V.M. YBOR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Home Tour Participation Guide

A Guide for Prospective Homeowner & Building Owner Participants

12th Annual V.M. Ybor Heritage Home Tour | Sunday, November 22, 2026

What Is the Home Tour?

The V.M. Ybor Home Tour is the Neighborhood Association's signature annual event, now in its 12th year. It is a self-guided heritage tour that invites the public into a curated selection of homes, commercial spaces, and neighborhood landmarks to celebrate the architecture, history, and community spirit of V.M. Ybor.

This year's tour will feature approximately eight homes, along with several unique commercial and historic spaces. It is intentionally not a "magazine-perfect" showcase — homes "in progress" are welcomed and encouraged. The goal is to tell the story of the neighborhood and the people who live here, while generating positive press, attracting future residents and businesses, and raising funds that support the Association's ongoing work.

Key Dates & Times

Pre-Tour "Sneak Peek" Celebration: Friday, November 20, 2026, 6:30 PM — for all participating owners and committee members (location TBD)

Home Tour Day: Sunday, November 22, 2026, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

House History Form Deadline: November 5, 2026 (for inclusion in the printed tour booklet)

VIP Guest Names Due: Before November 21, 2026

What Participation Involves

If you agree to participate, here is what to expect on tour day:

- Open your home (or portion of it) to guests from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM.
- A numbered yard sign with balloons will be placed outside your property by 11:00 AM the day of the tour.
- An Association volunteer will be stationed at your home to greet visitors, manage guest flow, answer general questions, and assist you throughout the day.
- You are welcome to request additional "room monitor" volunteers if you'd like help supervising specific spaces — just let the committee know.
- It is completely acceptable to close off or rope off any room or area you'd prefer guests not enter.
- A volunteer will deliver a Cuban sandwich lunch to you between 12:00 and 1:00 PM. Let us know in advance of any dietary needs (vegan, gluten-free, etc.) – info@vmybor.org.
- Based on past tours, expect approximately 150–200 total guests across all properties — not everyone visits every home. Official guests will be identified by a wristband.
- You do not need to provide refreshments; water stations will be set up at registration and at a mid-tour point along the route and the tour booklet will promote several local establishments.

Your House Doesn't Need to Be “Perfect”

This is one of the most common questions from prospective participants, and the answer is unambiguous: your home does not need to be finished or fully renovated to take part. The tour celebrates authentic homes and real neighborhoods — whether your property is beautifully restored, a work in progress, or somewhere in between, visitors enjoy seeing its evolution. If you have “before” photos from a historic rehab, sharing them with guests is encouraged and adds to the story.

Sharing Your Home's History (Tour Booklet)

Each participating property is featured in the printed tour booklet distributed to guests. To be included, please provide:

- Your address and how you'd like your name(s) listed.
- A brief history of the property — when it was built, and any special or unique features.
- A description of any renovations, additions, or refurbishments you've completed.
- Any future plans you have for the property (optional).

You can submit this information in whatever format is easiest — an online form, an outline, a list, or even a phone call / text. The committee will edit and lay out all submissions into the booklet, and you'll have a chance to review and approve your entry before it goes to print. If you'd like help researching your home's history, the committee can assist — helpful starting points include:

  - hcpafl.org — Hillsborough County Property Appraiser sales and deed history (via the book/page links).
  - John F. Germany Public Library (900 N. Ashley Drive) — historic city phone books dating to the pre-1920s, organized by address, which can reveal the original owner's name and occupation.

Tour Day: Guest Flow & Registration

Guests check in at Cigar Workers Park (1530 E. Columbus Drive), where they receive a wristband, neighborhood map, and tour booklet. From there, the tour is self-guided — most guests walk between clusters of nearby homes, while some drive or bike between more distant groupings. Parking is available on the south side of Columbus Drive, across from the park.

Tickets & Your Guests

- Advance tickets: $20 per person, purchased online or by phone.
- Day-of tickets: $25 per person.
- All proceeds benefit the V.M. Ybor Neighborhood Association.
- Each participating homeowner receives 2 complimentary tickets for friends or family. Send their names to info@vmybor.org before November 21 to be added to the “will call” list as a guest of your home.

How the Tour Is Promoted

- Local media calendars (e.g., Tampa Bay Times, Creative Loafing).
- Association Facebook (facebook.com/vmybor1) and Instagram (@vmybor).
- Partner organizations, including sister neighborhood associations.

Homeowners are encouraged to help spread the word through their own social networks — the more visibility, the stronger the turnout and the greater the benefit to the neighborhood.

Quick Reference

Item	Detail
Sneak Peek Celebration	Fri, Nov 20, 2026 — 6:30 PM (owners & committee)
Home Tour	Sun, Nov 22, 2026 — 12:00 PM–4:00 PM
Yard Sign Placed By	11:00 AM day of tour
Lunch Delivered	12:00–1:00 PM
House History Due	November 5, 2026
VIP Names Due	Before November 21, 2026
Start / Registration	Cigar Workers Park, 1530 E. Columbus Drive
Tickets	$20 advance / $25 day of
Complimentary Homeowner Tickets	2 VIP tickets per home
Committee Contact	Kim Headland — (813) 263-7388
General Info	info@vmybor.org / vmybor.com

Questions about participating? Reach out any time — the committee is happy to walk through the process, help with your house history, or answer anything else before you decide.