

City of Venice

100 years of your City on the Gulf



Centennial Celebration Plan
November 2025 to May 2027



Incorporated in 1926,
Known as the
"City on the Gulf"



Present day, over 27,000 full-
time residents & up to 35,000
November through March



community focused on
volunteer service and
maintaining small-city charm

PARADE AND SCHOOL IN FLORIDA "1947"





100 years of your City on the Gulf

City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan

Background

Themes & objectives

Timeline & City events

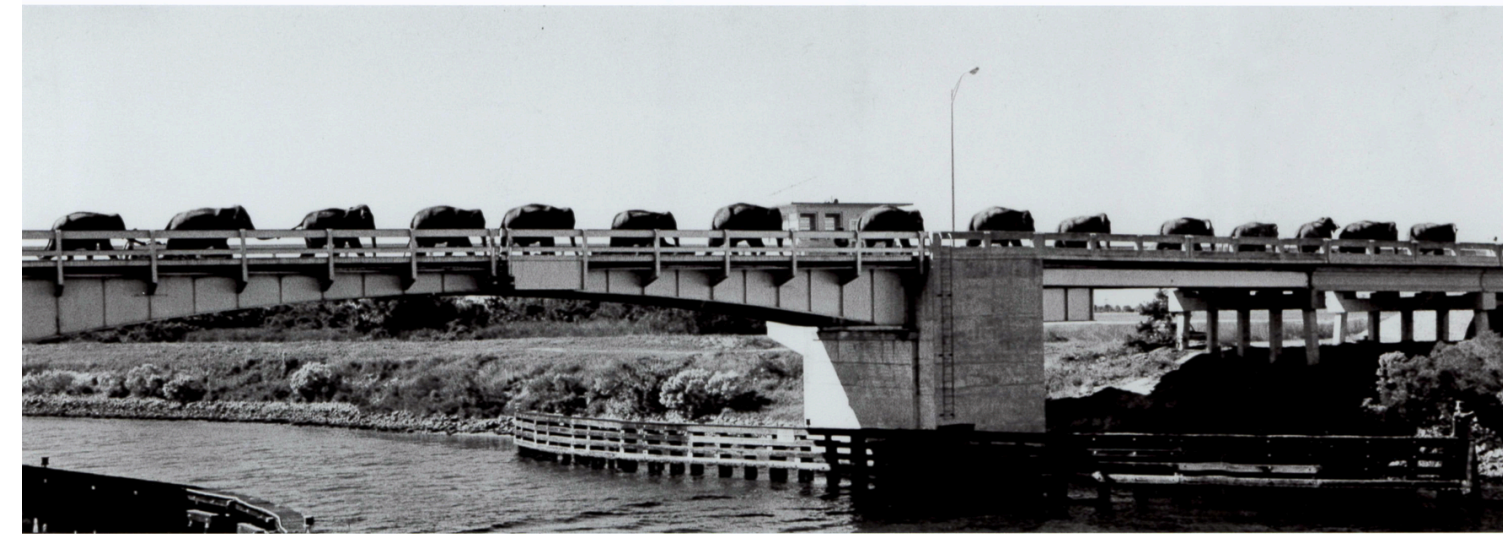
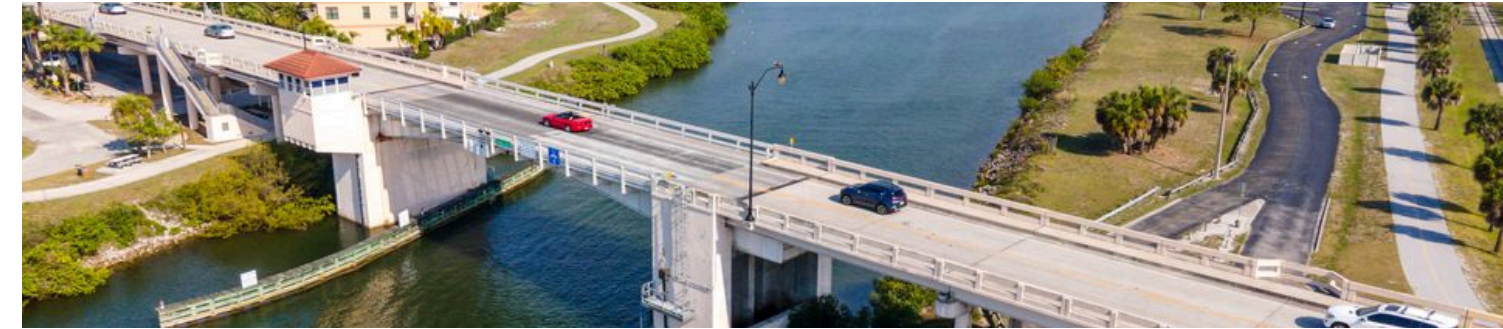
Budget & projected costs

Events & promotional

Community outreach

Stakeholders & partners

Next steps

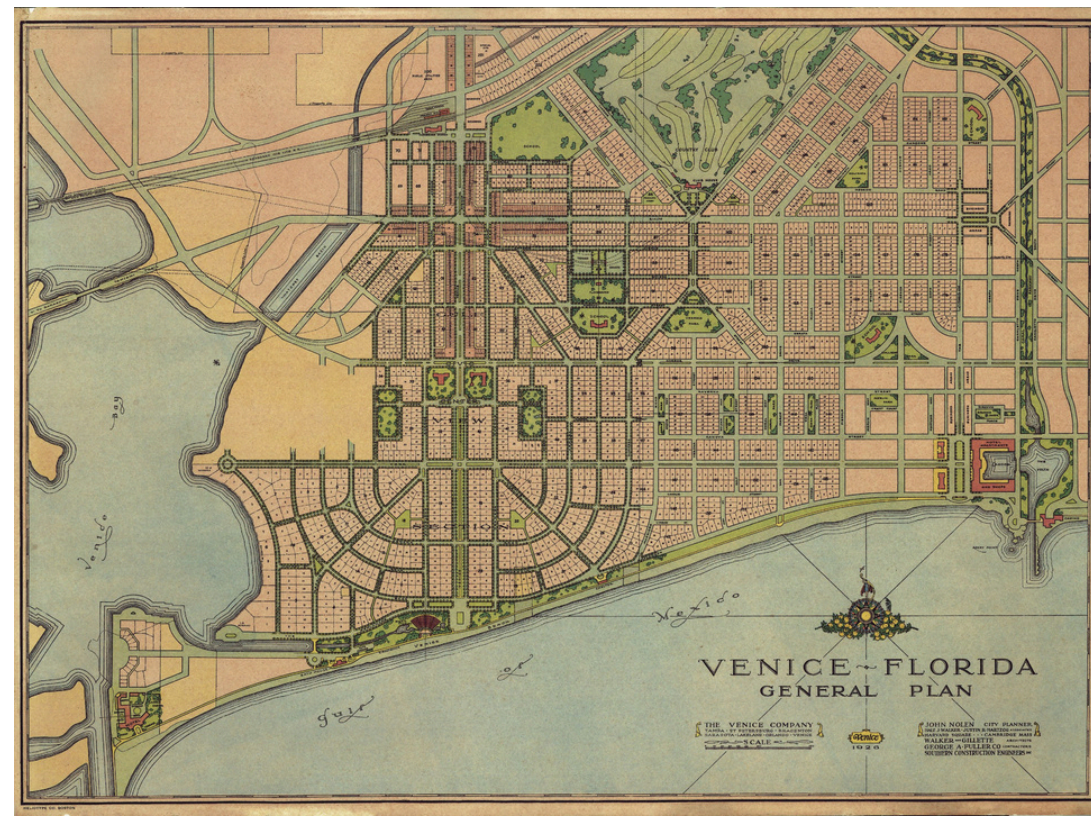




City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan 100 Years of History

Founded in 1926, the City of Venice is the vision of city planner John Nolen [WORD] the Gulf of Mexico, railway travel, parks and open spaces, roadways, and city spaces. Founded in 1926, the Centennial will celebrate major milestones, influential places and people and the community organizations and people who call Venice home.

- During the 1920s into the 1940s, Venice was incorporated as a town and then renamed to City! The first Mayor was elected and the Venice Army airport became operational
- In the 1950s through the 1990s, Venice Fishing Pier opened, KMI closed, and railway transport stopped
- From the 2000s to the present day, the city's history and environment have been preserved through beach renourishment, Fishing Pier refurbishment, and new government facilities





City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan Objectives & Themes



November 2025 and will conclude 18 months later in May 2027.

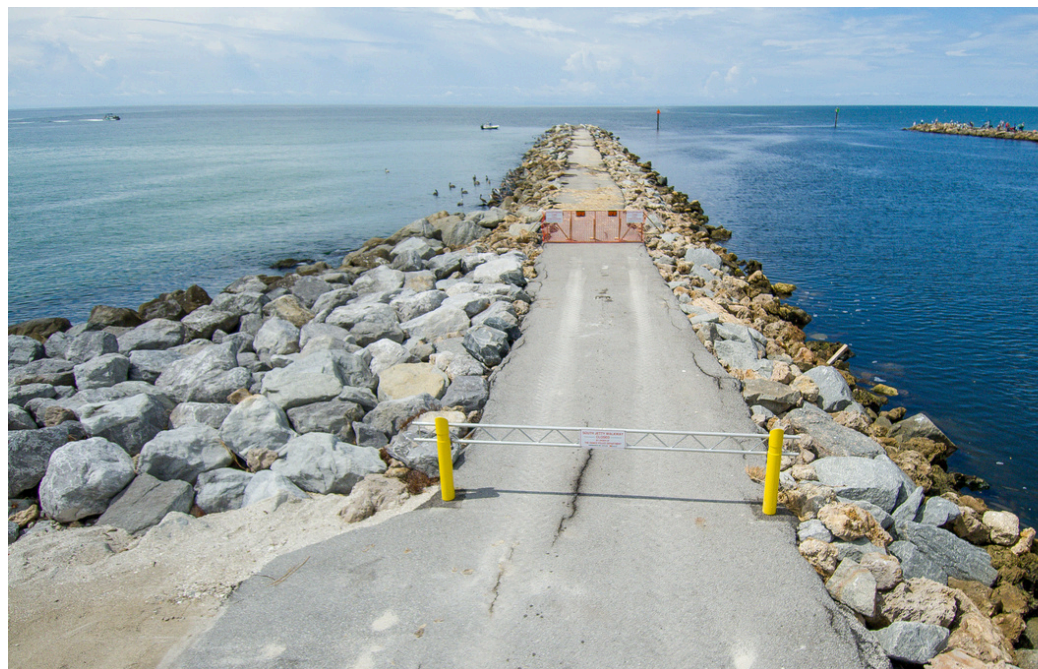
Objectives:

- Share City's origin story and involve the community
- Celebrate traditions and cultures of past, present & future
- Adapt existing events and create new ones
- Engage with community partners, residents visitors





City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan Objectives & Themes



Proposed themes

100 years of your “City on the Gulf”

focuses on the City’s unique origin story, the natural Florida environment, tourism, and the City’s evolution over time

Celebrating our milestones

focuses on the different chapters of City history including military, citrus, city planning, architecture, arts and culture, and other historical landmarks throughout the city’s past

My history is our history

focuses on engaging the community to reflect on their personal histories, memories, and ties to the Venice area

A vision for the future

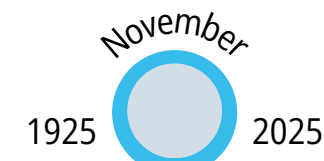
focuses on inspiring future generations to maintain the culture of community, create sustainability and resilience, and shepherd Venice into the next century



City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan Timeline & City Events: Then & Now



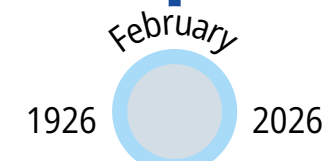
Town of Venice created by state legislature
November 2025



Kick-off Centennial Celebration with annual Holiday Parade
themed float with participants



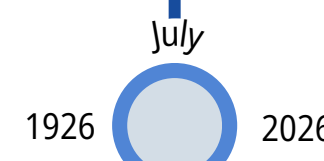
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers declares Venice open
February 2026



Past Mayors & Chamber Presidents Dinner
in partnership with Venice Area Chamber of Commerce



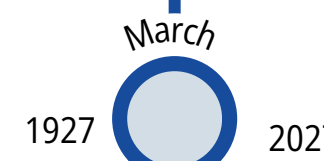
Law creating Town of Venice takes effect
July 1926



Centennial Parade & Picnic
on 250th anniversary of July 4th in partnership with Venice MainStreet Inc, concluding at Venice Community Center



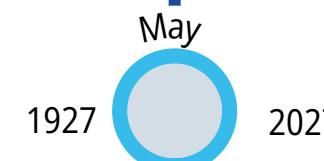
Governor Martin appoints first mayor and council
December 1926



Futurists Venice Roundtable
at Venice Community Center



Venice incorporation changes from town to city
May 1927



Anniversary Cake Finale Event
at Centennial Park



City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan Budget & Projected Costs



\$187,500

*projected total costs for expenditures
FY25 through FY27*

In addition to the budget and costs below, the City will pursue funding and grant opportunities from local, state and federal partners.



City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan Budget & Projected Costs



Fiscal Year 2025

Centennial logo design	\$5,000
Centennial marketing materials	\$5,000
Promotional items	\$10,000
Holiday parade float	\$5,000
Total	\$25,000



City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan Budget & Projected Costs



Fiscal Year 2026

Centennial parade	\$50,000
Centennial picnic	\$10,000
Centennial park message board	\$5,000
Centennial picture books	\$55,000
Mayor/Chamber dinner	\$10,000
Street pole banners	\$5,000
Student contest prizes	\$2,500
Marketing & promotional materials	\$12,500
Total	\$150,000



City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan Budget & Projected Costs



Fiscal Year 2027

Futurists of the John Nolen Plan	\$5,000
Marketing materials	\$2,500
Anniversary Cake - finale event	\$5,000
Total	\$12,500



City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan Promotional Activities & Items

Centennial themed promotional items

- Challenge coin
- Annual city calendar - themed
- Photo & coffee books - published
- Social media & newsletter content
- Props & prints outs
- Window logo clings
- Lightpole banners
- Postcards - now & then





City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan Promotional Activities & Items

Centennial themed contests & activities

- Student contest: Street light banner design
- Student contest: Florida City Government Week poster
- Student contest: “What will Venice look like in 100 years” essay
- Community engagement: “What is Venice to You” downtown message board
- Historical Resources: Oral history project





City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan Promotional Activities & Items

Events, presentations & celebrations

- 2024 & 2025 Public Centennial Workshops
- 2025 Annual Holiday Parade float and participants
- 2026 Exhibit installation at the Venice Museum
- 2026 Past mayors & Venice Area Chamber of Commerce presidents dinner
- 2026 Centennial/July 4th Parade & Picnic with float and participants
- 2026 Holiday Parade 100-year anniversary themed float
- 2027 Futurists Venice Roundtable
- 2027 History Day Competition
- 2027 100-year anniversary cake finale celebration event





City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan Promotional Activities & Items

The City encourages the entire Venice community to adapt their own existing events and create new events and activities to complement the City's Centennial Celebration efforts.





City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan Community Outreach, Engagement & Participation



Public Workshops

The City of Venice will host at least two public workshops to engage stakeholders and the community at City Hall (Fall 2024 and Spring 2025).



City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan Community Outreach, Engagement & Participation



Centennial Partnership Process

Application Process



Review Process



Partnership approval process

Short-form application or proposed event, activity, or initiative. Special events will utilize the existing special event application process.

Level 1
Level 2
Level 3

Outside events and activities with cross-promotion and marketing under the “100 Years of Your City on the Gulf” brand.



City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan Stakeholders & Partners

Existing Stakeholder Organizations

Gulf Coast Community Foundation
Kentucky Military Institute Alumni
Sertoma Club of Venice
Suncoast Rotary Club
Venice Area Beautification Inc.
Venice Area Chamber of Commerce
Venice Area Historical Society

Venice Art Center
Venice Gondolier
Venice Heritage
Venice MainStreet Inc.
Venice-Nokomis Woman's Club
Venice Theatre
William H. Jervey Jr. Venice Public Library





City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan Stakeholders & Partners

Existing Stakeholder Organizations

- The City will include and partner with numerous interested community stakeholders
- The City encourages the entire Venice community to adapt their own existing events and create new activities

Example Future partners: Local businesses, non-profits, neighborhood associations, service clubs, Venice area schools, and any other clubs and community groups.



Photo by Liesl Walsh



City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan

Next Steps



Proposed Timeline

Council plan endorsement	May 2024
FY25 Budget approval	Oct. 2024
Public Workshop no. 1	Fall 2024
Order promotional materials	Fall 2024
Open Partnership Application Process	Fall 2024
Finalize event dates	February 2025



City of Venice Centennial Celebration Plan

Next Steps



Proposed Timeline

Public Workshop no. 2	Spring 2025
FY26 Budget approval	Oct. 2025
Centennial Celebration Kickoff	Nov. 2025
Execute events and programs	2025 - 2027
FY27 Budget approval	Oct. 2026
Centennial Celebration Finale	May 2027



2026, a year of anniversaries Celebrate, Commemorate, & Remember

Independence Day Semiquincennennial

250th year of the United States' independence

- July 4 Centennial Parade - 2026
- July 4th Picnic - 2026 with Venice MainStreet
- July 4th Fireworks Display - 2026





2026, a year of anniversaries Celebrate, Commemorate, & Remember

September 11 Quadranscentennial

25th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks

- 9/11 exhibit at Venice Museum - 2026
- 9/11 remembrance at Patriots Park - 2026
- 9/11 Venice oral history project - 2026

