SEAPORT Manatee
The *right* turn on Tampa Bay

CHRISTOPHER SOLAN, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Chris joined SeaPort Manatee as Director of Information Technology in September 2026, bringing more than three decades of experience spanning information technology, business operations, laboratory science and organizational leadership.

As Director of Information Technology, Chris is responsible for developing and leading SeaPort Manatee's information technology capabilities. His focus includes modernizing the port's technology infrastructure, strengthening cybersecurity, improving business processes and establishing the systems, standards and practices needed to support efficient, secure and reliable port operations.

Prior to joining SeaPort Manatee, Chris served Manatee County Government for more than 14 years, advancing through a series of increasingly responsible technical and leadership positions. His roles included Business System Support Analyst, Technical Lead, IT Team Leader and Chief Technologist, culminating in his appointment as IT Manager. In that capacity, he helped lead enterprise technology operations, application and database services, automation initiatives, technology projects, vendor management, budgeting and strategic planning.

Chris began his professional career in 1989 as a chemist with Microbac Laboratories. As laboratory technology evolved, his career increasingly focused on Laboratory Information Management Systems, database administration and the application of technology to improve laboratory operations. During nearly two decades with Microbac, he advanced from chemist to senior chemist, laboratory director and ultimately managing director, where information technology development became a significant part of his leadership responsibilities.

His technical background includes enterprise database administration, systems and application integration, process automation, scripting and infrastructure management, with extensive

experience in Oracle and Microsoft SQL Server technologies, PowerShell and enterprise automation platforms.

Chris studied chemistry at Indiana University and later continued his studies at the University of Southern California. His professional development includes ITIL Foundation and ITIL Intermediate certifications, completion of Manatee County Government's Leadership Academy and CJIS security training.

Throughout his career, Chris has focused on using technology not simply as an operational tool, but as a means to improve processes, strengthen organizations and better support the people who depend on their systems.