SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS TO OUR COMMUNITY

All of us at Selby Gardens are focused on the significant benefits that will be realized when our Master Plan is fully implemented.

Selby Gardens’ Master Plan will:

• codify our privately-owned, downtown 15-acre oasis as a botanical garden in perpetuity and protect it from future high-density development
• grow garden space by 50% within our existing footprint
• safeguard and showcase the world’s best scientifically documented collections of orchids and bromeliads
• add significantly more free public access to our privately-owned property through the creation of a 12-foot wide Multi Use Recreational Trail around the perimeter of our property and the addition of substantial public park space
• create public access to the water through improving and maintaining the City-owned pocket park at the northwest corner of our property
• become an international model for the latest green building technology by serving as the first Net Positive Energy Botanical Garden Complex in the world
• return clean water to Sarasota Bay through a 500,000 gallon storm water management system
• preserve our important history and historic structures for the generations to come
• improve traffic conditions for our site and for our surrounding public areas
• accommodate our rapidly growing visitor base and have more capacity to connect the underserved families and children in our region to our treasures
• diversify revenue streams for the long-term survival of our institution
• generate more than $78 million of economic impact for our region
• create nearly 3,000 jobs - with hiring priority given to city residents

FUNDING

The great news for tax-payers is that Selby Gardens is planning to fund the above improvements and enhancements to our city primarily with underwriting from the private sector. The first phase of our project is estimated to cost $42.5 million--and we have already raised more than $33 million from advocates of Selby Gardens who want to help make our city even better. In addition, because of the tremendous benefits of the Master Plan to our region, we received a $500,000 appropriation from the State of Florida’s Department of Economic Opportunity last year.