



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VIDEO AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

NEW MUSEUM TO MOVE IN LARGE SCALE ICONS AND 1920s CAR ON TUESDAY

14 Art Icons Will Welcome Visitors

WHAT: Fourteen large-scale art icons representing many facets of our region and its history will be installed from the ceiling of the Tampa Bay History Center's atrium on Tuesday at 3 p.m. A strawberry airplane, longshoreman, cattle rancher, streetcar, flamenco dancer, 1902 Oldsmobile, Gasparilla ship and "Welcome to Tampa" marquee are among the 14 icons to be suspended from the 90-foot atrium ceiling. The icons are all more than 5 feet tall and have neon components that will light up and serve as visual beacons to visitors. In addition, a 1920s REO automobile will be brought into the museum and moved into its exhibit space on the county's largest elevator. The REO is the oldest car that was originally sold in Hillsborough County.

WHEN: Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2008
3 p.m.

WHERE: Tampa Bay History Center (Atrium)
801 Old Water Street, formerly St. Pete Times Forum Drive
(Building is just east of the St. Pete Times Forum)
Tampa, FL 33602

About the Tampa Bay History Center

When it opens in January 2009, visitors will step inside the new 60,000-square-foot Tampa Bay History Center in Tampa's bustling Channelside district and take a journey through 12,000 years of powerful stories. The new Center will feature the first native inhabitants, Spanish conquistadors, pioneers, presidents, sports legends, railroad tycoons, a 1920s-era cigar store, interactive maps and exhibits of the places and people whose rich ethnic heritage and adventurous spirit inspired generations. The four-floor Center boasts a stunning atrium, theaters, map center, library, event hall, museum store and the Columbia Café.

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Founded in 1989, the Tampa Bay History Center serves and educates the community through the discovery, preservation and interpretation of the rich cultural heritage of the people of “historic” Hillsborough County and the Tampa Bay region, as well as their relationship to the United States and the world. During the past several years, the Tampa Bay History Center has mounted exhibitions, educated thousands of students about area history, sponsored public lectures and workshops, and published numerous books on local history.

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