

**MEDIA ALERT  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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\*photo captions: (left) Guests gather as the autographed steel beam is prepared to top-out the Tampa Bay History Center. (right) Judge E.J. Salcines delivers his bilingual speech on the historical and cultural significance of the Spanish Exploration into our region.

\*\*photo credit: Mike Beardsley

**Tampa Bay History Center Celebrated Topping-Out of its New Home**

**Tampa (June 10, 2008)**—Dignitaries, special guests, board members and employees gathered with more than 200 Walbridge construction workers to celebrate the last milestone of construction work before the December grand opening; the topping-out of the Tampa Bay History Center. Hillsborough County Commissioners Rose Ferlita and Al Higginbotham, Mayor Pam Iorio and Judge E.J. Salcines were among the many attendees showing their support for the History Center, a 60,000-square-foot, LEED certified museum located in the Channelside District. The topping-out was marked by the lifting of a giant steel beam—signed by more than 500 Tampa Bay residents—to its final resting place atop the museum. Tampa Bay History Center trustee elect Judge Salcines delivered his speech in English and again in Spanish on the historical and cultural importance of the Spanish Exploration into our region.

**About The Tampa Bay History Center**

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, and their relation to the United States and the world. During the last several years, the Tampa Bay History Center has mounted exhibitions; educated thousands of students about area history; sponsored public lectures and workshops; published numerous books on local pioneer history and on Tampa’s African-American history; and collected thousands of items documenting the Tampa Bay regional history.

In December 2004, Tampa and Hillsborough County leaders formally signed a deal to build the Tampa Bay History Center on park land fronting Garrison Channel. With the new facility scheduled to open in December 2008, the Tampa Bay History Center will continue to serve as a valuable community resource that will preserve the unique and rich cultural heritage of the Tampa Bay area.