

# Local Nonprofit Scores \$10 Million Tax Credit to Revitalize Ft Myers Neighborhood

By [RJ Roan @ByRIRoan](#), Jan 09, 2017

 A major tax incentive hopes to bring growth to an old Fort Myers neighborhood.

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation received a \$10 million tax credit to help revitalize the midtown neighborhood, including a community hub and restoring the historic Atlantic Coast Line railroad station and train depot.



“We are extremely excited about this project, public/private partnership with the City and the possibilities this brings for the midtown neighborhood,” said Sarah Owen, president and CEO of the foundation. “We like to call this a ‘collaboration accelerator’ that is powered by technology, funding and good ideas to create change in our region. It’s old historic rail meeting new innovative rail.”

The money comes from the New Markets Tax Credit, a credit designed to encourage economic development in distressed neighborhoods.

As part of the deal, the foundation will move its headquarters into the old train depot on Jackson Street. Built in 1924 and a registered historical landmark, the building housed the Southwest Florida History Museum from 1982 until last fall, when the museum move and merged with the nearby Imaginarium.

The plan is to build a 10,000-square foot building on the site next to the depot which Owen says will become a place for other nonprofits, schools, and community groups, and create a space for philanthropic groups to meet and collaborate with the community.

“This project is a win-win for our region because it is a pivotal example of unique strategies and investment coming together for repurposing and revitalization of our historic treasures and neighborhoods,” Owen said. “Upon completion, this once vital Fort Myers’ asset will once again be a central hub for community activity and progress.”



Construction is expected to begin in February.