# The Future Is Not What It Used To Be

**The Sarasota Opera House & Five Points Park**
**Sarasota, Florida**
**March 31–April 3, 2027**

## Sponsor Package

Produced by

Science & Environment Council

In partnership with

The Ringling
THE JOHN & MABLE RINGLING MUSEUM OF ART
STATE ART MUSEUM OF FLORIDA | FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Sarasota County

# ECOSUMMIT 2027: IMAGINATION TO ACTION

## eco-summit.org

With 2000 attendees expected over four days, the EcoSummit is the largest environmental event produced on Florida's Suncoast.

We bring together visionary thinkers and doers who are shaping solutions to address the most critical issues of our time. Scientists, technologists, storytellers, and artists show not just what's possible, but how we get there.

Blending ecology and technology, performing and visual arts, speculative futures, and community, the summit moves from imagination to action across four critical domains: natural lands, resilient waterways, human health, and living cities.

It is a positive, forward-looking alternative to the gloom-and-doom narrative — for civic leaders, scientists, planners, and engaged citizens.

Memories from the 2023 EcoSummit: Carl Hiasen, Damon Gameau, Craig Pittman, and Jon Thaxton packed the room with big ideas and storytelling while Karen Jonas blew the roof off the joint. Were you there?

# LET'S BUILD THE FUTURE TOGETHER

In 2023, the Science and Environment Council brought 2,282 people together across four days for the largest environmental event ever produced on the Suncoast with 54 speakers and 196 partner organizations and businesses. EcoSummit 2027 is the next chapter: four days at the historic Sarasota Opera House and Five Points Park, built to be bigger, and built to matter more.

Your organization already understands that ecological, economic, and community resilience is the growth strategy of the next decade. Sponsoring EcoSummit puts your name in front of the people building that future in Florida: the civic leaders writing the policy, the scientists doing the restoration, the planners and architects redesigning our cities, the healthcare leaders tracking what pollution does to our bodies, and the residents who will vote, spend, and volunteer accordingly.

Your sponsorship shows which future you're building by supporting the people already doing the work.

**$40,000**
1 AVAILABLE

Presenting Sponsor
BE OUR HERO!

**$20,000**
3 REMAINING

Keynote Sponsor (x2)
Festival Sponsor (x1)

**$10,000**
4 REMAINING

Session Sponsors (x1)
Tech Demo Sponsor
Performing Arts (x2)

**$5,000**
OPEN

Champion

**$1,000**
OPEN

Supporter

**$500**
OPEN

Friend

| BENEFITS | $40k Presenting | $20k Keynote/Fest | $10k Session/ Tech/Arts | $5k Champion | $1k Supporter | $500 Friends |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Top Billing & Naming | ✓ | | | | | |
| Main Stage Welcome | Opening | Keynote | Session | | | |
| Lobby Space for Pull-Up Banner | Prime | Prime | ✓ | | | |
| VIP Reception Passes | 6 | 4 | 2 | | | |
| EcoSummit Premium Ticket | 10 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| OnScreen Logo | Top line | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Listing |
| Lobby Signage Logo | Top line | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Listing |
| Program Logo | Top line | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Listing |
| Summit Webpage Logo | Top line | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Listing |

Historic Sarasota Opera House, Downtown Sarasota

## WHAT PARTNERSHIP DELIVERS

- ✓ Reach — 2,000+ attendees across four days: civic leaders, academics, nonprofits, and businesses.
- ✓ Network — regional leaders shaping the environmental and civic future of Southwest Florida.
- ✓ Visibility — before, during, and after the Summit across print, digital, and on-screen media.
- ✓ Standing — a visible, public demonstration of your organization's commitment to the health and resilience of our environment and community.

## SECURE YOUR PARTNERSHIP

## Secure Payment Link

## Email or Call

**David Shafer 941-232-9952**
david@scienceandenvironment.org

**Jennifer Shafer 941-232-8222**
jennifer@scienceandenvironment.org

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# FEATURED ECO-ARTS PERFORMANCE

*Opening Night: Sarasota Opera House, March 31, 2027*

# SHOPPING CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

**Robin Frohardt**

Presented in partnership with the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art with Dr. Elizabeth Doud, Curator of Performance, Historic Asolo Theater as part of the 2026/2027 Art of Performance Season.

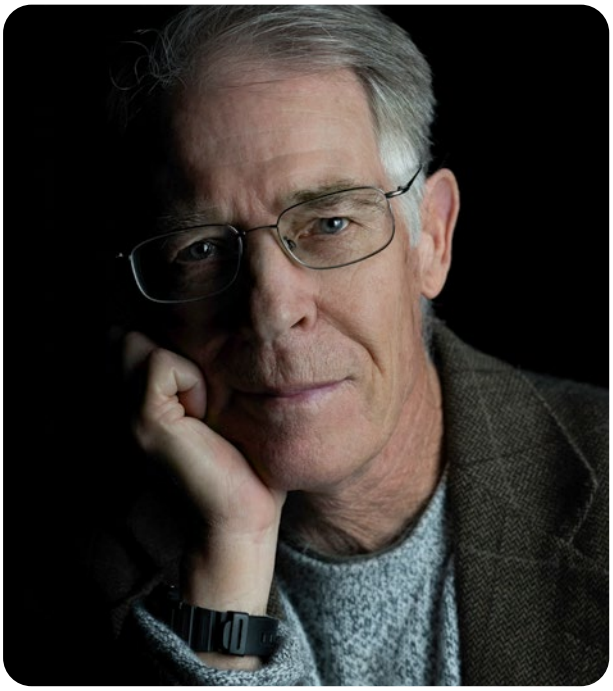
Presented by The Ringling, Shopping Center of the Universe is a meditation on box store shopping centers, where the parking lot blurs the boundary between built and natural worlds—inviting reflection on the landscapes we've built, the ones we've lost, and the subtle poetry hidden in plain sight.

This multidisciplinary live performance blends puppetry, prose, music, and film. Inspired by a very real parking lot, the piece reflects on how the architecture of consumer culture shapes our sense of self and our relationship to the natural world.

Onstage, puppets and intricate handmade cardboard sets are activated by performers in front of multiple cameras, with their live-feed projected above them accompanied by live narration and an original score. This allows audiences to experience both the handmade mechanics of the simple cardboard elements and their cinematic expression simultaneously.

# FEATURED KEYNOTES

*Sarasota Opera House, Thursday, April 1, 2027*



## KIM STANLEY ROBINSON

### Speculative Fiction

To build a better future, we must first imagine it. Kim Stanley Robinson explores how storytelling shapes our understanding of what's possible and what's at stake. From dystopian warnings to regenerative futures, science fiction helps us test ideas, challenge assumptions, and clarify the path forward.

Robinson is the acclaimed author of more than twenty novels including the international bestselling epic *Mars Trilogy* and paradigm-shifting *The Ministry For The Future*. He has earned the rare distinction of sweeping the Hugo, Nebula, Locus, and World Fantasy awards. He is a defining voice in environmental and climate fiction.

*Sponsorship Available!*

*Sarasota Opera House, Friday, April 2, 2027*

## PETER LEYDEN

### Futurist & Tech Strategist

To build a better future, we must first understand the times we are in and the tools and technologies shaping our future. Led by a visionary tech journalist and futurist, this session explores how emerging technologies like clean energy, bioengineering, and AI will reshape our civilization and offer powerful tools to heal earth systems. Leyden is a tech expert and thought leader on AI, climate technologies, and a more positive future.

Former managing editor of WIRED and author of *The Great Progression: 2025-2050*, he follows the front edge of technological change and maps how emerging technologies can pivot civilization from ecological crisis into a new era of sustainability.

*Sponsorship Available!*

# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

*Sarasota Opera House, Thursday, April 1, 2027*

**SESSION 1**
**Natural Lands and Wildlife**

Large, connected landscapes are the foundation of a resilient Florida. This session explores how protected lands, wildlife corridors, and emerging technologies can restore ecosystems at scale. From conservation history to cutting-edge monitoring and rewilding, securing the natural systems that sustain all life.

GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

*Together with their donors, GCCF transforms our region through bold and proactive philanthropy.*

**SESSION 2**
**Natural Waters and Wildlife**

Water connects everything: headwaters, estuaries, oceans. This session examines how science, technology, and stewardship can restore aquatic ecosystems, protect biodiversity, and improve water quality in a changing climate. From sensor networks to species restoration, healing our most vital resource.

*SBEP restores and protects Sarasota Bay by improving water quality, increasing wildlife habitat, and enhancing natural resources for public use and enjoyment.*

*Sarasota Opera House, Friday, April 2, 2027*

**SESSION 3**
**Environmental-Human Health**

The environment shapes our bodies in ways we are only beginning to understand. This session explores the dual reality of environmental health: the risks of pollution—from microplastics to air particulates — and the powerful, evidence-based benefits of nature on human health and wellbeing.

*Sponsorship Available!*

**SESSION 4**
**Living Cities**

Coastal cities are the front line of climate and environmental change. This session explores how urban systems can be reimagined to work with nature, integrating green infrastructure, water management, and regenerative design—transforming cities from sources of ecological harm into engines of resilience and renewal.

Sarasota County

*Sarasota County Stormwater works to reduce the threat of flooding, improve surface water quality, and encourage appropriate development practices.*

# FESTIVAL OF DISCOVERY AND INNOVATION

*Five Points Park, Sarasota, Friday Evening and Saturday, April 2–3, 2027*

As the summit sessions end, the celebration begins. EcoSummit attendees flow out of the Sarasota Opera House into the Festival of Discovery and Innovation at Five Points Park. Free and open to the public, the Festival brings EcoSummit ideas out of the theater and into the community to touch, to try, and to take home.

Explore an expo of living native landscapes, wildlife tech, drone demos, virtual reality, and more. Join a nature journaling session, a balcony gardening class, and a climate action workshop. Delight in eco-arts performance, catch the Solarpunk fashion show, or browse the juried Artifacts from Potential Futures exhibit.

The Festival's exhibits, experiences, and performances show the future is not what it used to be.

*Sponsorship Available!*

# SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

Now in our 25th year, the Science and Environment Council of Southwest Florida (SEC) is a non-profit collaborative of 45 leading science-based environmental organizations working between Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor. Our network of scientists, educators, and resource managers works to increase environmental understanding, conservation, and restoration through collaboration and public engagement in Southwest Florida. Our network serves as a catalyst and multiplier creating powerful synergy and leverage among our member organizations and the community to initiate and accomplish impactful projects no one organization would pursue on its own. The EcoSummit is our premiere event.

Science & Environment Council

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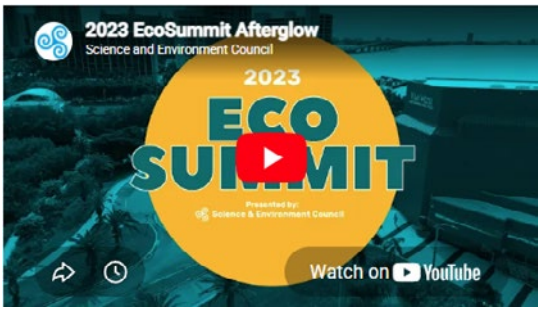
# 2023 ECOSUMMIT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



*MUST SEE: Click images to view YouTube video recaps for the 2023 Summit or Expo or a PDF of the 2023 Impact Report. If viewing a print copy, please visit the 2023 EcoSummit webpage: https://www.scienceandenvironment.org/project/2023summit-expo/*

The Science and Environment Council produced the EcoSummit + Expo December 2–6, 2023 in Sarasota, Florida—the largest environmental event of its kind ever produced on the Suncoast. Events included a film screening, 2-day Green Living tradeshow, 2-day Summit, and an evening of Florida Stories with Carl Hiaasen, Craig Pittman, and Randy Wells.

**The Green Living Expo** (December 2–3, 2023 at the City of Sarasota's Municipal Auditorium) was a 2-day Green Living tradeshow. Thirty-five (35) green businesses and non-profit organizations showcased ideas, demos, and products about how to reduce our environmental impacts. The event was attended by 570 people.

**The EcoSummit** (December 5–6 at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall) was two days of big ideas and solutions. The EcoSummit kicked off the evening of December 4 with a free public screening of "2040" with Australian film director and Summit keynote Damon Gameau. His feature documentary explored what the future would look like by the year 2040 if we embraced the best solutions already available to us to improve our environment. Fifty-four (54) international, national, state, and regional experts shared insights and innovations for recharging our environment and reducing our impacts. Sessions focused on priority issues, including Growth and Balance; Land, Legacy, and Special Places; Making a Place for Nature; Billion Dollar Bays; Clean Water; and Personal Pollution. Storytellers explored our environmental heritage as a touchstone for a resilient future. It was a lively and entertaining solutions-oriented experience with lectures, panel discussions, storytelling, film, live music, and a mermaid! A total of 530 people registered for the daytime sessions.

**An Evening of Florida Stories** with Carl Hiaasen entertained 1,182 community members with stories of natural and unnatural Florida. Hiaasen was joined by author and journalist Craig Pittman, local dolphin whisperer Dr. Randy Wells, and award-winning Americana songwriter Karen Jonas and her band, who also played throughout both days.

Events were attended by 196 organizations and businesses, with 41.3% of attendees identifying as community members, 30.7% as professionals, and 26.9% as researchers, managers, or educators. We are grateful to our many volunteers and 54 sponsoring partners, especially The Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, Elizabeth Moore, City of Sarasota, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, and Florida Power and Light.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**2,282** Registered Attendees at 3 main events:
- **570** Green Living Expo
- **530** EcoSummit
- **1,182** Florida Stories

**54** Speakers and Storytellers

**196** Attending Organizations and Businesses

**54** Sponsoring Partners

**30** Organizing Partners

Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation

Elizabeth Moore

# 2023 SUMMIT SPONSORS!

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