



A Community for All Ages  
SPECIAL EDITION



## Reflections on Livable Communities Events

Age-Friendly Sarasota recently hosted a series of Livable Communities events with Dr. Rodney Harrell, director of Livable Communities for the [AARP Public Policy Institute](#) and lead architect of the [Livability Index](#).

Dr. Harrell spoke at four events, collectively engaging the five key sectors of our community: business, government, media, nonprofits and community members. People from multi-generations and phases of life showed their support and commitment to the Age-Friendly Sarasota movement.

The four events were made possible by financial support from AARP Florida and The Patterson Foundation.

### 1) Planners Workshop

*Sector Engaged: Government*

The Livability Index was shared with 16 municipal and county planners as a helpful tool for their work focused on creating environments in which we can all live, work, play and thrive. This focus on the "Built Environment/ Infrastructure," includes housing, transportation, open spaces and public buildings. Attention to these domains fosters our full engagement in our environments, and ultimately our quality of life. To learn more, click [here](#).



### 2) Community Leaders Luncheon

*Sectors Engaged: Business, Government, Media, Nonprofits & Community Members*



Presenting to 53 community leaders from all sectors within the community, the importance of livable communities for all was discussed. Dr. Harrell emphasized the vital roles each of the five sectors play in creating a livable community for all ages. Many attendees were introduced to the content for the first time. Others had already been thinking about the ways in which they can contribute to create a better community for all—throughout the life course.

Attendees also learned about the progress of the county-wide Age-Friendly Sarasota Initiative. To learn more, click [here](#).

### 3) Public Forum

*Primary Sector Engaged: Community Members*

The public forum, hosted at the Friendship Centers, provided an opportunity for people of all ages to learn about the many components of Livable Communities. Many at this event have supported Age-Friendly Sarasota since its inception, just one year ago. The event, jointly sponsored by AARP Florida, served to further engage and foster connections to advance future age-friendly efforts. To learn more, click [here](#).



### 4) Neighborhood Leaders Workshop

*Sectors Engaged: Community Members*



Meeting with 20 neighborhood leaders, in partnership with SCOPE at USF-Sarasota Manatee, provided an interactive workshop for those community members who have already committed to making their community a better place to live.

Prior accomplishments were shared and aspirations were discussed. Considering the aspects of Livable Communities and the Age-Friendly domains of livability, there was even greater understanding about the synergy of aligned efforts. To learn more, click [here](#).

To view photos from the event by Photographer Dale Smith, click [here](#).



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For questions, please contact [info@AgeFriendlySarasota.org](mailto:info@AgeFriendlySarasota.org) or call us at (941) 444-0243

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