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## **HISTORICAL MUSEUM SIGNS SUBLEASE WITH STATE OF FLORIDA TO MANAGE THE MIAMI CIRCLE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MIAMI, FL** (March 14, 2008) - The Historical Museum of Southern Florida has successfully executed a 44-year sublease with Florida's Department of State for the Miami Circle, a prehistoric archaeological site discovered in 1998 at the mouth of the Miami River. The museum plans to provide public access to this important landmark while ensuring its continued preservation.

"As the depository for all archaeological materials from Miami-Dade County, including the findings from the Miami Circle, it's fitting that the Historical Museum was asked to manage the site and its future as a park," says President/CEO Robert McCammon.

Future plans for the Miami Circle include an urban, open space for residents and tourists. Visitors will have unrestricted access to the park, which will include an eight-foot model, panoramic mural, interpretative panels, native plants, benches and parking. The site itself will remain buried, at least in the short term, to ensure its historic preservation.

Active recreational and educational opportunities will also be offered, including regular, scheduled guided tours and special events. Interpretation at the site will complement the *First Arrivals: The Miami Circle* section of the exhibition, *Tropical Dreams: A People's History of South Florida*, on permanent display at the museum's downtown Miami location.

The museum is currently reviewing different site options. Plans for the Miami Circle will be finalized in this summer. Tours to the Miami Circle are scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2009.

For more information on the Miami Circle, contact the museum at 305.375.1492 or visit [www.hmsf.org](http://www.hmsf.org).

### **Historical Museum of Southern Florida**

The Historical Museum of Southern Florida tells the stories of South Florida and the Caribbean. The museum promotes understanding of the past in order to inform the present and create a better quality of life. The Historical Museum hosts a permanent exhibition gallery and a special gallery with several changing exhibitions each year. In addition, the museum houses the Research Center, a non-circulating library and archives open to museum visitors, and The Indies Company, the museum's store, which offers a unique array of Florida-themed books and gifts. The Historical Museum is located in downtown Miami in the Miami-Dade Cultural Center, across the street from Metrorail's Government Center Station at 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, Florida 33130. Hours are Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., third Thursdays 10

a.m. - 9 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. Admission for adults is \$8, children (ages 6-12) is \$5, and children under 6 are free.

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