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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HISTORICAL MUSEUM PLANS FOR EXPANSION
IN MUSEUM PARK AND ON WATSON ISLAND**

MIAMI, FL (October 11, 2006) – In the next few years, South Floridians and visitors will be able to learn about local, Caribbean and the Americas histories in not just one but three places. The Historical Museum of Southern Florida is planning for expansion with two new museum satellites, one in Museum Park and another on Watson Island. The projected completion dates for the new facilities are 2011 and 2009, respectively.

“Tripling our exhibition space will allow us to obtain and display new artifacts, add more exhibitions and develop new educational programming. Ultimately, it will attract a greater museum audience in our community. Miami will become not just a world-class recreational destination, but a cultural one,” says Historical Museum President/CEO Robert McCammon.

In 2004, the Building Better Communities general obligation bond was passed to build Museum Park. Voters agreed to \$100 million for a new Miami Art Museum and \$175 million for a new Miami Museum of Science and Planetarium, to include 25,000 square feet of exhibition and educational space for the Historical Museum.

Nearly half of the exhibition space will display a permanent gallery highlighting Miami’s status as a hemispheric city, 8,500 for temporary exhibitions on the history and cultural traditions of the Americas, 1,500 for exhibition processing and 5,000 for educational programming. The exhibitions will be designed with the latest in museum technologies, including recreated environments, graphics, multi-media and interactive elements.

Island Gardens, a luxurious waterfront development by Flagstone Property Group on Watson Island, will include 4,000 square feet of gallery space for a local maritime museum, managed by the Historical Museum. The permanent exhibition space will examine human interaction with the South Florida aquatic environment from prehistoric times to the present.

The Historical Museum is committed to raising the required funds for the construction of the exhibition spaces and an endowment. To prepare for this initiative, the museum’s development director is hiring staff and recruiting outside council to rollout a campaign in November 2007.

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., third Thursdays until 9 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. For more information, call 305.375.1492 or visit www.hmsf.org.

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