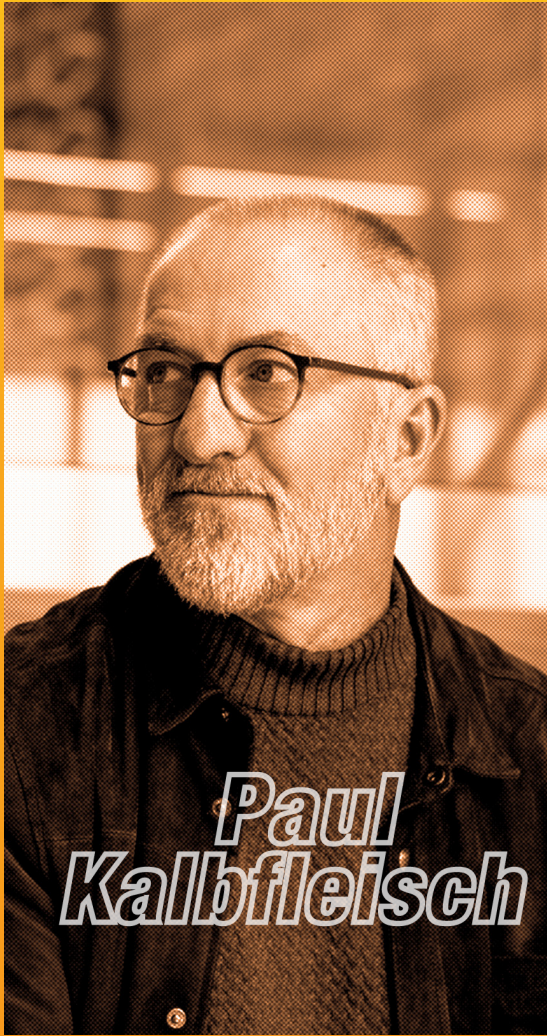
Brent Toderian is an internationally respected thought-leader on cities and practitioner in advanced urbanism, city planning, transportation, urban design, downtown revitalization and urban change management. He consults for cities and best-practice developers across North America and around the globe, with current or recent international engagements that include the cities of Sydney, Auckland, Sacramento, Medellin, Oslo, Helsinki, and Reykjavik. He has also advised many cities similar in nature to Sarasota.

His establishment of TODERIAN UrbanWORKS in 2012 followed six years of significant achievement as Vancouver Canada's Chief City Planner, with accomplishments that included 2010 Winter Olympics-related planning and design, the EcoDensity and Greenest City Initiatives, transit-oriented development and multi-modal transportation, creative place-making, and strategies emphasizing a "complete," sustainable, livable and successful city.

Brent is the past/founding President of the Council for Canadian Urbanism, a writer for Fast Company, Huffington Post, Bloomberg CityLab as well as many other publications, and a highly sought-after international speaker and media commentator on cities and advanced urbanism. He has been voted one of the 100 Most Influential Contemporary Urbanists at #8 by Planetizen.



Presenters and Topics



Lecture 3

Cities for Joy:

Creating Urban Spaces that Promote Social Vibrancy

Tuesday March 11, 2025, 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Church of the Redeemer, Main Sanctuary, 222 S Palm Ave

Paul Kalbfleisch

Co-Author of *The Joy Experiments*:

Reimagining Mid-sized Cities to Heal Our Divided Society

Paul Kalbfleisch is a multi-disciplined speaker and writer on the topic of city building, business consultant and creator of public art.

In his corporate business life, he was vice-president of creativity and brand strategy for Research in Motion (creators of BlackBerry). In that role he developed strategies for placing the brand into popular culture.

Kalbfleisch's writing explores how society, by emphasizing individual materialism and economic efficiency as the indicators of quality of life, has led to a social recession, with increased isolation and depression. He is co-author, along with Scott Higgins -President of HIP Developments, of "The JOY Experiments – Reimagining Mid-Sized Cities as a Tool to Heal Our Divided Society."

Through his consulting he helps city builders set a new play, live, work city building priority that elevates the collective human spirit for social and economic prosperity. His work focuses on new strategies that move beyond traditional quality of life measures to prioritizing the benefits of infrastructure for the human spirit found in joyful cities.

His was a presenter at the UN Habitat World Urban Forum and speaker at a TEDx Talk. His strategic and creative guidance were instrumental in the creation of The Gaslight District in Cambridge, Ontario, and placed 3rd in a global "15 Minute City" design competition.

SPONSORS

We would like to thank our initial sponsors as of January 13, 2025.

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Tickets

Tickets go on sale Friday, January 10, 2025.

Individual Ticket per Lecture: \$20.00

Ticket Bundle for all three Lectures: \$50.00

To purchase tickets, visit www.ArchitectureSarasota.org

About Architecture Sarasota

Mission

Architecture Sarasota stewards the legacy of the Sarasota School of Architecture and provides a forum for the education, advocacy, and celebration of good design in the global built environment.

Membership

Architecture Sarasota Membership allows you to engage with global design culture on a local scale. Members receive exclusive access and discounted prices to events like the annual MOD Weekend. For more information and to become a Member, visit www.ArchitectureSarasota.org

DOWNTOWN SARASOTA 2050

In the context of rapid change and transformation and in the wake of natural disasters, Architecture Sarasota is launching a multifaceted initiative focused on the future of downtown Sarasota. **Downtown Sarasota 2050** engages residents and those who care about the city to explore its future as a sustainable, resilient, and vibrant community.

The initiative is intended to advance the constructive, community-wide dialogue initiated by the **Downtown Sarasota: Hindsight, Insight, and Foresight** lecture series and advanced by the current series - **Downtown Sarasota: Beyond our Borders**. Other activities include:

Moderns That Matter: Downtown Sarasota Exhibition

With input from residents and those who care about the community, Architecture Sarasota created the *Moderns That Matter: Sarasota 100* – a list of 100 places and spaces that give Sarasota its sense of place and character. *The Moderns That Matter: Downtown Sarasota* exhibition will examine the current demographics and context of the City of Sarasota and present the histories and futures of 12 sites – buildings, public spaces, and neighborhoods / districts.

Reimagining Sarasota's Bayfront Study

For spring 2025, Architecture Sarasota is partnering with Harvard University's Graduate School of Design to study the City of Sarasota's Bayfront and propose strategies for enhancing these significant public spaces through the lens of resilience. The project is being undertaken in consultation with the City of Sarasota and The Bay. Initial findings will be presented in late spring 2025 and will be exhibited at the McCulloch Pavilion beginning November 2025.

