

April 30, 2015



Mr. Robert F. Bendus, Director  
R.A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Dear Mr. Bendus,

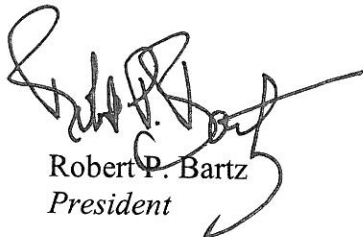
The Manatee Chamber of Commerce with over 2,100 members representing 76,000 employees in our area strongly support the grant application for a historic survey of Bayshore Gardens submitted by Manatee County Government and the Manatee County Clerks Office. This survey is vital to achieve the goal of setting boundaries for and the creation of a national historic district in the area.

Manatee County, like many communities throughout the state of Florida, has a rich heritage engrained in its historic planned neighborhoods and homes. However, many communities are losing these valuable historic treasures and have seen these areas decline into a state of blight. We believe our local governments, with the help of the Florida Division of Historical Resources, are perfectly situated and have the tools necessary to enhance and preserve the historic Bayshore Gardens area.

Manatee County has recently been designated a Certified Local Government and the Bayshore Gardens area is located within the newly established Southwest County Tax Increment Finance District. This, coupled with the Manatee Historic Preservation Boards priority to preserve Bayshore Gardens should allow us to attain success in creating this historic district.

The Manatee Chamber of Commerce encourages you to support this grant application. With the support of your division, we have an opportunity to create one of the first Mid Century Modern National Register Districts in Florida.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Bartz  
President