

## Restore Fort Myers Beach Arches, Inc. (RFMBA, Inc) Annual Report (2025)

We are excited to provide a positive progress report on our Restore Fort Myers Beach Arches, Inc. efforts to accomplish our mission to have the **Gateway to Fort Myers Beach Commemorative Arch** constructed in **Bowditch Point Regional Park**, along with its Etched **Brick Walkway**, and **Educational Signage**. It will recognize the iconic structure that stood as the entrance to Fort Myers Beach for over 55 years, and provide the **Town of Fort Myers Beach, Lee County, and Southwest Florida** with a new educational and historical asset **for both residents and tourists to see, remember, learn, use, and enjoy**.

The **Commemorative Arch will replicate one section of the original Arches, using both saved original materials and identical new materials; will be built over an etched brick walkway; and will include educational signage**. It will also serve as a small event venue, in a free, fully accessible, inclusive and popular park that is open to the public. Visitors will be encouraged to **"Take a picture under the Arch and you will return to Fort Myers Beach"**.

We reached a project milestone by selecting a General Contractor **Southern Shore Construction, Inc**, with their subcontractor team of **David Nelson Masonry, Able and Willing Pavers II, Inc** and **Lee Designs** to build the Commemorative Arch and install the etched brick pathway and educational signage. And, we are working with Lee County Parks & Recreation Staff to finalize the Development Agreement for approval by the Lee County Commissioners.

We raised 90% of the funds now realistically estimated to complete the project, and retained **Candid's Silver Transparency Status**, which is like a Charity Navigator rating for small non-profits (<https://candid.org/>). As we continue to make a final push to raise the funds needed, a donor recently committed to a **Dollar-for-Dollar Matching Grant for both monetary and etched brick donations thru June 2026, up to a total of \$40,000**.

**We invite you to create your own legacy, or that of your family or business, by donating an etched brick, with an inscription of your choice**. It will be placed on the walkway leading to and under the new Commemorative Arch. Approximately 275 bricks remain available.

To place your donation order, go to <https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/walkthearches>



**We greatly appreciate your continued support!** With it, we will have accomplished our mission just over 100 years after the original Arches were constructed in 1924, and 47 years after the iconic Arches were accidentally demolished to make way for the new Matanzas Pass Bridge. Plus, we will have helped reach a goal that remained in the Town's Comprehensive Plan for over 25 years.

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