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South Florida's History Found in New Series of Tours with Dr. Paul George Plus Eco-History Tours and Education Programs September 28, 2006 – June 10, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MIAMI, FL (September 13, 2006) – Searching for South Florida history? Look no further than to the Historical Museum's new series of year-round historic, eco-history tours and education programs. The Historical Museum of Southern Florida will kickoff the fifty-tour series around South Florida with a free tour of the museum's permanent exhibition, *Tropical Dreams: A People's History of South Florida*, led by historian Dr. Paul George. The tour will be offered on Thursday, September 28 at 6pm. While at the museum, visitors will have the opportunity to sign up for additional tours and receive a discount.

"I love telling the stories of South Florida, the place of my birth. Having led tours for almost twenty years now, I get to share the most interesting facts that make our region so dynamic. The wonderful people that I meet on the tours gain a greater appreciation for the places where they live, work, and play," says the Historical Museum's historian Dr. Paul George.

Popular historic tours with Dr. George by boat, bike, coach and foot include: Roaming the Roads Walking Tour; Miami River Boat Tour; Stiltsville & Key Biscayne Boat Tour; Ghosts of Miami City Cemetery Night Walking Tour; Ghosts of Mystery, Mayhem & Vice Crime Coach Tour; Morningside Walk; and Coral Gables Bike Tour.

Nine new tours with Dr. George will be offered this year including: Performing Arts Center Walk; Bayfront Park Walk; Little Havana Coach Tour & Brunch at Versailles; South Beach Art Deco Walk *en Español*; Asians in South Florida: Asian Culture Festival Coach Tour; Design District Walking Tour; Boom & Bust & Boom: Miami Real Estate History Coach Tour; Trains and Planes Henry Flagler's Coach Tour; and the Bird's Eye Metromover Miami Architecture Tour.

Eco-history tours led by Frank Schena include: Matheson Hammock Eco-History Walk; Old Crandon Park Zoo & Key Biscayne Eco-History Wading Tour; Chokoloskee, Ochopee & Smallwood Store: Everglades Coach Tour; Early Miami Beach Boardwalk Eco-History Walk; and South Grove Botanical Wonderland Eco-History Walk.

Admission for boat and coach tours with Dr. George is \$34 for museum members and \$39 for non-members. Eco-history coach tours are \$27 for museum members and \$32 for non-members.

Walking, bike and eco-history tours are \$17 for museum members and \$22 for non-members. Gift certificates are also available for all tours. Advance registration and non-refundable payment are required for all boat and coach tours.

Other exciting education programs offered include a Live On The Plaza cultural series in conjunction with the museum's current exhibition, *Miami Beach: America's Tropical Resort*. The following free lectures will be offered on select Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30pm at the museum: *It's June In Miami!* Marketing the Beach PR Panel; From Barrier Island to Best-known Beach City: Authors Panel; "Always a View, Never a Jew" Lecture; The Undressing of America: History of the Swimsuit Lecture; and Disappearing Landmarks I Miami Beach Hotels & Motels Presentation.

Another tour offering is a cruise to Key West and the Mexican Riviera aboard Carnival Cruiselines *M/S Imagination* on November 2 – 6, 2006. The five-day adventure includes special programs tailored for Historical Museum passengers: a behind-the-scenes tour and special discounted admission to the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum and the Treasure of the *Atocha*, a walking tour in Key West led by eco-historian Frank Schena, a presentation and ceremony about Maya history and culture, and a coach tour to the ruins of Tulum with Jim Reed of the Institute of Maya Studies. Enjoy world-class cuisine and fun with other museum members and friends at a special low price of \$289 per person plus port taxes and fees.

For more information and reservations for historic tours, call 305.375.1621 or email historictours@hmsf.org.

For more information and reservations for the historic cruise, contact Kendale Lakes Travel at 305.385.3191 or kendalelakestravel@fdn.com.

ABOUT YOUR 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 a Research Center, a non-circulating library, archives, and 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 Metro-rail's Government Center Station at 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, Florida 33130. Hours are Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., third Thursdays 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Sun. 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; Sunday is by contribution.

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