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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Historical Museum To Offer Free Family Fun Days

Saturdays, September 2 – December 2, 2006

MIAMI, FL (August 23, 2006) – This fall, the Historical Museum of Southern Florida will offer free, fun family programming on Saturdays beginning September 2 through December 2 from 1 – 3 p.m. Kids of all ages can recreate South Florida and Caribbean history through interactive and imaginative activities including art, crafts and drama. Free Family Fun Days are presented in conjunction with *Miami Beach: America's Tropical Resort*, an exhibition about a mangrove-covered sandbar and its transformation into America's Year 'Round Playground. Registration is not required.

September 2

Deco Design

Construct your very own model of an Art Deco hotel. Learn about this famous architectural style and its role in shaping Miami Beach history.

September 9

Hurricane History

Spin on in as we learn about the impact of hurricanes on South Florida. Make your own hurricane in a bottle.

September 16

Mangrove Madness

Learn about the habitat of one of South Florida's most unique plants and discover the role it plays in our ecosystem. Create your own mangrove forest and get a taste of what Miami Beach was really like before developers arrived in the early 1900s.

September 23

Beachfront Tourists

Take on the role of a tourist as you "check in" to our exhibition, *Miami Beach: America's Tropical Resort*. See how the Beach has evolved into a world-class tourist destination. Take photographs to capture your visit. Cameras will be provided.

September 30

Fun in the Sun

Create your own private beach using sand and seashells. Share what makes your beach "the place to be" for some summertime fun.

October 7

Terrific Towels

Design your very own beach towel and let people see what makes yours so unique. Discover how towels can be used for more than just drying.

- October 14** **Searching for Sea Urchins**
Bring to life an underwater creature. Learn about this fascinating animal and its role in its environment. Mold an urchin out of clay and watch it come alive before your very eyes.
- October 21** **Moon Over Miami**
Listen to different types of music that have originated in Miami and spread across the nation. Capture the local rhythm and take some of these famous songs, compiled on a CD, home with you
- October 28** **Spooked by History**
Discover the myths and mysteries of Miami Beach. Be spooked by hearing some of its scariest stories. Write your own tale of a haunted beachfront hotel.
- November 4** **Haitian Folk Festival**
Explore the world of Haitian art, dance, cooking, drumming, and much more in a series of workshops, demonstrations and performances.
- November 11** **Pollution Solutions**
Participate in a lesson on environmental protection. Interact with South Florida on a class-sized map and discover what roles we play in protecting and hurting our environment.
- November 25** **Tacky Turkeys**
Fashion your own turkey with feathers and fluff. Explore the interaction between the Pilgrims and the Native Americans. Leave with a better understanding of what Thanksgiving truly means
- December 2** **Lighthouse Living**
Hear the story of the Cape Florida Lighthouse and its brave keepers. Gain knowledge as “light” is shed on their lives. Create your own miniature lighthouse.

For more information on *Family Fun Days* or *Miami Beach: America’s Tropical Resort*, please contact the Historical Museum of Southern Florida at 305.375.1492 or visit www.historical-museum.org.

About the 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. and Sunday noon - 5 p.m. Admission for adults is \$5, children (ages 6-12) is \$2, and children under 6 are free. Saturday is free admission, and Sunday is by contribution.

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