



MEMORANDUM TO VENICE CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH CHARTER OFFICER: James Clinch, City Manager **E-SIGN:** JRC
FROM: Deputy Public Information Officer Brianne Lorenz
DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office
DATE: 10/17/25 **MEETING DATE:** 10/28/25

SUBJECT / TOPIC: Centennial Special Event: Better Together Block Party

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The New Events Review Team (NERT) recommends the one-time Centennial Better Together Block Party for City Council approval. Attached please find:

- Memo
- Event overview and site plan

Proposed as a one-time Centennial-related event, the Gulf Coast Community Foundation (GCCF) Better Together Block Party will take place at West Blalock Park on Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 2 to 6 p.m.

This free event is an opportunity for the entire community to celebrate the positive impact GCCF has within the region while paying homage to the City's Centennial. The block party integrates GCCF's priority areas of Human Services, Arts and Culture, Civic and Economic Development, Education, and the Environment, with various activities and vendors, such as a live band or DJ, food trucks, face painting, photobooth, and roaming circus performers, magicians, or bubble artists, etc. GCCF is partnering with the City's Historical Resources division to incorporate the Old Betsy Museum and the museum at the Triangle Inn as part of the event.

City support will include the special event trailer, Venice Police Department officers, and Solid Waste for trash and recycling. This event involves the closure of Nassau Street between Milan Avenue and Turin Street, adjacent to the park, with hardened barricades to support the safe crossing of pedestrians from the cultural campus to the event space.

SUPPORTS STRATEGIC PLAN: Goal Six: Preserve the Venice Quality of Life through Proper Planning

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED: For Council Adoption by Consent Motion

Yes N/A

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| ☐ | ☐ | Document(s) Reviewed for ADA compliance (required if for agenda posting) |
| ☐ | ☐ | City Attorney Reviewed/Approval |

- ☐ ☐ Risk Management Review
- ☐ ☐ Finance Department Review/Approval
- Funds Availability (account number):

CC:

Event Overview

Gulf Coast Community Foundation's is thrilled to bring our annual Better Together block party to West Blaylock Park on March 14, 2026. This free event is an opportunity for the entire community to celebrate the positive impact we can have on our region when we work together.

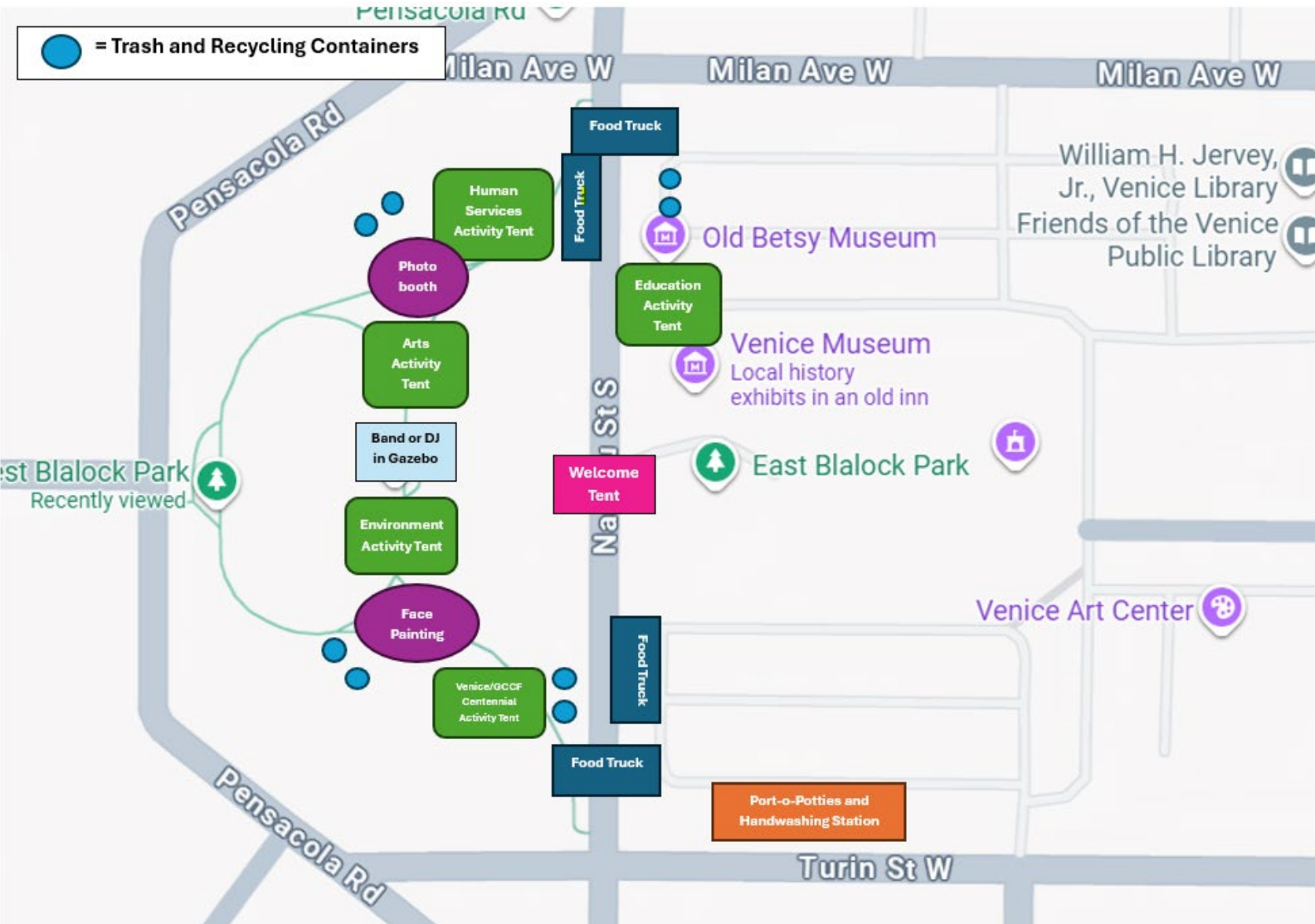
The activities at the event will focus on Gulf Coast's priority areas: Human Services, Arts and Culture, Civic and Economic Development, Education, and the Environment. We will partner with Venice based non-profits to create activities that allow attendees to celebrate Venice's Centennial and the Foundation's work. We plan to incorporate both the Old Betsy Museum and the Venice Museum as part of the event offerings.

We will have either a live band or DJ set up in the gazebo, food trucks on Nassau Street, face painting, photobooth, and possibly some rotating/roaming entertainment throughout the event such as circus performers, magicians, bubble artists, etc.

Event Logistics

- Event Date: Saturday, 3/14/2026
 - Set up: 8:00 a.m.
 - Open to Public: 2:00 p.m.
 - Event Concludes: 6:00 p.m.
- We will have 6 10x10 tents rented from US Tent for each of the Activity and Welcome Tents. Tents will be weighted down with concrete blocks (no stakes will be used)
- We will rent tables, chairs, and additional furniture from US Tent as needed that will be placed throughout the event area.
- We will rent the required number of port-o-potties and at least 1 hand washing station. Bathrooms will also be available in the Venice Museum.
- The required number of trash and recycling cans will be appropriately spaced throughout the event.
- Power will be needed in the gazebo for the musical entertainment. We do not anticipate needing electricity at any of the activity tents throughout the park.
- The food trucks/vendors will provide their own generators for power.
- We would like the option to offer adult beverages for purchase. We will secure all appropriate permits for temporary liquor sales.
- The required number of Venice Police Officers will be hired to work the event.
- Preliminary event map on page 2.

Preliminary Event Map



Signature: 
James Clinch (Oct 17, 2025 15:47:04 EDT)

Email: JCLinch@venicefl.gov

COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM - GCCF Centennial Event Block Party

Final Audit Report

2025-10-17

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