

## MEDIA ADVISORY

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**Media Contact:**  
Victoria Cervantes  
[v.cervantes@hmsf.org](mailto:v.cervantes@hmsf.org)  
305-375-4141

### EXPLORE THE IMPACT BLACKS HAVE HAD ON THE CITY OF MIAMI IN HIGHLY ANTICIPATED EXHIBITION

*Black Crossroads: The African Diaspora in Miami* exhibition opens to the public on March 5, 2009 at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida

**(Miami, FL)**—The highly anticipated 11-month exhibition, [Black Crossroads: The African Diaspora in Miami](#), officially opens to the public, Thursday, March 5th. The exhibition spotlights the deep impact that blacks from the American South, the Caribbean, Latin America and Africa have had on the City of Miami. “We call this exhibition *Black Crossroads* because we want to reflect what Miami has always been: a meeting point for intersections of many members of the African Diaspora since as far back as the 1800s,” said Joanne Hyppolite, Ph.D., Chief Curator at the [Historical Museum of Southern Florida \(HMSF\)](#).

Often working as laborers, maids and farmers, blacks have played an essential role in the development of the City of Miami. The continued migration of African Americans and Afro-Caribbean’s throughout the early twentieth century helped develop many of the landmark constructions and buildings of that era. “So significant was the number of blacks residing in Miami by 1896 that 162 of them were used to make up the 362 votes needed for the city’s incorporation” said Robert McCammon, HMSF President and CEO.

Artifacts, [photographs](#), family documents, and [oral histories](#) are key components of the exhibition on display from March 5<sup>th</sup> through January 24, 2010. Themes such as settlement patterns/migration, labor and development, civil rights and community traditions are explored.

HMSF was founded in 1940, is one of the largest private, regional history museums in the country, recognized for excellence in programming and management by the Florida Department of State and the American Association of Museums (AAM). Admission for *Black Crossroads* is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children (6-12 years), and free for children under 6. Group discount packages are available. Student admission is \$7. HMSF is located at 101 West Flagler Street in Downtown Miami. To purchase tickets and for more [information](#), please contact (305) 375-1492, or visit [www.hmsf.org](http://www.hmsf.org).

A public opening reception will be held Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 101 West Flagler Street in Downtown Miami. Tickets are \$8 and free for HMSF members. For more information, please call 305.375.5356.

*Black Crossroads: The African Diaspora in Miami* is sponsored in part by the Miami-Dade Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, Division of Historical Resources, the Florida Humanities Council, the National Endowment of the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

# Historical Museum of Southern Florida

**Who:** Members of the public

**What:** Public opening of the *Black Crossroads: The African Diaspora in Miami* exhibition. Please join us for the opening reception on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. For ticket information, call 305.375.5356.

**When:** March 5, 2009 (Opening Reception); 6PM

**Where:** Historical Museum of Southern Florida  
101 West Flagler Street  
Miami, FL

## Historical Museum of Southern Florida

Founded in 1940, the Historical Museum of Southern Florida (HMSF) is one of the largest private, regional history museums in the country. HMSF is recognized for excellence in programming and management by the Florida Department of State and national museum services organizations. HMSF reaches out to a vast and culturally diverse audience through its exhibitions, educational programs, special events and publications. Hours of operation are Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., third Thursdays 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. and Sunday noon - 5 p.m. Visit <http://www.hmsf.org>.