



## Community Release

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### **City of Venice, Venice MainStreet, Venice Chamber of Commerce and SCOPE Partner to Co-Host a Workshop on Community Data**

(Venice, Florida) - Read the paper, listen to the coffee-shop chatter, or talk with someone at the Venice Pier and you will notice that a lot of people are sharing ideas about how to make their community better.

How does anyone really know what will actually make a difference? How can anyone tell what is really going on? Community Data helps to answer these questions.

On May 18, people who live and work in Venice are invited to participate in Community Data 2.0, a half-day workshop on innovative approaches to using community data to make community decisions. The workshop is co-hosted by the City of Venice, Venice MainStreet, the Venice Chamber of Commerce and SCOPE, a community engagement organization in Sarasota County. It will provide an opportunity for people from a diversity of neighborhoods and professionals from a diversity of sectors in Venice to convene.

Participants will review maps to see what Venice looks like today and find out how this information can guide decisions and citizen-led action in Venice.

Participants will share perspectives on qualities of life that matter most to people in Venice. This information will be used to inform county-wide decision-making about community indicators to track – measurements of community well-being relating to health, learning, the environment and other areas.

Participants will also find out how to get involved in the Community Data Collaborative, a growing network of people from various neighborhoods and professional sectors working together to create a local, user-friendly data resource. SCOPE is facilitating the development of the Collaborative and the Collaborative is partnering with the Urban Institute, a national organization which is working with communities in Florida and across the nation to develop online community data platforms.

The data platform that is being developed in Sarasota County is unique. Currently, the local community is a finalist in the national Knight Community Information Challenge because of the innovative efforts of the Community Data Collaborative.

Enthusiasm for data efforts is easy to spot in Venice. “As residents and professionals in Venice, we have already been coming together in many inspiring ways to make our local community even better,” says Mindy Pieper, executive director of Venice MainStreet. “High quality community data will make it possible for us to continue doing so in creative and powerfully effective ways.”

Allison Pinto, Ph.D., who directs the Community Data Initiative at SCOPE, agrees. “Community data efforts can be a powerful means to creating a better community for all of us. At this workshop, people who care deeply about our collective community well-being and citizen-led community change will connect with people and organizations with resources and skills to contribute relative to community data.”

Historically, SCOPE has been a leader in convening the local community around data. SCOPE published annual Community Report Cards, People Count reports of census data, and Study Group reports on various community challenges. For more information about SCOPE, visit [www.scopexcel.org](http://www.scopexcel.org).

Community Data 2.0: Venice will take place at the Venice City Hall at 410 West Venice Avenue on Friday, May 18, from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. To register, please go to [www.scopexcel.org](http://www.scopexcel.org) or call SCOPE at 941-365-8751. For more information about the event, contact Allison Pinto at [apinto@scopexcel.org](mailto:apinto@scopexcel.org) or at (941) 365-8751.

