

JUNE 26, 2025 | NEWS

Tampa River Center Named in Honor of Former Mayor and Shumaker Advisors Bob Buckhorn

TAMPA, FL – In recognition of his transformative leadership and longstanding service to the City of Tampa, the Tampa River Center at Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park has been officially named in honor of former Mayor Bob Buckhorn, now Executive Vice President and Principal of the U.S. Cities Practice at Shumaker Advisors Florida.

The Bob Buckhorn River Center commemorates Bob's pivotal role in the redevelopment of the park during his mayoral term from 2011 to 2019. Under his leadership, the City of Tampa allocated \$15 million from a BP settlement to fund the revitalization of Julian B. Lane Park—turning it into one of the city's crown jewels for community gathering, recreation, and civic pride.

"Bob's vision for Tampa was clear: to create a city that invests in its people, its neighborhoods, and its future," said Ron Christaldi, Shumaker Partner and President and CEO of Shumaker Advisors Florida. "This dedication reflects not only the legacy of his leadership, but also his unwavering commitment to building a better, stronger Tampa."

As mayor, Buckhorn led more than 4,300 city employees through one of the most challenging financial periods in recent history. He inherited a \$30 million deficit upon taking office and successfully balanced the city's billion-dollar budget every year of his administration. His tenure was marked by major infrastructure projects, urban redevelopment, and inclusive growth strategies that positioned Tampa as a globally competitive, opportunity-rich city.

Today, in his role with Shumaker Advisors, Buckhorn continues to shape Florida's urban future through strategic communications, public affairs consulting, and business development services. He works with clients across the state to drive economic development, improve infrastructure, and elevate quality of life—core values that defined his public service and continue to guide his work.

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The newly named Bob Buckhorn River Center stands as a lasting symbol of his vision for a dynamic urban core and his dedication to improving the lives of Tampa residents.