



# Florida State University

## ARF News Special Feature

February 2023



## ARF Tour Itinerary to Sarasota and St. Petersburg

Wednesday, January 25 to Friday, January 27, 2023

**January 25: 8:45 AM** Load bus at the parking lot of:

FSU Alumni Center Parking Lot (Please enter from Tennessee Street)

9:00 AM Depart Tallahassee

11:30 AM Lunch in Gainesville and meet Jonita Stepp-Greany, then to the Metro Diner (2130 SW 34th Street)

Arrive Sarasota and go directly to the Ringling to tour the  
Ringling Mansion (the Ca' d'Zan)

Check in to the Courtyard Sarasota Airport (850 University Pkwy. 34234)

6:30 PM Dinner at the Columbia Restaurant (411 St. Armands Circle. Sarasota  
34236)

**January 26: 9:00 AM** Depart Hotel for and Ringling Art Museum and the Circus Museum

Lunch on the Grounds of the Ringling

1:30 PM Performance of Silent Sky at the Asolo Theater

Dinner—Time & location-TBD

**January 27: 9:00 AM** Depart Sarasota

Arrive at the Salvador Dalí Museum

Lunch, TBD

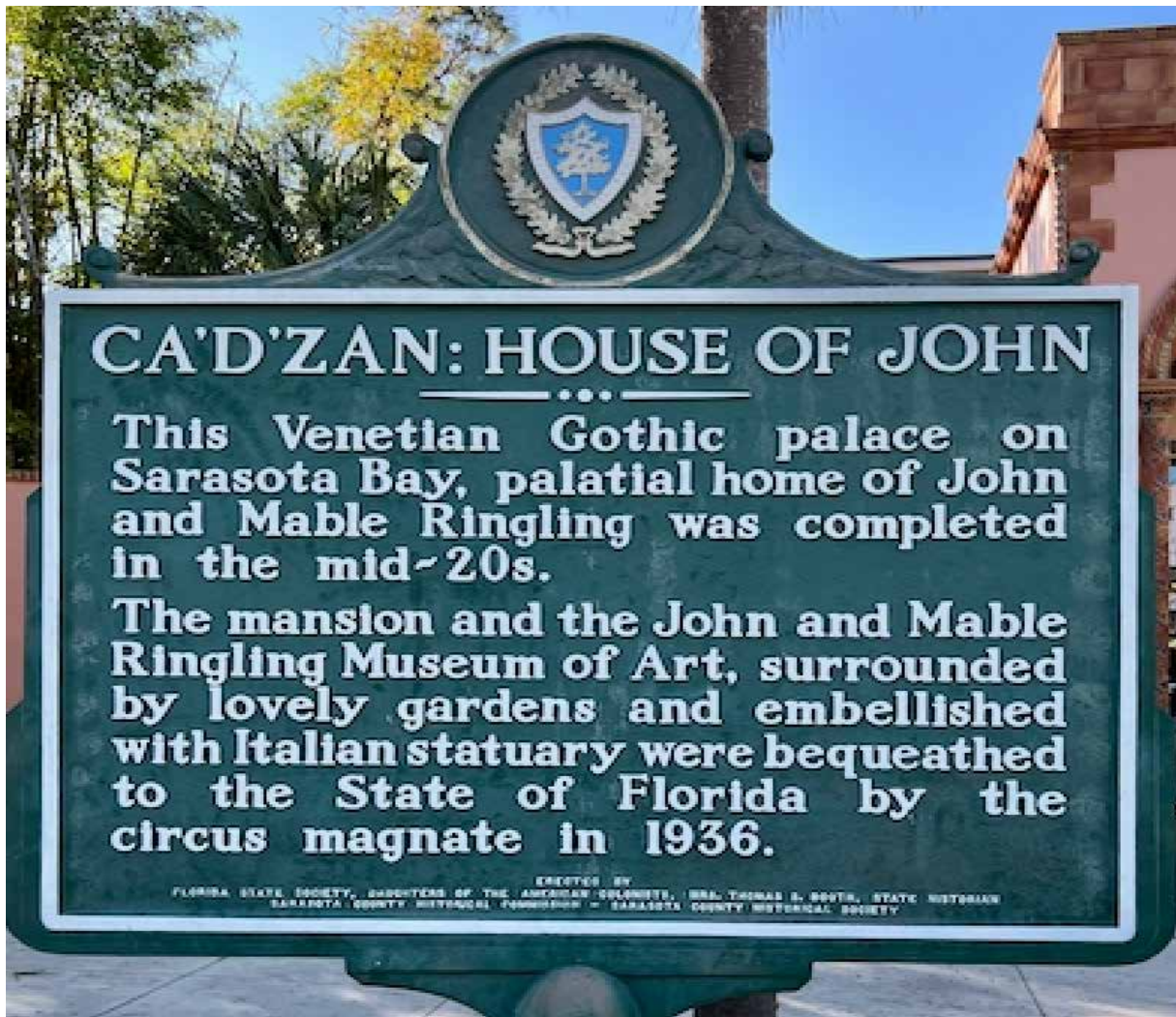
Depart St. Petersburg for Tallahassee with stop in Gainesville. To drop off Jonita Stepp-Greany.

6:00 PM Arrive in Tallahassee

**Superb trip planner - Larry Gerber (Past ARF President)**

**Photographer - Jill Adams (ARF Secretary and official photographer)**

**Edited - Tom Hart (ARF Journal Editor and ARF Web Designer)**



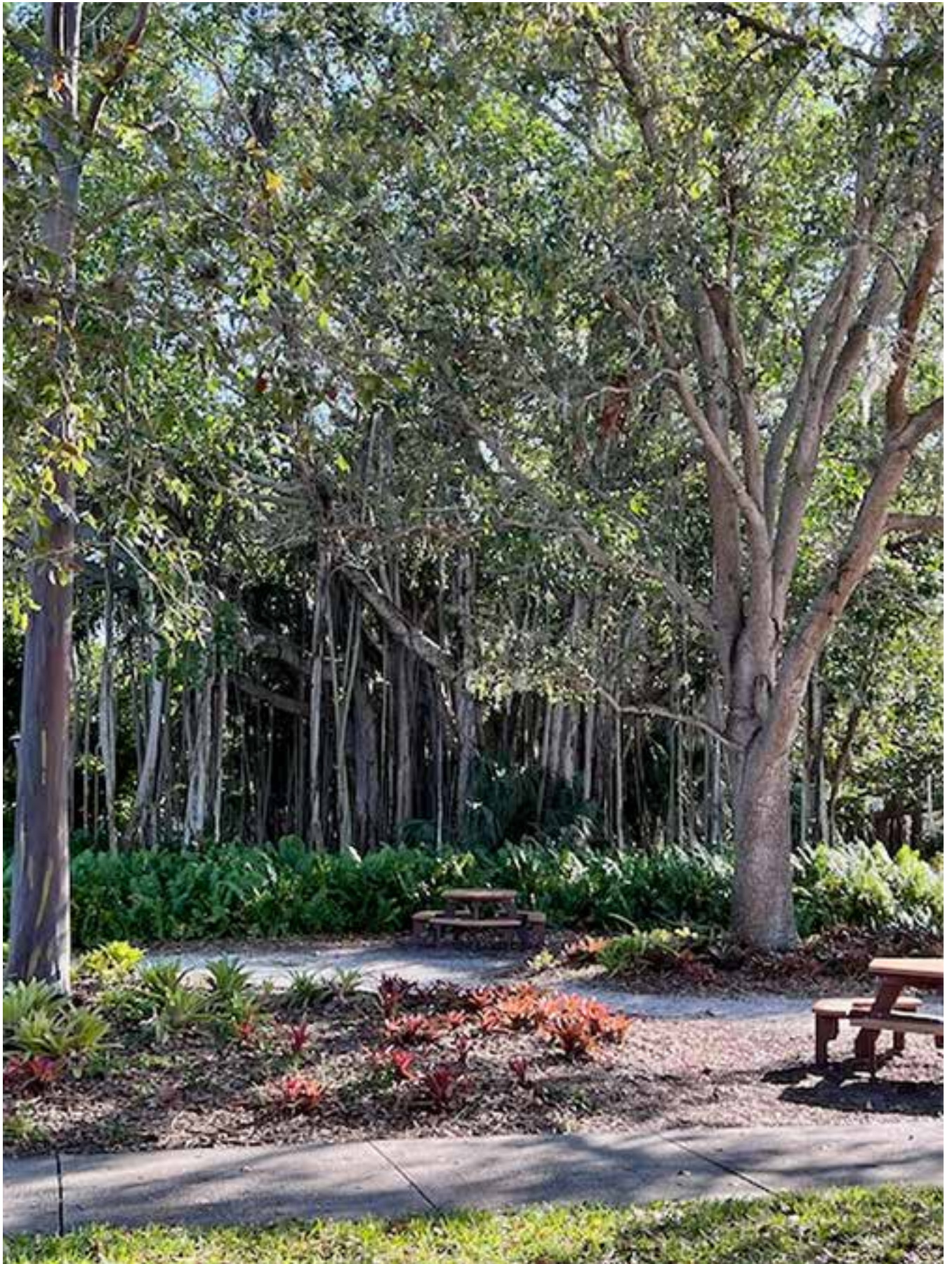


















We walked a long distance from the Visitor's Center to the House. Don Rapp had a wheel chair there and back. We were divided into two groups to tour the House. Since FSU manages this property, we were well treated. They provided considerable information, such as:

## CA' D'ZAN

The home of the circus king and his wife, a couple from humble mid-western origins, Ca' d'Zan stands as a testament to the American Dream of the Roaring Twenties. Inspired by and designed in the Venetian Gothic style of the palazzos that ring the Venice canals, this dazzling palatial mansion perfectly captures the splendor and romance of the Italy the Ringlings so loved. To honor its owner, they named it Ca' d'Zan, "House of John", in the dialect of their beloved Venice.

### The History of Ca' d'Zan

#### The Inspiration

The Ringlings had been traveling throughout Europe for nearly 25 years, acquiring circus acts and art. They both greatly admired the architectural style of Venice's Ducal Palace, Ca' d'Oro and the Grunwald Hotel. When they decided to build a home in Sarasota, Florida, where they had been winter residents for a number of years, The Ringlings took these palazzi as their inspiration – and Sarasota Bay as their Grand Canal.

#### Building Begins

The Ringlings hired the famous New York architect Dwight James Baum, to design the home and Owen Burns to build it. However, Mable, who had kept an oilskin portfolio filled with postcards, sketches and photos she had collected during her travels, oversaw every aspect of the construction, from the mixing of the terra cotta to the glazing of the tiles. Indeed, so great was her involvement that the original architectural plans called it "The Residence of Mrs. John Ringling."

One of America's wealthiest couples, the Ringlings started building Ca' d'Zan in 1924 and completed it shortly before Christmas in 1926 at the then princely sum of \$1.5 million. Sadly, their happiness there was not to last, for only three years after its completion, Mable died from Addison's disease and the complications of diabetes.

#### The House

The 36,000 square-foot house sits on a waterfront site 1,000 feet long and 3,000 feet deep. It is five stories tall and has a full basement. Constructed from terra cotta "T" blocks, concrete and brick, it is covered with stucco and terra cotta and embellished with glazed tile. Decorative tile medallions, balustrades and ornamental cresting in soft red, yellow, green, blue and ivory highlight the pink patina of the stucco and terra cotta exterior.

Originally roofed with 16th century Spanish tiles imported by the builder, the bayfront terrace was made from domestic and imported marble. Ringling kept his yacht, *Zalophus*, docked there and often entertained celebrities of the Roaring Twenties, including comedian Will Rogers and New York Mayor Jimmy Walker. Today, the terrace hosts weddings, corporate parties and a number of popular gatherings like Yoga on the Terrace.

Inside, the main floor includes living, entertaining and dining areas. The Ringlings private bedrooms as well as five guest bedrooms are found on the second floor along with the servants' quarters. On the third floor there is a game room and bath. On the fourth floor there is a great beamed guest room and bath with windows on all four sides. At the property's pinnacle is an 82-foot-high tower with an open-air landing and a high-domed ceiling. Legend has it that John enjoyed taking guests up to the tower to show them his land holdings in Sarasota, which then extended nearly as far as the eye could see.

### The Furnishings

Ca' d'Zan is every bit as opulent inside as it is outside. Paintings by Zanchi, Sorine, and Devoue hang on the walls. Displayed in the small butler's pantry is a collection of silver that was used during formal events. A much larger pantry has a custom-made German silver sink that provided a soft, forgiving surface to protect the fine crystal, china and earthenware from breakage. The cabinetry throughout the pantry displays the extensive collection of china collected during the Ringlings' world travels. The dining table accommodates 22 chairs. A crystal chandelier from the original Waldorf-Astoria Hotel hangs in the living room above a black and white marble tiled floor. There is even an Aeolian organ with 2,289 pipes installed behind curtains in a chamber on the second floor.

### Decline...

When John Ringling died in December of 1936 he bequeathed his estate to the people of Florida, but legal wrangling with his creditors went on for a decade until the property finally passed unencumbered to the state. During this time Ca' d'Zan remained closed. Finally, in 1946 it was reopened to the public.

But the care that older buildings require was neglected due to a lack of funds, and by the late 90's, Ca' d'Zan was in such a state of disrepair it was used as the location for Miss Havisham's decrepit mansion in the 1996 Hollywood remake of Charles Dickens' classic *Great Expectations*.

### ...and Restoration

That same year the mansion was closed so that a comprehensive restoration and conservation project could be undertaken. Much of the marble terrace had to be replaced, balusters and railings along the waterfront were repaired and replaced, as were many of the decorative terracotta ornaments reminiscent of Venice. Even a new roof was installed.

Archival photos were used to determine the original look of each room. Paint samples were used to match the original colors of the walls. Original paintings and furnishings were retrieved from storage and restored. The ceiling murals by Willy Pogany, the set decorator of the *Zeigfeld Follies*, were restored by a group of international conservators. Original moldings were cleaned and repainted. Carpets and rugs were conserved or replaced. Even clothing from the Ringlings' wardrobe was returned to closets and drawers.

Finally completed in 2002, at a cost of \$15 million, ten times that of the original house, Ca' d'Zan was happily returned to its former glory and reopened as the grandest mansion on Florida's Suncoast. Today it stands as one of America's architectural treasures.

In 2004 and 2005, the home's original gate house was restored as the entrance of the new Visitor Pavilion, making the welcome visitors receive more authentic and true to the original design.

In 2019 the 70 by 36 foot white marble swimming pool on the front lawn of Ca' d'Zan was restored as a reflecting pool. The Spanish style tiles were restored, along with the urns and marble pieces. The focal point of the pool, the beautiful statue of Venus, was restored to her former place on the crescent-shaped bench. The original sky-blue ceramic tiles on the pool's floor were replicated and installed on a new floor, which is higher than the original, making the water only a few inches deep. The Reflecting Pool was funded by The Bolger Foundation and named in honor of Ron McCarty, who served as Keeper of Ca' d'Zan from 2002-2018.











Soaring as high as 32 feet, the windows cast blocks of colorful light on the marble floor. They were Mable Ringling's favorite hues: amethyst, ruby, gold, green and blue.

When the wife of this city's famous circus tycoon designed the signature glass 82 years ago, it was nothing but a delight to her famous and wealthy guests who visited from up north.

Today, the windows are a lens into Ron McCarty's worst nightmare.

McCarty cares for the thousands of priceless collectibles packed inside the Ca' d'Zan mansion overlooking Sarasota Bay. Prolonged exposure to the high level of ultraviolet rays has begun to fade the furniture inside.

A deep red velvet couch and matching historic armchairs are now a rosy pink.

Among the many more items in danger: one-of-a-kind tapestries from the 1650s, a Parisian carpet from the 1870s recently discovered in the mansion's attic, and furniture from the estate of Jacob Astor, an inventor who died on the Titanic and member of one of the county's wealthiest families.

After years of attempts to block the light without blocking the view for the more than 300,000 tourists who visit annually, workers in 2020 completed a \$20,000 project coating the windows in a protective, transparent film.

The coating is expected to reflect the rays and also strengthen the glass against a tropical storm.

"It's something we've needed since we opened the house in the 1950s," McCarty said. "This is the most important historic home on the west coast of Florida and it would have been damaged if we hadn't done something."

Light-proofing the mansion has been no small task. The windows are divided by lead panes into hundreds of pieces as small as two inches.

"We had to trace the windows with butcher paper, like a stencil, and then cut out pieces of film to match," said Angelo Ragone, sales manager for Hurricanes Plus, a Sarasota company that sells hurricane protection supplies.

Half of the 160 windows in the house will be completed this week and the other half will be done next year. The invisible film technology is less than two years old and was created by the company 3M. It is also being used by homeowners to reduce energy costs because it keeps rooms cooler.

The film will not provide much protection from a hurricane. If a major storm were headed for the mansion, staff plan to move the contents of the house to a secret location.

John and Mable Ringling finished the \$1.5 million mansion just before Christmas in 1925. "Ca' d'Zan" means "house of John" in Italian. They moved in the following year and are considered among the first and most important developers in Sarasota history.



















**Named “One of Florida’s Top Restaurants” since 1967.**

Relax in one of our Mediterranean-style dining rooms or enjoy an outdoor table on the patio while sampling our award-winning Spanish/ Cuban cuisine at the oldest operating restaurant in Sarasota.

### **Our Story**

The Columbia Restaurant began as a dream. For Spanish-Cuban immigrant Casimiro Hernandez, Sr., arriving in Tampa, FL, with his four young sons meant searching for opportunity and a better life.

On Dec. 17, 1903, he helped to open the Columbia Saloon, which became the Columbia Restaurant in 1905.

Over nearly 120 years, the original restaurant has expanded to an entire city block and is now the largest Spanish restaurant in the world.

Casimiro’s descendants diligently care for the Columbia Restaurant and help preserve his American dream. As Florida’s oldest restaurant, the Columbia has seven locations in Florida and is still owned and operated by family members.

January 26: 9:00 AM Depart Hotel for the “Tibbals” Circus Museum  
(Two huge buildings)



# Tibbals Circus Museum

**SARASOTA – Howard C. Tibbals, a philanthropist whose love for the circus led him to create the Howard Bros. Circus Model — now a centerpiece of Tibbals Learning Center at The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art.**

**Tibbals was just 3 when he first saw circus performers unloading from wagons and marveled at the choreography of roustabouts setting up tents that would house the traveling troupe.**

**“I was struck by what a massive operation the circus was,” Tibbals told the Herald-Tribune in 2006. “I was fascinated by the mechanics of it, by how they’d travel to a new town each day and set up a virtual city. It left quite an impression.”**

**Tibbals started creating the Howard Bros. Circus display — a three-quarter-inch-to-the-foot scale replica of the 1930s-era Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus — in 1956, while he was a freshman engineering student at North Carolina State University.**

**It premiered at the 1982 World’s Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee, near Oneida, the town where his family moved in 1948.**

**Tibbals went on to work alongside his father Charles Tibbals in the family flooring business – ultimately known as the Hardwood Tile Company, or Hartco – that employed more than 520 people and generated more than \$30 million in business annually.**

**After selling the company for \$94 million in 1988 to Premark International, he became a major donor for the Oneida Special School District.**

**Tibbals brought his circus to The Ringling Museum in 1999.**

**Along with it, he donated \$3 million to build its 30,600-square-foot permanent home, and another \$3.5 million for an endowment.**

**The museum, operated by Florida State University, obtained additional donations and matching state funds for the \$16 million project.**







Unlike anything you have ever seen, this 3,800 square foot model depicts the American tented circus in its Golden Age from 1919-1958. Now that 13,000 people could enjoy a performance under the big top.





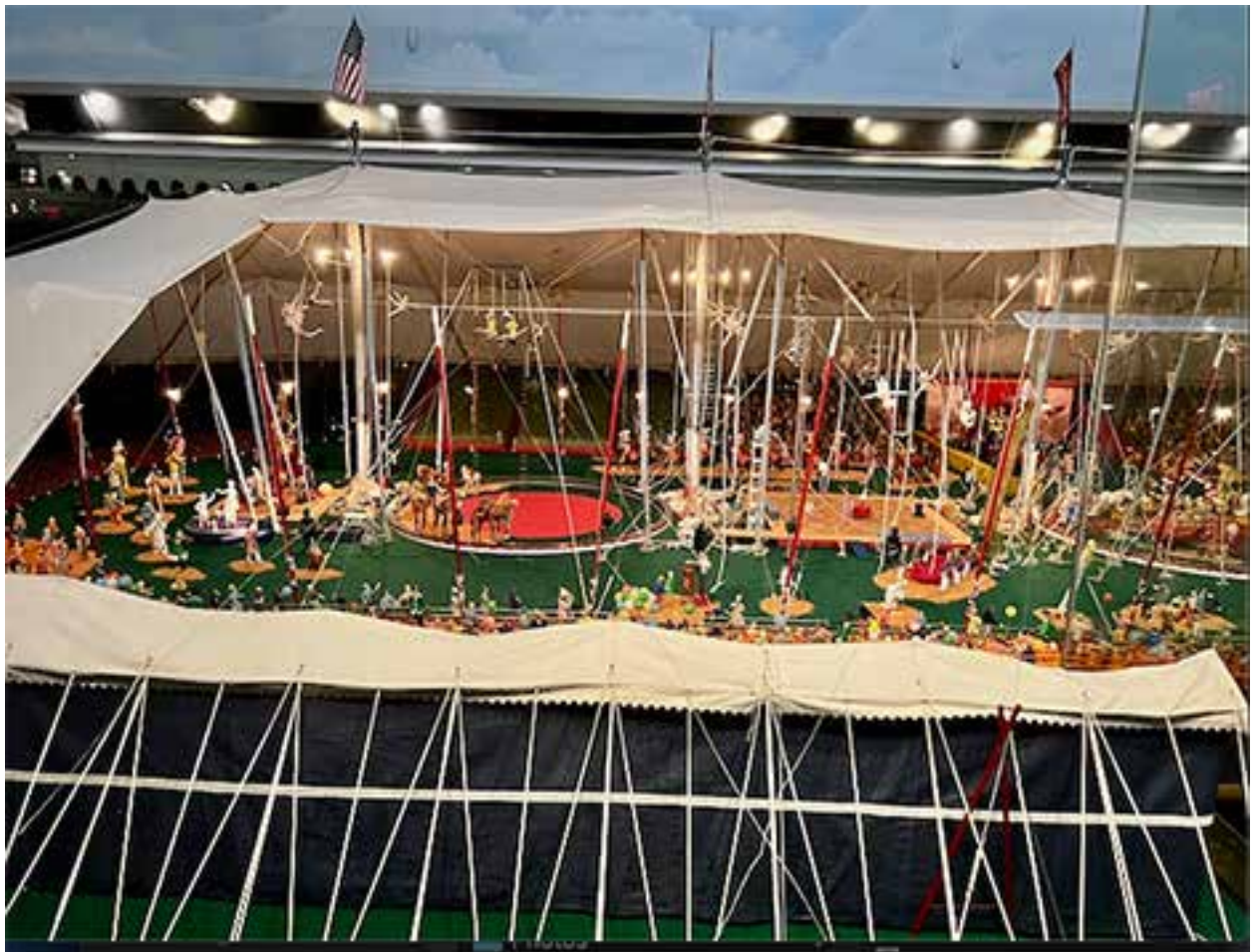














## **Statistics for Tibbals Minature Circus**

Howard Tibbals was awarded an FSU Artes Torch Award in 2019.

Tibbals' circus — Ringling Bros. declined his request to use its circus name on the miniatures — includes 130 wagons, 55 rail cars, eight main circus tents, 200-plus animals, and 7,000 tiny injection-mold folding chairs and three rings and four stages full of clowns, aerialists and showgirls. The last circus wagon was added to the ever-growing display in April 2021.

Tibbals built his model to be 1/16th of life size; the tallest pieces are the center poles of the big top, at 5 feet, 2 inches. Of the 42,000 figures (and counting!) the tallest is The Giant, at 6 1/8 inches. There are 925 animals, including horses, parrots, armadillos and bison. To feed such a crew, there are over 900 sets of miniature silverware and dishes, with tiny monitors installed showing actual footage of meals being prepared in the dining tent. They also set-up latrines for men and women for the day. All of the circus equipment is designed to be packed up into wagons, just like the real tented circus, moving on to the next town after just one day.

Each Day the Tent Crew would arrive in the early morning and set-up the dining, performer tents and the animal tents. After Breakfast they would set-up the main entertainment tents and put 7,000 folding chairs in the main tent. #0,000 meals were served every day on china plates and real sliverware. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were served. After Dinner the tent crew would tak the meal tents down and many other tents from the background and move on to the next town.

It took Tibbals 18 years to complete the big top, from the canvas top with its three rings and four performance stages to the wagons that carried all the equipment related to the tent. To maintain the accuracy of the model, all the pieces are based on his extensive collection of vintage photographs, numbering in the hundreds of thousands, supplemented by historic posters, heralds, programs, route-cards and oral histories.

# Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey, 1926 Route

## March/April

Mar. 31 - May 1 New York City,  
Madison Square Garden

## May

3-8 Philadelphia, Pa.  
10-11 Washington, D. C.  
12-13 Baltimore Md.  
14 Wilmington, Del.  
15 Lancaster, Pa.  
17-18 Newark N. J.  
19 Allentown, Pa.  
20 Reading, Pa.  
21 Williamsport, Pa.  
22 Clearfield, Pa.  
24-25 Pittsburgh Pa.  
26 Canton, O.  
27 Columbus, O.  
28 Dayton, O.  
29 Cincinnati, O.  
31 Cleveland, O.

## June

1 Cleveland, O.  
2 Erie, Pa.  
3 Buffalo, N. Y.  
4 Rochester, N. Y.  
5 Syracuse, N. Y.  
7-12 Boston, Mass.  
14 Providence, R. I.  
15 New Bedford, Mass.  
16 Lowell, Mass.  
17 Marblehead, Mass.  
18 Manchester, N. H.  
19 Portland, Me.  
21-22 Montreal, Ont.  
23 Ottawa, Ont.  
24 Belleville, Ont.  
25 Peterboro, Ont.  
26 Hamilton, Ont.  
28 London Ont.

29 Brantford Ont.

30 Toronto, Ont.

## July

1 Niagara Falls, N. Y.  
2 Jamestown, N. Y.  
3 Youngstown, O.  
5 Akron, O.  
6 Mansfield O.  
7 Toledo, O.  
8 Adrian, Mich.  
9-10 Detroit, Mich.  
12 Flint, Mich.  
13 Lansing, Mich.  
14 Jackson, Mich.  
15 Fort Wayne, Ind  
16 South Bend, Ind.  
17-25 Chicago (Grant Park), Ill.  
26 Milwaukee, Wis.  
27 Sheboygan, Wis.  
28 Fond du Lac, Wis.  
29 Madison. Wis.  
30 Janesville, Wis.  
31 Rockford, Ill.

## August

2 Davenport, Ia.  
3 Newton, Ia.  
4 Des Moines, Ia.  
5 Fort Dodge, Ia.  
6 Waterloo, Ia.  
7 Cedar Rapids, Ia.  
9 Mason City, Ia.  
10 Albert Lea, Minn.  
13 St. Paul, Minn.  
14 Duluth, Minn.  
16 Winona, Minn.  
17 Rochester, Minn.  
18 New Ulm, Minn.  
19 Algona, Ia.  
20 Boone, Ia.

21 Carroll Ia.  
23 Sioux City, Ia.  
24 Norfolk, Neb.  
25 Grand Island, Neb.  
26 York, Neb.  
27 Omaha, Neb.  
28 Red Oak, Ia.  
30 Ottumwa, Ia.  
31 Trenton, Mo.

## September

1 St. Joseph, Mo.  
2 Kansas City, Mo.  
3 Topeka, Kan.  
4 Manhattan, Kan.  
6 Concordia, Kan.  
7 Salina, Kan.  
8 Emporia, Kan.  
9 Wichita, Kan.  
10 Alva, Okla.  
11 Woodward, Okla.  
13 Enid, Okla.  
14 Oklahoma City, Okla.  
15 Ponca City, Okla.  
16 Independence, Kan.  
17 Pittsburg, Kan.  
18 Springfield, Mo.  
20 Joplin, Mo.  
21 Miami, Okla.  
22 Tulsa, Okla.  
23 Okmulgee, Okla.  
24 Ada, Okla.  
25 Durant, Okla.  
27 Dallas, Tex.  
28 Fort Worth, Tex.  
29 Wichita Falls, Tex.  
30 Altus, Okla.

## October

1 Clinton, Okla.  
2 Lawton, Okla.  
4 Shawnee, Okla.  
5 Ardmore, Okla.  
6 Paris, Tex.

7 Greenville, Tex.  
8 Waxahachie, Tex.  
9 Corsicana, Tex.  
11 Waco, Tex.  
12 Temple, Tex.  
13 Taylor, Tex.  
14 Austin, Tex.  
15 San Antonio, Tex.  
16 Cuero, Tex.  
18 Galveston, Tex.  
19-20 Houston, Tex.  
21 Beaumont, Tex.  
22 Baton Rouge, La.  
23-24 New Orleans, La.  
25 Brookhaven, Miss.  
26 Jackson, Miss.  
27 Greenwood, Miss.  
28 Memphis, Tenn.  
29 Tupelo, Miss.  
30 Birmingham, Ala.

## November

1 Atlanta, Ga.  
End of season









**CHARLY BAUMANN**

Charly Baumann (1894-1968) was one of the most exciting animal trainers of the 20th century. In 1919, he and his wife joined the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus and performed for years, including being in the performance "Tiger and Lion of Spain," for which he was awarded an "Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award."

**CHARLY BAUMANN'S BUSINESS**

1919-1968  
Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus  
1000 1st Street, Sarasota, FL 34236  
www.ringlingbros.com

**ANIMAL TRAINING**









# The Wisconsin

## RAILROAD CAR

**The great success of the Ringling circus in the early years of the 20th century was paralleled by important events in the business and personal life of John Ringling. The brothers successfully negotiated a routing agreement with their greatest rival, James Bailey, and John began branching out his investments into railroads, oil, and real estate. On the personal front, John Ringling married Mable Burton in Hoboken, New Jersey on December 29, 1905.**

The Wisconsin, the private railroad car that John purchased from the Pullman Company in 1905, was the ultimate symbol of his success. From 1905 until 1916 this car transported the Ringlings across the country for business and pleasure. As the advance man, John traveled ahead of the circus train, planning the route and making deals for provisions. Occasionally he would cross the path of the circus train and The Wisconsin would join the train for some of his travels.

John and Mable Ringling also traveled for pleasure on The Wisconsin. The car carried them to Baraboo for family gatherings and allowed them to host friends and family on cross country journeys. It was this railroad car that brought the Ringlings to Florida in 1911 to finalize the purchase of the bayfront property in Sarasota.

News articles of the day described the quiet elegance of the car and made mention of the modern conveniences including electric lights and fans throughout as well as a well-stocked refrigerator. Today, the grandeur of the restored Wisconsin Railroad Car is a reminder of the great success of John Ringling as well as of the luxury enjoyed by the titans of the Gilded Age.













## RINGLING MUSEUM OF ART

Here, in an extraordinary place is an extraordinary collection of art. From the Rubens Galleries to Joseph's Coat: a skyspace by James Turrell, view the permanent collection's treasures, the fascinating exhibitions from around the world and the classical sculptures that fill the grand courtyard. The State Art Museum of Florida, this awe-inspiring museum was originally built by famed circus impresario John Ringling as a legacy to the citizens of Florida. This is a place of beauty and wonder.

In 1925, circus impresario John Ringling (1866–1936) decided to build an art museum, both as a legacy meant to outlast his business interests and as a memorial to his wife Mable and himself. By sharing the arts of Europe with the people of Florida, Ringling sought to educate and encourage curiosity for the wider world.

John H. Phillips designed the Museum—a pink, Renaissance-style palace with 21 galleries enclosing a courtyard graced with copies of iconic sculptures. First opened in 1930, Ringling filled the Museum with European paintings, paneled rooms from the Gilded Age Astor mansion in New York, and ancient and medieval objects purchased from distinguished collections. Upon his death in 1936, Ringling bequeathed the Museum to the people of Florida.

### Reinstallation Project

The Ringling is in the process of reinstalling the Museum of Art's original 21 galleries. Hundreds of works of art from The Ringling's permanent collection will be examined, interpreted, and arranged in new ways. Through new thematic arrangements and updated wall treatments, lighting, and labels, the reinstallation project will transform the visitor experience of our permanent collection. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to sharing the results of this important work with you. As the reinstallation project progresses, certain galleries may close temporarily and objects may be removed from the galleries where they are normally displayed.

### A History of the Museum of Art

John Ringling was one of the early 20th century's most prolific collectors of art. The Museum of Art is his legacy. In 1905 Ringling married Mable Burton, a woman who shared his love for and taste in art. Soon after their marriage they became fixtures in New York's art auction

houses, buying paintings, furniture and tapestries from the homes of the wealthy and socially prominent for their own growing collection. In 1924, the Ringlings met the prominent German art dealer Julius Böhler, a relationship that would prove crucial to Ringling and his growing interest in collecting art.

The Ringlings had been traveling through Europe for years and had fallen in love with Baroque art. In 1925 he hired architect John H. Phillips to design and build a museum on his Sarasota property to house his ever-growing collection. What Phillips designed was a U-shaped pink palace with 21 galleries to house Ringling's treasure trove of paintings and art objects, highlighted by a collection of masters that would eventually include Velazquez, El Greco, Van Dyck, Veronese, Tiepolo, Gainsborough and Rubens. Paired perfectly with the Renaissance-style of the Museum, the Museum of Art's Courtyard embodied the ideals of the Renaissance garden. Its long loggias flank a central courtyard that features an impressive group of early twentieth-century bronze and stone casts of famous Classical, Renaissance, and Baroque sculptures, among them, at its heart, Michelangelo's David from Palazzo Vecchio in Florence.

Ringling hoped that by building the Museum he would make Sarasota a cultural and educational center. To achieve his vision he began buying comprehensive collections with prestigious provenances, beginning with the purchase of three rooms complete with furnishing, paintings and architectural finishes from the Astor Mansion and a villa in the Tuscan countryside. He also purchased four tapestry paintings, oil on canvas, by the Flemish master Peter Paul Rubens from the Duke of Westminster. Today these magnificent paintings welcome you as you enter the Museum's gallery and are the foundation of the Museum's extraordinary Baroque collection.

Between 1925 and 1931, Ringling acquired more than 600 Old Master paintings from the Late Medieval thorough the 19th century. His purchase of Rubens' Pausias and Glycera was considered so significant that Art Digest reported on it. In 1928, Ringling made another significant acquisition that was to form the core of his classical antiquities collection, 2800 objects of Greek, Roman, and Cypriot antiquities from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Excitement about his collection was growing in art circles; the New York Times did a full-page article about the purchase, praising not only the collection but the Museum and its surroundings as well. That same year he bought the Parisian Gavet Collection, 300 hundred pieces of Late

Medieval and Early Renaissance decorative art, sculpture and religious liturgical objects from the Vanderbilt's Marble House in Newport, Rhode Island.

In his will Ringling bequeathed his museum to the people of Florida, a gift he hoped would achieve his vision of creating in Sarasota a cultural and educational center. Hurt by the Depression, Ringling had fallen into debt and creditors and legal wrangling would delay the settling of his estate for a decade. Funds were poorly managed and the endowment Ringling left languished and barely grew. The Museum was only occasionally opened between 1936 and 1946 and not properly maintained. Gradually, the care that the buildings required were either put off or handled piecemeal.

But while the Museum struggled with a lack of finances, a series of Directors continued to foster its artistic growth, most notably A. Everett (Chick) Austin, Jr. the charismatic former Director of The Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, Connecticut who became the Museum's first Director and Curator in 1946 and served until his death in 1957.

Other Directors followed and made their contributions: Kenneth Donahue, who served from 1958 until 1964 established the Member's Council and started the quarterly newsletter; Curtis Cooley, the Director from 1965 to 1972 oversaw the completion of the West Wing and established the Museum Foundation; Richard S. Carroll created the Docent Program and had the Museum added to the National Register of Historic Places during his tenure from 1973 to 1984; Laurence Ruggiero, who served as Director from 1985 until 1992 established the Museum's archives, during David Ebitz's Directorship from 1992 until 2000 governance of the Museum was passed to Florida State University (FSU).

The state promised to fund immediate repairs and in 2002 provided through FSU another \$43 million to fund restoration of the Ringling – provided the museum board could raise another \$50 million within five years. Thanks community efforts and truly generous public support, they exceeded beyond expectations and more than \$56 million was raised by 2007.

In 2016, the 25,000-square-foot Ting Tsung and Wei Fong Chao Center for Asian Art opened and includes galleries dedicated to rotating installations of The Ringling's Asian art holdings, a 125-seat lecture hall, an object and print study room, and open storage spaces to increase public access to the collections. Wei Fong Chao Center for Asian Art, a Japanese tea house (chashitsu) was built in the Bayfront Gardens.































# Asolo Theater History

From the origins of our name, to the stages on which we have performed, the 'Asolo' story is rich in history – both in our community and abroad. But Theatre by its very nature is here one moment and gone the next. It is for that beautiful, ephemeral reason that we must make an extra effort to capture and record the work of so many artists and community members that have helped Asolo Rep thrive through the years.

The name 'Asolo' comes to us from Asolo, Italy, a beautiful town tucked in the hills of the northern countryside. There, a lovely 18th-century theatre, caught the eye of Everett "Chick" Austin, the first Director of the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. He acquired the theatre's interior for the museum's collection in 1949. In this little jewel of a theatre, a fledgling acting company, founded by faculty of Florida State University (FSU), began performing a summer series of plays and operas, first as the Asolo Theatre Festival and later as the Asolo Theatre Company.

Over time, the company grew from a seasonal festival into a year-round operation and was recognized as the first State Theatre of Florida, later becoming a founding member of the prestigious League of Resident Theatres (LORT). In 1973, the theatre officially partnered with the FSU School of Theatre to mentor the actors in its MFA program – a relationship which became the highly acclaimed FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training.

The acting company and its audiences eventually outgrew the Ringling's Historic Asolo Theater, and the company moved into its current home within the FSU Center for the Performing Arts, where it has enjoyed notable success.

Below is a journey through the 60 plus years of Asolo Repertory Theatre's history. While it is impossible to capture all the miraculous moments, we hope seeing just these few will begin to give the impression of a community deeply committed to the transformative power of theatre and a theatre that delivers just that.



## **Aslo repeortory Theater History**

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The acting company and its audiences eventually outgrew the Ringling's Historic Asolo Theater, and the company moved into its current home within the FSU Center for the Performing Arts, where it has enjoyed notable success.

The Mertz Theatre is one of two venues in the FSU Center for the Performing Arts; the other is the 161-seat Jane B. Cook Theatre.

Many interior details in the Mertz Theatre (plasterwork, ornate cornices, wall panels, friezes, carved box fronts, proscenium, ceiling arches, etc.) are re-used from the Dunfermline Opera House of Dunfermline, Scotland, UK. The Opera House was operational from 1903 to 1955. Before the building was demolished in 1982, the Scottish Arts Council saved the theatre's interior and stored it in pieces. Four years later, Asolo Repertory Theatre learned about the mothballed theatre and imported it to Sarasota, Florida. About 80% of the original ornamentation was used in the auditorium of the Mertz Theatre in the newly built Asolo Center for the Performing Arts.



















**Dinner on Thursday night was at the Ringling Grill, in the Visitor Center.**









## **Dali Museum in St Petersburg, Fl**

### **Mission Statement**

The Dalí Museum cares for and shares an expertly curated collection of Salvador Dalí's work, preserving his legacy for generations to come. And, through Dalí -inspired events, exhibits & experiences, the Museum serves as an active resource in the cultural life of our community and the world at large.

### **The Artist's Museum**

Museum collections may be curated to showcase styles, media, historical timelines, themes or the life & work of an individual. Built to honor one (extraordinary) person's vision, talent and life, The Dalí is one such Artist's Museum.

The Artist's Museum is grounded in the art, archives and biographical complexity of a single creative individual. Holistic and immersive, each museum is unique in its relation to its artist, but is always an entry into the living breath of the creative process, a laboratory for examining history through an individual life and vision. As such, the Artist's Museum proposes a challenge and alternative to the usual history of art and the usual experience of the public, while generating enrichment and new understanding

### **Dalí Museum History**

The Dalí Museum celebrates the life and work of Salvador Dalí (1904-1989) and features works from the artist's entire career. The collection includes over 2,400 works from every moment and in every medium of his artistic activity, including oil paintings, many original drawings, book illustrations, artists' books, prints, sculpture, photos, manuscripts and an extensive archive of documents. Founded with the works collected by A. Reynolds and Eleanor Morse, the Museum has made significant additions to its collection over the years, celebrating the life and art of one of the most influential and innovative artists in history.

In 1942, the Morses visited a traveling Dalí retrospective at the Cleveland Museum of Art organized by the Museum of Modern Art in New York and became fascinated with the artist's work. On March 21, 1943, the Morses bought their first Dalí painting, *Daddy Longlegs of the Evening, Hope!* (1940). This was the first of many acquisitions, which would culminate 40 years later in the preeminent collection of Dalí's work in America. On April 13, 1943, the Morses met Salvador Dalí and his wife Gala in New York initiating a long, rich friendship.

The Morses first displayed their Dalí paintings in their home, and by the mid-1970s decided to donate their entire collection. A *Wall Street Journal* article titled, "U.S. Art World Dillydallies Over Dalí," caught the attention of the St. Petersburg, FL community, who rallied to bring the collection to the area. The Dalí Museum, St. Petersburg, FL opened in 1982. The distinguished new building, which opened on January 11, 2011, enables the Museum to better protect and display the collection, to welcome the public, and to educate and promote enjoyment. In a larger sense it is a place of beauty dedicated, as is Dalí's art, to understanding and transformation.

#### About The Dalí Museum

The Dalí Museum, located in picturesque downtown St. Petersburg, Florida, is home to one of the most acclaimed collections of a single modern artist in the world, with over 2,000 works representing every moment and medium of Salvador Dalí's creative life. The Dalí is recognized internationally by the Michelin Guide with a three-star rating; has been deemed "one of the top buildings to see in your lifetime" by AOL Travel News; and was named one of the 10 most interesting museums in the world by *Architectural Digest*. The Dalí's acclaimed digital experiences have received numerous national and international awards for creative innovation.







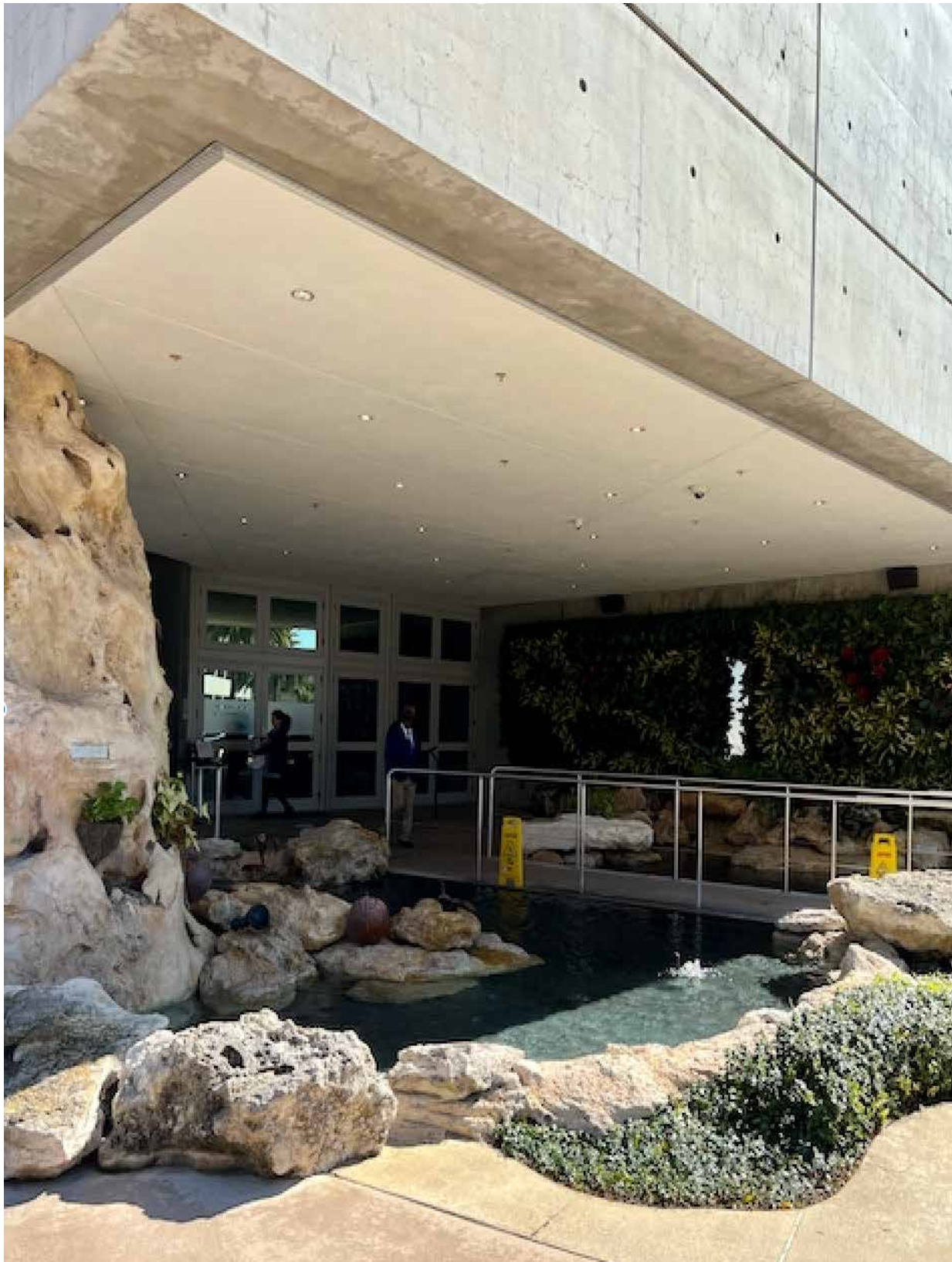












**Lunch Friday was at the International Mall in Tampa - each choosing their own fare.**