

COTANCHOBEE®

(Pronounced: co-tawn-cho-bee)

WHERE THE BIG WATER MEETS THE LAND

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TAMPA BAY HISTORY CENTER | SUMMER 2008



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Photos courtesy of the Tampa Bay History Center unless otherwise noted.



www.tampabayhistorycenter.org

“Topping-Out”

More than 100 Walbridge construction workers celebrated the “topping-out” of the Tampa Bay History Center’s 60,000-square-foot, LEED-certified home in the Channelside District on Tuesday, June 10. They enjoyed the celebration with a small group of guests, limited in number due to the active construction work on the site. Guests included Hillsborough County Commissioners Rose Ferlita and Al Higginbotham, Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio, Walbridge Senior Vice-President and General Manager David Hanson, Walbridge Senior Project Manager Cranston Harris, Hillsborough County Administrator Pat Bean, Judge E.J. Salcines, and Tampa Bay History Center board members and staff.

A “topping-out” celebration is a tradition that can be traced as far back as 700 A.D. and is held when the highest point of a new building has been constructed. It is a celebration to thank the workers for their efforts, to honor their safe working, and to wish safety for those about to complete the construction. This tremendous milestone was marked by lifting the steel beam, signed by more than 500 members and well-wishers during the December groundbreaking ceremony, to its place atop the future home of our region’s historical past.

For those in attendance whose native language was Spanish, Liberty Concrete’s Alex Delgado translated the many well-wishes and thanks offered by the History Center staff, board members and special guests. Judge Salcines also delivered his speech on the historical and cultural importance of the new museum in both English and Spanish. Following the speeches and “topping-out,” Walbridge treated guests to a barbecue lunch.



(l to r) TBHC President & CEO C.J. Roberts and TBHC Chairman George Howell



Guests and construction workers enjoy the topping-out program.



Preparing to fly the beam that was signed by more than 500 community members at the December 2007 groundbreaking



The beam gets lifted to its final resting place atop the new museum.

A Letter from the President

At the History Center’s groundbreaking ceremony held last December under a blazing sunny sky, more than 500 guests enjoyed music from area school children, mingled with historical reenactors, and sampled food from the Columbia Restaurant. All of the attendees had an opportunity to sign their names to a large steel beam and were told that at some point it would become a permanent part of the building. Since that time, a small army of construction workers has labored diligently to help us fulfill this promise.

Nearly six months later on June 10, 2008, a small crowd gathered to watch the steel beam hoisted into place, celebrating the “topping-out” of the new Tampa Bay History Center building. This was a spectacular day for History Center staff members, trustees, officials representing Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa, and more than 100 construction workers. For the History Center, this day signified that our vision of building our new museum is closer to reality. For the contractors and workers, it was our chance to say thank you for a job well done and to share with them the special nature of the project they are building.

We all know that there is nothing ordinary about our region’s history. Because of the extraordinary nature of our history and the stories that bring it to life, History Center planners, supporters and volunteers have been committed to creating a place where we could share that history and the material culture associated with it—an inviting, quality building that is suitable to the important lessons that will be shared within its walls.

The “topping-out” ceremony was an opportunity to share the importance of this project with those who are doing so much to get it built. We reminded our contractors that they are building something that is bigger than all of us—something that will serve present and future generations of Tampa Bay area residents and visitors. I have always sensed that many of these workers appreciate the unique nature of this project. After the ceremony, I felt that their appreciation was heightened even further.

There is much left to do in these last months leading up to our grand opening. As we move into this next phase of our efforts, we have behind us solid support from our staff, trustees, members, donors, partners, and some of the most talented and quality-conscious construction crew members in the area. Together we will fulfill our vision to become one of the finest regional history museums in the nation.

C.J. Roberts
President and CEO



Tampa Bay History Center Awarded a \$1 Million Grant from The Kresge Foundation

The Kresge Foundation, one of the nation's largest and most respected philanthropic organizations, recently announced the award of a \$1 million grant to the Tampa Bay History Center.

"To have our efforts recognized by the Kresge Foundation is a huge honor for us and the region," said Tampa Bay History Center President and CEO C.J. Roberts. "The Kresge grant process is very rigorous. To be awarded a challenge grant of this amount is an exciting and inspiring accolade that speaks highly of our project."

The Kresge Foundation supports nonprofit organizations through one of six financial support programs designed to address society's pressing issues in health, the environment, arts and culture, education, human services, and community development.

"We were awarded the challenge grant for our approach to earning donor support and for engaging a diverse community through inclusion in the exhibit and program planning process," said Roberts.

Kresge's challenge grants are awarded to organizations engaged in comprehensive campaigns for

construction of new facilities, as well as the acquisition or renovation of existing facilities. To receive the funds, the Tampa Bay History Center must raise the remaining \$6 million of its \$32-million, private-sector capital campaign goal before April 1, 2009. The public sector has already contributed \$19.5 million toward the project. Of that amount, Hillsborough County has committed \$17 million for the construction of the building and the City of Tampa has donated the 2.4-acre waterfront site valued at \$2.5 million. This comprehensive campaign will total \$51.5 million when completed.

In response to the Kresge Foundation Challenge, the Frank E. Duckwall Foundation has issued a \$425,000, one-for-three matching grant challenge to help the History Center secure new and increased financial commitments for its private-sector capital campaign. The net result of this matching grant challenge will be \$1.7 million. This additional capital campaign commitment from the Duckwall Foundation brings its total giving to just over \$1 million.

"Because of the Frank E. Duckwall matching gift challenge, the community's response to date, the strength of our board, and the dedication of our capital campaign volunteers, I'm confident that we'll be able to reach our fundraising goal within the required timeframe," said Roberts.

For more information on how you can contribute and help the Tampa Bay History Center meet the Kresge and Duckwall Foundation grant challenges, please contact Grant Martin, CFRE, Vice President for Advancement at 813-228-0097 or gmartin@tampabayhistorycenter.org.

About the Kresge Foundation

The Kresge Foundation is a \$3.9-billion, private foundation that supports communities in the U.S. and around the world by strengthening the nonprofit organizations that service them. The Foundation was established by Sebastian S. Kresge in 1924 "for the promotion of human progress." With an initial gift of \$1.6 million, he launched what would become one of the nation's largest philanthropic organizations. Over the years, the Kresge Foundation has helped build the nation's nonprofit infrastructure—libraries, community centers, schools, hospitals, art museums, food banks, and countless other facilities. In 2007, the Foundation approved 442 grants internationally totaling \$178 million.



From Exhibit 'A' to Exhibit Artifact

On June 28, 1861, just two months after Fort Sumter was fired upon—an act that sparked the American Civil War—fear of northern attack was on the minds of Tampa's citizens. Receiving little help from Tallahassee or Richmond, city leaders decided to take the matter of defense into their own hands. They turned to the largest general merchandise firm in South Florida—Tampa's Kennedy & Darling store. John Jackson, Acting Mayor of the City of Tampa, authorized a promissory note in the amount of \$299.58 for "repairs

of cannon carriages & implements, ammunition, etc." The city agreed to pay 8 percent interest, compounded annually on the unpaid balance. John Darling, owner of Kennedy & Darling, also signed the note in his capacity as Deputy City Clerk.

Fast-forward almost 147 years to March 2008. The City of Tampa received notice of a lawsuit filed by the heirs of Thomas P. Kennedy, co-founder of Kennedy & Darling, asking for payment of the outstanding promissory note which, with interest, had ballooned to over \$22 million. News of the lawsuit soon spread, and the History Center was contacted by a number of media outlets, including the *St. Petersburg Times*, *The Tampa Tribune* and National Public Radio. The city attorney's office also got in touch with the History Center seeking any available information about this turbulent era of the city's history. Needless to say, the

1861
\$299.58
To J. Darling Esq
Deputy City Clerk

Mayor's Office, City of Tampa
June 28th 1861

At sight pay to the Order of
Kennedy & Darling Two Hundred & Ninety nine
& 58/100 Dollars, being for repairs of Cannon Carriages,
Implements, Ammunition &c. for defense of this City, with
Eight per cent interest per annum on said amt. from this
date until paid - See minutes of Tampa City Council
this date -

Attest
J. Darling
Deputy City Clerk

John Jackson
Acting Mayor

city did not feel obliged to pay this long-outstanding debt.

Confronted by counter-filings, and in the face of overwhelming evidence that they were facing a lost cause, the Kennedy heirs decided to withdraw their case. The offer of withdrawal included a curious detail—they would forever relinquish ownership of the original promissory note to the city.

Chief Assistant City Attorney Jerry Gewirtz, who led the city's legal team during the lawsuit, consulted with Mayor Pam Iorio and City Attorney David Smith about what to do with the promissory note. All agreed that the note should be placed into the History Center's permanent collection, and on June 5 the attorney for the plaintiffs met with Gewirtz and History Center staff, officially transferring ownership of the note to the Tampa Bay History Center.

Despite being laminated, the note is in remarkably good condition. The writing is still very legible, with Jackson's and Darling's signatures clearly visible. The promissory note will be used within the History Center's *War Stories* permanent gallery exhibition. It is one of the most exceptional items related to Tampa's Civil War experience in the collection, and it helps us explore the complexity and anxiety of that time in our history.

History Center Staff Takes Part in Organizing New “Green” Committee

For the first time in 16 years, the American Association of Museums (AAM) has formed a new professional interest committee. *PIC* (Professional Interest Committee) *Green* is the first new AAM committee formed in the 21st century. At the AAM’s Annual Meeting held recently in Denver, History Center staff members C.J. Roberts, Liz Dunham and Rodney Kite-Powell took part in an organizational meeting for the new committee. The committee’s principal responsibilities are to make policy recommendations to the AAM regarding green practices in museums and to educate members on sustainable practices within museums.

When completed, the Tampa Bay History Center’s new building will be the first Hillsborough County government-built, Leed-certified, or “green,” building. History Center staff members are committed to providing education about the green elements of the building and other green practices within the museum. Participation in this exciting new committee will provide resources and opportunities to enhance our educational offerings and demonstrate leadership in this important area.

Behind the Scenes

In the Fall 2008 issue of *Cotanchobee*, we look forward to featuring information on the exciting exhibits in the new Tampa Bay History Center. In this issue, we wanted to give you a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the film *Winds of Change*, which will be presented in the Introductory Theatre as you enter the gallery space in the new museum. The film will recreate the compelling moments of the earliest meetings between American Indians and European explorers in the Tampa Bay area. Pictured here are photos taken during Pyramid Studios’ recent filming at the De Soto National Memorial in Manatee County.



2008 Annual Meeting

As the sun set on a beautiful day, more than 200 guests attended the Tampa Bay History Center's 2008 Annual Meeting held March 20 on the Yacht StarShip. The History Center's new, 60,000-square-foot home served as the backdrop as members, donors, trustees and staff boarded the ship for a sunset cruise where guests enjoyed a cocktail reception and musical entertainment by members of the Florida Orchestra.

After the cruise, History Center President and CEO C.J. Roberts opened the annual meeting by welcoming guests. This was followed by an invocation by Dr. Gregory Padgett and a performance of the national anthem by Billy Vranish. The program also included the presentation of the third annual Leland Hawes Prize in Florida History to Thomas Foley and Naomi Williams by Dr. Mark Greenberg, as well as remarks from Hillsborough County Commissioner Mark Sharpe and Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio who expressed their excitement over the soon-to-come grand opening.

Another highlight of the evening came during Chairman George Howell's remarks when he announced the Tampa Bay History Center's partnership with the Columbia Restaurant to manage the Columbia Café, a venue in the new museum that will be designed to resemble the original, more than 100-year-old restaurant. The Columbia will also manage all hospitality and catering needs for the History Center. Richard Gonzmart, President of the Columbia Restaurant and fourth-generation restaurateur, was invited to the podium where he spoke of his family's enthusiasm for the new partnership.

Former Governor Bob Graham closed this special evening by speaking on the importance of preserving and sharing our state's history. In appreciation of his serving as the guest speaker for the event, he was presented with a replica of the Celi Map which dates to 1757 and is the first detailed map of Tampa Bay.



Hillsborough County Commissioner Mark Sharpe and City of Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio speak during the annual meeting program.



Guests board the Yacht StarShip, a sponsor of the evening's event.



(l to r) Governor Bob Graham accepts a replica of the Celi Map from Chairman George Howell.



(l to r) Governor Bob Graham with Leland Hawes Essay Prize Winners Naomi Williams and Thomas Foley.



Guests enjoy the annual meeting program.

New Board Members

The Tampa Bay History Center welcomes two new Trustees, Judge E.J. Salcines and Gary W. Harrod.



Rejoining the Board this summer after 10 years of service as an appellate judge is Tampa native E.J. Salcines. A lawyer for 45 years, he was the State Attorney in Hillsborough County for 16 years and was appointed in 1998 by then Governor Lawton Chiles to the District Court of Appeal. In 1993, the president of the University of

South Florida awarded him the President's Distinguished Citizen Award and in 1996, the Distinguished Service Award for his work as a trustee on the USF Foundation. Last year, as a member of the Tampa Bay History Center delegation, Judge Salcines visited nine museums in Spain attaining reciprocal agreements for exchange of documents, maps and artifacts for the opening of the History Center.



Gary Harrod is the president/owner of Harrod Properties Inc., a commercial real estate development company that designs and builds office and industrial buildings. He is active in the local community and currently sits on the board of the Bank of Tampa and the board of trustees of the business school at Texas

Tech University. He is a past board member of the Florida Aquarium, the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center and the Children's Home.

Call for Volunteers

The Tampa Bay History Center is looking for energetic and committed volunteers to help create a great experience for visitors at our new facility which is scheduled to open in December 2008. If you have an interest in history and want to share your enthusiasm with visitors or provide behind-the-scenes support for the museum, we encourage you to apply to become a volunteer.

Volunteering at the History Center offers a chance to learn about regional history, meet new people, and help museum visitors connect with the past. Whether you have several hours a week or just a few hours a month, we offer a range of opportunities to match your interests and availability.

Here are just a few of our current volunteer openings:

- **Docent program**—Lead tours of the museum for school groups and general visitors.

- **Visitor services**—Welcome visitors and provide basic information about the museum, membership, exhibitions, and upcoming events.
- **Special events**—Help with receptions and other special events by greeting guests, setting up and taking down, and serving refreshments.
- **Library**—Shelve books, maintain files and assist visitors with research.
- **Administrative support**—Assist with data entry, word processing, research, filing, and bulk mailings.

For more information contact our volunteer coordinator, Ellen Robinson, at 813.831.2635 or historycentervolunteers@gmail.com.



BECOME A MEMBER.

Join the Tampa Bay History Center's Cotanchobee Society *Membership Makes a Great Gift!*

What is the *Cotanchobee Society*?

The word *Cotanchobee* is derived from the Florida Seminole word meaning "where the big water meets the land." Cotanchobee-Fort Brooke Park is the location of the new museum. *Cotanchobee Society* is a special membership designation for those who join or renew their annual membership to the Tampa Bay History Center between June 1, 2007 and the grand opening of the new museum.

Benefits

Cotanchobee Society membership is open to individuals, companies and foundations. You may select from eight levels of membership. Each advancing level provides additional benefits to the Society Membership.

Society Membership includes:

- *Cotanchobee Society* lapel pin
- Subscription to *Cotanchobee*, our quarterly newsletter
- Invitations to the *Florida Conversations* educational series
- A 10% discount on all gift shop items
- **Teacher/Student with valid ID (\$20)**
 - Society Membership, plus
 - Invitation to the museum grand opening
- **Contributor (\$35)**
 - Society Membership, plus
 - Invitation to the museum grand opening
- **Supporter (\$100)**
 - Contributor benefits, plus
 - A copy of our annual publication, *Tampa Bay History*
- **Sponsor (\$250)**
 - Supporter benefits, plus
 - Special invitation to a grand opening reception and special events throughout the following year
- **Patron (\$500)**
 - Sponsor benefits, plus
 - Invitation to exclusive "hard hat" tours of the new museum prior to the official grand opening

- **Benefactor (\$1,000)**
 - Patron benefits, plus
 - Two tickets to a "pre-opening" event
- **Founder (\$12,500 or \$2,500 per year for five years)**
 - Benefactor benefits, plus
 - Four tickets to special Founder's "pre-opening" events
- **Sustaining Founder (\$2,500 after completing the Founder commitment)**
 - Founder benefits

Thank you for your support!

Membership contributions can be mailed to:
Tampa Bay History Center
225 S. Franklin Street
Tampa, FL 33602

Please make your check payable to the Tampa Bay History Center or call 813-228-0097 and join by phone. (Visa/MasterCard/American Express accepted.) Membership forms can also be downloaded at www.tampabayhistorycenter.org.



New Staff Members



Cindy Bosselmann, Director of Marketing, is responsible for all marketing and public relations for the History Center. A Massachusetts native, she received a master's degree in psychology, then began as director of marketing and public relations at the Centrum arena. Cindy then successfully elevated the Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom to a year-round facility which led to the position of general manager of MassConcerts. Eventually, Cindy made her way to Orlando to the Orange County Convention Center as the event producer of the grand opening of the Center's second facility. Once open, she moved on to become the Orlando Shakespeare Theater's director of marketing and public relations. After receiving an offer for the same position from Ruth Eckerd Hall, Cindy made her way to Tampa Bay. She says, "I am now ready to take on the new challenge at the Tampa Bay History Center. I see endless opportunities for exciting promotions, special events and much more media attention."



Emanuel Leto, Outreach Program Coordinator, is responsible for developing and implementing the History Center's educational outreach programs with the goal of enhancing the community's access and knowledge of the history and heritage of the region. Before coming to the History Center, Manny was the managing editor of Cigar City Magazine and the director of community outreach for the Ybor City Museum Society. Manny is actively involved in the community through the Enterprise Zone Agency, the Ybor City Chamber of Commerce, the cultural heritage committee for the American Institute of Architects, and the steering committee of the Florida Craftsmen Young Professionals. He is also a member of the Historic Ybor City Neighborhood Association. Manny says, "I'm really excited to be a part of what is happening at the History Center, and I'm honored to be a part of an organization that is growing by leaps and bounds."



Julie Henry Matus, Curator of Education, develops and oversees the History Center's educational programming. She brings to her position 10 years of experience in the museum and nonprofit sectors. Most recently she served as program coordinator at the Florida Humanities Council in St. Petersburg, and prior to that was education and volunteer coordinator at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. Julie has planned programs for learners of all ages and backgrounds, from preschoolers to retirees. She says, "I am honored to be a part of the Tampa Bay History Center team, and I look forward to serving our community through informative and engaging public programs." A resident of Florida for more than 30 years, Julie grew up in Pinellas County. She earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology and a master's degree in museum studies from the University of Florida. She lives in St. Petersburg with her husband and two young sons.



Judy Miller is the Administrative Assistant for both Finance/Operations and Advancement. Judy's professional experience includes executive assistant roles (most recently at the School District of Hillsborough County) and more than 12 years of facilities management and construction project management work with such local companies as Havatampa, Inc., Diamond Products Company and PharMerica. She says, "While my husband, daughter and I traveled from Ohio to the Tampa/St. Pete area for vacations, never did I dream I would one day be lucky enough to call Tampa home. I am so pleased to be involved with the Tampa Bay History Center as they make history, and I look forward to being a part of its future."

Continued next page

New Staff Members, cont'd



Maria T. Steijlen, Accountant, was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She received a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Puerto Rico and a master's degree in business administration from Tampa College. Maria started her managerial career in broadcasting, and she later served as director of business affairs for Bright House Network's stations Bay News 9 and Bay News 9 En Español. She lives in Tampa with her husband and two teenage sons, and she is an active leader in the Hispanic Professional Women's Association. She also serves on the City of Tampa Hispanic Advisory Council and on the MOSI Foundation Board. She was recently recognized by Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc., as the 2007 Hispanic Woman of the Year. Maria says, "I am thrilled to be a member of the staff because I believe in the importance of preserving Tampa's rich history for future generations to discover."



Kathy Williams joins the Tampa Bay History Center as Executive Assistant to President and CEO C.J. Roberts. An Atlanta native, she earned her bachelor's degree in education from the University of Georgia and did graduate studies at The University of Tampa for her Certified Professional Secretary designation. Kathy brings to the History Center a teaching and administrative background, having most recently worked in the capital campaign office of the Glazer Children's Museum. She also volunteers as a court-appointed Guardian ad Litem for children in the foster care system. As 30-year residents, she and her husband love their adopted city and are enjoying having their two grown sons living in Tampa. Kathy says, "I am so impressed with how philanthropic the people of the Tampa Bay community are, and I am happy to work with the History Center team and its board members as we look forward to the opening of our fantastic new facility."

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Thank you to the following donors who have made contributions, pledges and pledge payments to the Tampa Bay History Center from **March 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008**. Please note that gifts received after this time period will be listed in the next issue of Cotanchobee.

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