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Technical Report No.: 23-PC-01141

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March 8, 2024

Executive Summary

St Pete For STEAM LLC, intends to purchase the property at 7701 22nd Avenue North and return it to its historic use as the Science Center of Pinellas County. Pathfinder Outdoor Education, Inc. (POE) is seeking grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Community Projects Fund (CPF) Program in order to purchase the property from the City of St. Petersburg (City) and perform the necessary rebuild and renovation. Pursuant to *24 CFR § 58.2(a)(7)* and *§ 58.10*, the City is identified as the "Responsible Entity" and has assumed HUD's responsibility for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed undertaking consists of parcel 07-31-16-61605-001-0030. The structure at 7701 22nd Avenue North has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The undertaking proposes to renovate the existing structure, which will involve demolishing the rectangular wing of the building and replacing it with a new structure, renovating the rotunda, and making it usable to tenants as a new science center. This action will result in an adverse effect on the historic property.

The purpose of this Case Study Report is 1) to summarize the City's, POE's, and St. Petersburg Group's (SPG's) efforts to develop project alternatives or modifications to the undertaking that could avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects; 2) to evaluate the effects of the Preferred Alternative on the historic property within the APE; 3) to document public and agency coordination efforts to date; and 4) to propose potential mitigation measures to resolve adverse effects.

POE explored two alternatives to the partial demolition of the structure at 7701 22nd Avenue North, a No Action Alternative and a Repair/Rehabilitation Alternative. The No Action Alternative and the Repair/Rehabilitation Alternative are not recommended as neither satisfies the project's need nor definitively avoids adverse effects to the structure at 7701 22nd Avenue North. While the Partial Demolition Alternative will have an adverse effect on the historic property, this alternative satisfies the project's need while remaining consistent with the goals of the CPF program and the mission of POE and SPG. As such, POE has identified Partial Demolition as the Preferred Alternative. There is no feasible alternative to this demolition that meets the needs of the project.

The proposed undertaking requires demolishing the rectangular wing of the building at 7701 22nd Avenue North and replacing it with a new structure, which would result in an **adverse effect** to the property. Further coordination and consultation will occur among the SHPO, the City, POE, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), other potential consulting parties, and the public to fulfill the requirements of Section 106. Final mitigation measures will be arrived at through consultation and will be documented in a Memorandum of Agreement to resolve the adverse effect.

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1 Introduction

St Pete For STEAM LLC, intends to purchase the property at 7701 22nd Avenue North (Figures 1-1 and 1-2) and return it to its historic use as the Science Center of Pinellas County. Pathfinder Outdoor Education, Inc. (POE) is seeking grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Community Projects Fund (CPF) Program in order to purchase the property from the City of St. Petersburg (City) and perform the necessary rebuild and renovation. Pursuant to 24 CFR § 58.2(a)(7) and § 58.10, the City is identified as the "Responsible Entity" and has assumed HUD's responsibility for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed undertaking consists of parcel 07-31-16-61605-001-0030. The structure at 7701 22nd Avenue North has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The undertaking proposes to renovate the existing structure, which will involve demolishing the rectangular wing of the building and replacing it with a new structure, renovating the rotunda, and making it usable to tenants as a new science center. This action will result in an adverse effect on historic properties.

The purpose of this Case Study Report is 1) to summarize the City's, POE's, and St. Petersburg Group's (SPG's) efforts to develop project alternatives or modifications to the undertaking that could avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects; 2) to evaluate the effects of the Preferred Alternative on the historic property within the APE; 3) to document public and agency coordination efforts to date; and 4) to propose potential mitigation measures to resolve adverse effects.



Figure 1-1. Map of Project survey area on aerial photography.

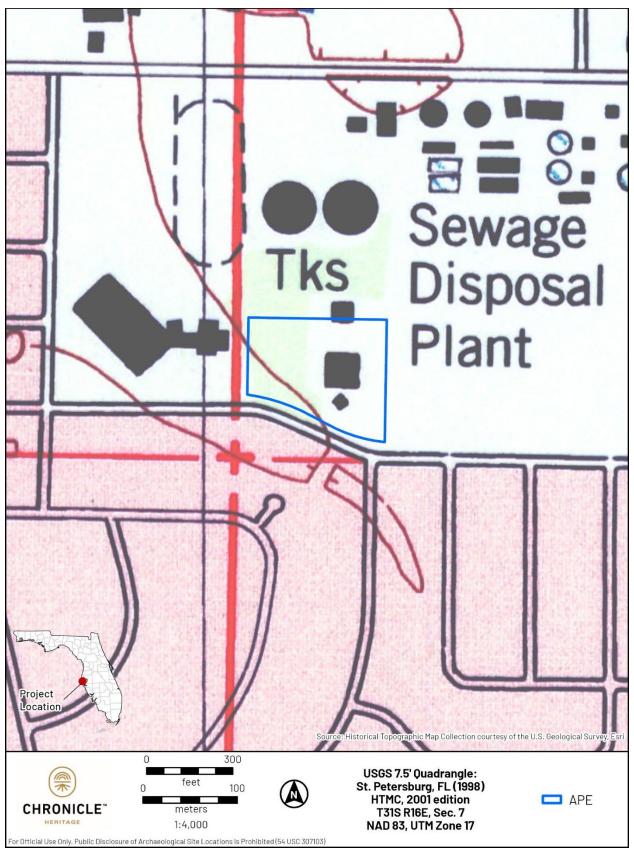


Figure 1-2. Map of Project survey area on USGS topographical map.

2 Project Description and Need

POE and SPG are collaborating with community partners to revitalize the former home of the Science Center of Pinellas County. The aim is that the revitalized Science Center will act a base for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education and innovation in St. Petersburg. The new facility will be home to local nonprofits offering impactful programming, classes, and camps to serve residents and visitors of all ages. The goal of the project is to build an iconic destination with regional impact augmented by close ties to local schools, nonprofits, and government. Reactivating this beloved institution will enable new generations of children and families to immerse themselves in STEM learning, while building community connectedness and enjoying family–friendly programming (St. Petersburg Foundation 2020).

St Pete For STEAM LLC intends to purchase the property from the City, and in order to make the revitalized Science Center financially feasible, to demolish the rectangular wing and replace it with a new structure, renovate the rotunda, and make it usable to tenants. Should POE be unsuccessful in their application for HUD funds and be unable to purchase the property, the City will likely sell the property to a developer to demolish for housing construction. Providing an updated and safe facility is necessary, and the structure is currently unsafe and not usable. Retaining the structure at 7701 22nd Avenue North in its current state runs counter to the goals of the project and the mission of POE and SPG and the purpose of the CPF program.

3 Science Center of Pinellas County: 7701 22nd Avenue North

The NRHP-eligible Science Center of Pinellas County is located at 7701 22nd Avenue North. The building was constructed in the Modern style (Figures 3-1 and 3-2). The original rectangular portion was constructed in 1965 with a steel frame and originally included an observatory deck on top of the building that has since been removed. This building consists of painted concrete block in horizontal stack bond. Flat metal awnings on steel supports project from the building on the south and east sides. Subsequent additions were added to the north in 1967 and 1968. The circular, two-story library wing portion, which included a planetarium, was added to the south of the original building in 1969. The masonry addition with vertical stack bond pattern was connected to the existing building via a second story enclosed walkway that employed the existing second story opening on the south façade. The connection incorporated part of the southern awning and was left as an open-air entry to the Science Center on the ground level. Decorative block walls of concrete and metal are present in the open-air entry. The roofs are flat and covered with built-up material. The doors on the east facade under the awning are flat panel metal doors, and full-glass metal storefront style doors appear to still exist in the original opening. Windows on the 1969 addition and walkway connection are fixed aluminum storefront style. The site has a paved surface parking lot to the east (City of St. Petersburg 2023).



Figure 3-1. View from the parking lot of the circular wing (rotunda) and mural with rectangular wing in right of frame.

The rectangular wing will be replaced by a triangular garden and triangular structure; these will occupy the same footprint as the existing structure.



Figure 3-2. Google Street View of the current condition of the Science Center.

The idea of a science center began with Bill Guild, who started one in his own garage so that he could share his love of science with local childern. In 1959, the Science Center moved to a vacant synagogue at 1039 Arlington Ave North in downtown St. Petersburg, and it was incorporated that same year. The Science Center was intended to be hands on and interactive and was not run as a typical museum. Funds were eventually raised by the Science Center Guild to build a new structure for a more state-of-the-art facility. Local architect Howard Allender designed the original 1965 structure, and the new Science Center was dedicated in 1966. John David Parrish of Anderson Johnson Henry Parrish was the architect on record for the 1969 addition (City of St. Petersburg 2023). The building served the community for decades until closing its doors in 2014.

The City of St. Petersburg historic preservation staff have evaluated the Science Center of Pinellas County for listing in the NRHP. The resource is considered **eligible for listing in the NRHP** under Criterion A for its connection to the development of science education and under Criterion C as a good example of Modern architecture. The SHPO concurred with this eligibility evaluation (Appendix A).

4 Analysis of Project Alternatives

The City commissioned Harvard Jolly Architecture to conduct a study of the Science Center, which included an Existing Conditions Assessment, a Feasibility Study, and a Cost Estimate. The Existing Conditions Assessment included findings regarding the site, the building structure, the building envelope, the floor slab, and the electrical distribution. A site visit was conducted on March 1, 2022, by Harvard Jolly (Architect), Construction Moisture Consulting, Inc. (Building Envelope Consultant), Pennoni (Structural Engineer), Vickstrom Engineering (Civil Engineer), and MPS (Electrical Engineer). For the exterior grounds, the assessment concluded that some form of water quality treatment would be required to treat a minimum of ½" of runoff over the site; the parking lot did not meet City requirements for landscape buffers or the 10% vehicular use area (VUA) planting areas; the overall asphalt parking lot was in good condition needing only repainting and repair of minor cracks; the north concrete curbing and driveway needed repair; the ramp needed to be reconstructed to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements; and the fencing was in good condition yet had no dumpster enclosure (Harvard Jolly Architecture 2022).

Findings regarding the building structure concluded that, while the overall structure was in a salvageable condition, the following actions were deemed necessary to return the structure to a safe condition:

- repair cracking in the concrete masonry unit (CMU, i.e., concrete block) exterior walls;
- retrofit exterior walls with new filled, concrete block;
- complete replacement of the roofing system and roof draining system;
- regrade the ground soil to a minimum of 6" below the interior floor for proper drainage;
- replace all exterior glazing;
- replace all hollow metal doors;

- remove pedestrian bridge cement plaster replacing it with gypsum sheathing and a water barrier membrane;
- replace soffits around the planetarium wing;
- install aluminum coping cap to the CMU equipment screen wall;
- repair/modify the ramp structure connecting the main building and planetarium;
- replace damaged gypsum roof deck with a metal deck and strengthen some steel beams to meet code requirements;
- replace steel columns and foundation on the north side of the library/planetarium;
- enclose the existing Library/Planetarium stair so it can be utilized for required means of egress;
- replace existing restroom fixtures;
- add an additional water closet for men and two additional water closets for women in the library/planetarium wing restrooms to meet Code;
- expand overall restroom footprints to meet ADA requirements;
- apply a topical vapor barrier to the existing flooring slab; and
- replace the existing electrical system in its entirety (Harvard Jolly Architecture 2022).

The cost estimate that was prepared for the above scope of work is \$3,469,932 (Harvard Jolly Architecture 2022). As that scope of work will not result in an increase of rentable space, it is not financially feasible for POE and SPG and their nonprofit partners, even with HUD funding assistance.

Following the results of these studies, POE determined that there was no feasible and reasonable alternative to the partial demolition of the structure at 7701 22nd Avenue North that meets the needs of the project.

The proposed undertaking requires renovation and partial demolition of the structure at 7701 22nd Avenue North, and in a letter dated February 21, 2024, the Florida SHPO determined that the structure's demolition would result in an adverse effect to the property (Appendix A). In accordance with 36 CFR § 800.6(a), POE has developed and evaluated alternatives or modifications to the undertaking that could avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse the effect. The following project alternatives were considered: 1) No Action; 2) Repair/Rehabilitation; and 3) Partial Demolition.

4.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The structure at 7701 22nd Avenue North is currently unoccupied, having been closed to the public since 2014. Since its vacancy, the structure has been subject to further deterioration. As stated above, the need for the proposed project is based on providing an updated and safe Science Center facility is to serve the community. The No Action Alternative precludes the development of a safe and usable facility to service the local community and will result in further neglect of the site. As described in 36 CFR § 800(a)(2)(vi) "neglect of a property which causes its deterioration" constitutes an adverse effect. As such, the No Action Alternative is

not recommended as it neither satisfies the project's need nor definitively avoids adverse effects to the structure at 7701 22nd Avenue North.

4.2 ALTERNATIVE 2: REPAIR/REHABILITATION

A Repair/Rehabilitation Alternative was evaluated by POE throughout project development. Repairs are simply actions that would allow the structure to be safely occupied. Rehabilitation as defined in 36 CFR § 68.2(b) is "the act or process of making possible an efficient compatible use for a property through repair, alterations and additions while preserving those portions or features that convey its historical, cultural or architectural values."

As discussed above, Harvard Jolly Architecture performed an evaluation of the structure and site in March 2022. Based on discussions with the City and the findings of the March 2022 site visit, it was anticipated that the Science Center building would need to be completely gutted and renovated (Harvard Jolly Architecture 2022). The renovation project would be classified as a Level 3 Alteration by the Florida Building Code (FBC). Per 604.1, Level 3 Alterations apply where the work area exceeds 50 percent of the building. As described in 36 CFR § 800(a)(2)(vi), these improvements would likely still result in an adverse effect.

The Repair/Rehabilitation Alternative is not feasible as sufficient funds to rehabilitate the structure in accordance with Secretary of the Interiors standards are not available. Repair of the structure remains beyond the funding capabilities of POE. Further, repairing the existing structure while bringing the site up to code would likely still result in an adverse effect. As such, the Repair/Rehabilitation Alternative is not recommended as it neither satisfies the project's need nor definitively avoids adverse effects to the structure at 7701 22nd Avenue North.

4.3 ALTERNATIVE 3: PARTIAL DEMOLITION

A due diligence assessment of the structure and site at 7701 22nd Avenue North was conducted in 2022. Harvard Jolly Architecture was retained to perform an Existing Conditions Assessment, a Feasibility Study, and a Cost Estimate. Based on the findings of these studies, POE determined that preservation of the entirety of the existing structure is not feasible. Partial demolition of the structure will allow the site and subsequent structure to be brought into compliance with Florida Building Codes and the Florida Accessibility Code and will enable POE to construct an updated and safe facility that will better serve the community and provide scientific education to the youth of Pinellas County.

4.4 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE – PARTIAL DEMOLITION

The No Action Alternative and Repair/Rehabilitation Alternative are not recommended as neither satisfies the project's need nor definitively avoids adverse effects to the structure at 7701 22nd Avenue North. While the Partial Demolition Alternative will have an adverse effect on the historic property, this alternative satisfies the project's need while remaining consistent with the goals of the CPF program and the mission of the mission of POE and SPG. As such, POE has identified Partial Demolition as the Preferred Alternative. There is no feasible alternative to this demolition that meets the needs of the project.

5 Evaluation of Effects

This Section 106 Effects Case Study Report documents the potential effects the preferred alternative will have on the structure at 7701 22nd Avenue North, a resource that is potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP. The Criteria of Adverse Effect, as defined in *36 CFR §* 800.5(a)(1), were applied to this historic property. An adverse effect is defined as follows:

An adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Consideration shall be given to all qualifying characteristics of a historic property, including those that may have been identified subsequent to the original evaluation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Adverse effects may include reasonably foreseeable effects caused by the undertaking that may occur later in time, be farther removed in distance, or be cumulative.

Examples of adverse effects on historic properties, found in 36 CFR § 800.5(a)(2), include but are not limited to:

- i) Physical destruction of or damage to all or part of the property;
- ii) Alteration of a property, including restoration, rehabilitation, repair, maintenance, stabilization, hazardous material remediation, and provision of handicapped access, that is not consistent with the Secretary's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (36 CFR part 68) and applicable guidelines;
- iii) Removal of the property from its historic location;
- iv) Change of the character of the property's use or of physical features within the property's setting that contribute to its historic significance;
- v) Introduction of visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that diminish the integrity of the property's significant historic features;
- vi) Neglect of a property which causes its deterioration, except where such neglect and deterioration are recognized qualities of a property of religious and cultural significance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization; and
- vii) Transfer, lease, or sale of property out of Federal ownership or control without adequate and legally enforceable restrictions or conditions to ensure long-term preservation of the property's historic significance.

The preferred alternative requires the partial demolition the structure at 7701 22nd Avenue North. In accordance with *36 CFR § 800.5(a)(2)(i)*, the preferred alternative will have an adverse effect on the historic property. In a letter dated February 21, 2024 (Appendix A), the Florida SHPO confirmed that the structure's partial demolition would result in an adverse effect to the property.

6 Mitigation Measures

As detailed above, there is no feasible or cost-effective means of avoiding the partial demolition of the structure at 7701 22nd Avenue North while meeting the needs of the project. The demolition will result in an adverse effect to the historic property, and in accordance with *36 CFR § 800.6(a)*, the following potential mitigation measures are proposed to resolve the adverse effect.

- Preparation of an application for a Florida Historical Marker, which will be installed on site following completion of the construction project.
- Photo documentation of the Science Center and preparation of a Florida Master Site File (FMSF) form (no form has been prepared yet).
- Preparation of an extended historical narrative detailing the significance of the Science Center. The narrative can be submitted to the Site File along with the new FMSF form.
- Create a display of historical (if available) and/or modern photographs of the Science Center in the rotunda and/or new wing.

These measures are neither exhaustive nor final; additional measures can be arrived at through consultation with the SHPO, the City, POE, other potential consulting parties, and the public. POE will execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with SHPO and, if participating in consultation, the Advisory council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.6(c).

7 CONSULTATION WITH THE PUBLIC AND THE ACHP

Pursuant to 36 CFR §800.6(a)(4), the City shall make the information presented in this Case Study Report available to the public and shall continue to provide opportunities for members of the public to express their views on resolving adverse effects of the undertaking. Further, the City will place a public notice in the local newspaper seeking input from the public to assist in the development of appropriate mitigation measures to resolve the adverse effect to the historic property. Public comments on the project and proposed mitigation measures will be accepted throughout development of the MOA.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6 § (a)(1), the City will notify the ACHP of the adverse effect finding and will invite the ACHP to participate in consultation. The notification and required documentation outlined in 36 CFR § 800.11(e) will be delivered by the City via the ACHP's e106 system.

8 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

St Pete For STEAM LLC intends to purchase the property at 7701 22nd Avenue North and return it to its historic use as the Science Center of Pinellas County. POE is seeking grant funding from the HUD's CPF Program in order to purchase the property from the City and perform the necessary rebuild and renovation. Pursuant to 24 CFR § 58.2(a)(7) and § 58.10, the City is

identified as the "Responsible Entity" and has assumed HUD's responsibility for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

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The proposed undertaking requires demolishing the rectangular wing of the building at 7701 22nd Avenue North and replacing it with a new structure, which would result in an **adverse effect** to the property. Further coordination and consultation will occur among the SHPO, the City, POE, the ACHP, other potential consulting parties, and the public to fulfill the requirements of Section 106. Final mitigation measures will be arrived at through consultation and will be documented in a MOA to resolve the adverse effect.

9 References

City of St. Petersburg

2023 "7701 22nd Ave N – Science Center of Pinellas County, Determination of Eligibility." City of St. Petersburg Historic Preservation staff.

Harvard Jolly Architecture

2022 Science Center Renovation Feasibility Study. Prepared for the City of St. Petersburg. May 26, 2022.

St. Petersburg Foundation

2020 The Science Center. Accessed online, https://stpete.foundation/programs/the-science-center/

Appendix A. SHPO Consultation Letter February 21, 2024



RON DESANTIS

CORD BYRDSecretary of State

Tony Fernandez City of St. Petersburg PO Box 2842 St. Petersburg, Florida 33731 February 21, 2024

RE: DHR Project File No.: 2023-6500-C

Project: St. Petersburg Science Center - 7701 22nd Avenue N., St. Petersburg, Florida 33705

County: Pinellas

Mr. Fernandez:

Governor

The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed the referenced project for possible effects on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*. The review was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended, and its implementing regulations in 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties.

It is the opinion of this office that the St. Petersburg Science Center is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A: science and education and Criteria C: architecture. The proposed partial demolition of the science center and the proposed new construction would have adverse effects on historic properties. As HUD's responsible entity for this project, the city of St. Petersburg is directed to follow the process described in 36 CFR Part 800.6, *Resolution of Adverse Effects* to complete the Section 106 process. To complete this process, (Insert Responsible Entity Here) should undertake the following actions:

- 1) According to 36 CFR 800.6(a), the Agency, St. Petersburg, shall continue consultation with the SHPO and other consulting parties to develop and evaluate alternatives or modifications to the undertakings that could avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties. The Agency shall submit a case study outlining these efforts for review by the SHPO.
 - * A case study is a document that outlines the agency's efforts to develop and evaluate alternatives or modifications to a project that could avoid or minimize adverse effects to cultural resources. The case study provides a record of an agency's due diligence to carefully consider the impacts of its actions upon cultural resources. The document may also reveal previously unidentified but feasible alternatives that will avoid impacts altogether.
- (2) In accordance with 36 CFR 800.6(a)(4), the Agency shall make information regarding this finding available to the public, providing the public with an opportunity to express their views on resolving adverse effects of the undertakings. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.11(e), copies or summaries of any views provided by consulting parties and the public shall be made available to the SHPO as part of the case study outlined in (1).



- (3) The Agency shall notify the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), 401 F Street NW, Suite 308, Washington, DC 20001-2637, of the adverse effect finding per 36 CFR 800.6 (a)(1). The notification to the ACHP should be similar to the project information submitted to this office and should include the following documentation as outlined in 36 CFR 800.11(e). The ACHP will advise of its decision to participate in consultation within fifteen (15) days of receipt of this notification or other request. If the ACHP chooses not to participate in consultation, the Agency shall resolve the adverse effect without ACHP participation and pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(b)(1). Notification of the ACHP can also be completed digitally; information for digital notification is available at https://www.achp.gov/e106-email-form.
- (4) If the Agency, the SHPO and, if applicable, the ACHP agree on how the adverse effects will be resolved, they shall execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(c).
- (5) If the Agency and the SHPO fail to agree on the terms of the MOA, the Agency shall request the ACHP to join the consultation. If the ACHP decides to join the consultation, the Agency shall proceed in accordance with 36 CFR 800.6(b)(2). If the ACHP decides not to join the consultation, the ACHP will notify the Agency and proceed to comment in accordance with 36 CFR 800.7.

Our office looks forward to consulting with you to resolve this adverse effect. If you have any questions, please contact Alayna Gould, Historic Preservationist, by email at *Alayna.Gould@dos.myflorida.com*, or by telephone at 850-245-6343.

Sincerely,

Alissa Slade Lotane

Director, Division of Historical Resources

& State Historic Preservation Officer

Appendix B. Project Site Plan



7701 22nd Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Project Na: ST PETERSBURG SCIENCE CENTER

CLIENT DATA

PROJECT DATA

Project No: 23028

ARCHITECT DATA

ENGINEER DATA

CIVIL Engineer
CIVIL Engineering
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
O:: 555.555.5555

W:: www.georgefyoung.com

STRUCTURAL Engineer STRUCTURAL Engineering St. Petersburg, FL 33701 O:: 555.555.5555

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ISSUE + REVISION DATA

No: Description:

ARCHITECTURE SEAL

MEP Engineer

Carbon design & architecture 263 13th Avenue South

Suite 375
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
O:: 941.362.4312
W:: www.carbonAE.com

Client: Owner

2,400 SQFT EXISTING FOOTPRINT 14,500 SQFT PROPOSED FOOTPRINT SIGNAGE COVERED SOLAR PANEL PARKING 200 SQFT OUTBUILDING

Issue Date Author CHECKED BY Checker

ARCHITECTURAL SITE PLAN OPTION 1

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