

TOTALLY FAB

The Suncoast Science Center/Faulhaber Fab Lab makes its way to Selby Gardens



Butterfly House at Historic Spanish Point campus



Selby Gardens recently collaborated with the Suncoast Science Center/ Faulhaber Fab Lab on a series of exciting projects employing the creativity and skill of local high school students. Produced as part of the Fab Lab's Student Community Innovation Program (SCIP), the projects helped to further the organization's mission to inspire and support tomorrow's innovators through experiential learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM). The students who contributed to these projects gained valuable, hands-on experience that was both educational and fun.

The first project involved the production of wheeled carts to assist in the careful movement of preserved plant specimens in Selby Gardens' Marieb Herbarium and Laboratory, housed in the Steinwachs Family Plant Research Center at the Downtown Sarasota campus. The second project resulted in the creation of clear acrylic boxes to safely store archaeological objects from the Historic Spanish Point campus, which is home to 5,000 years of Florida history. The boxes help protect the objects when they are used as educational resources to enhance school tours and other public programs. Visitors to the Butterfly House at the Historic Spanish Point campus can engage with the third and final project, consisting of a flower-shaped interactive highlighting a selection of native Florida butterfly species.

To complete all three projects, the students progressed through the various stages of design, from concept development and prototyping to fabrication and finishing. Through this process, the students gained insight into how design decisions affect usability and functionality. The results of their efforts benefit the work of Selby Gardens' staff and the experience of our visitors.



Sarasota County School Students

“Working on this project has taught me to appreciate the little things. It inspired me to volunteer as a docent at the Butterfly House at Spanish Point, where I love being around the butterflies and getting to share their stories with visitors.”

—DINA ALTSHUL
Sophomore at Pineview School