

## **Economic Opportunity:**

The replacement of the existing Bayfront Center and Boat Club buildings with a modern facility adequate to accommodate the needs of all current uses presents to opportunity to create a space that will provide an income stream to subsidize the operational and long term maintenance costs of the facility. The attractiveness of the Harbor location combined with the proximity to destinations like Fisherman's Village and the Downtown will make the new facility a prime location for gatherings, meetings, and other small scale indoor events. This facility could serve as an adjunct to existing facilities like the Gilchrist Park Gazebo, the Punta Gorda Isle Civic Association, and Charlotte Harbor Events Center. These facilities currently attract a wide array of events which might benefit from a smaller "break-out" or reception space. This facility might also provide the catalyst for marketing the Charlotte Harbor Events Center as the locus point for events which take place throughout the community in the various gathering spaces such as the Women's Club, the Old County Courthouse, Laishley Crab House, and our beautiful waterfront parks.

The direct economic benefits of the facility will be directed to caterers, hoteliers, and other associated hospitality businesses. Indirect economic benefits will be felt through additional visitor spending associated with longer local stays and additional employment opportunities in the community at large.