

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information:

C.J. Roberts
CEO & President
Tampa Bay History Center
813-228-0097

HISTORY CENTER BEGINS PREPARATIONS FOR MOVE TO NEW HOME

The Tampa Bay History Center will close its current location to the public to make room for planning its big move.

TAMPA— The Tampa Bay History Center announced today that on March 31, 2008 it will be closing its preview center in order to begin staging for the move into its new 60,000-square-foot home in the Channelside district.

Located across from the Tampa Convention Center at 225 S. Franklin Street, the preview center has been housing small exhibits since 1996. With the grand opening of the new History Center scheduled for December 2008, closing the preview center will allow the staff to stage exhibits and focus on creating a smooth transition between locations. The closing of the preview center will not impact future programming or events scheduled in the community.

"Making the move from our current location of 6,000 square feet, to our new 60,000-square-foot location, will require a great deal of planning and preparation. The current preview center location will serve as an important coordination area for the large task before us," said Tampa Bay History Center President/CEO C.J. Roberts. "While moving is rarely fun, we're really looking forward to this one."

The new Tampa Bay History Center will be a state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly museum that will include space to accommodate special events, classrooms, a research library and cartographic center. The Center will feature over 10 permanent exhibits and its programming includes lectures, seminars, publications and research.

Walbridge Aldinger, the building contractor for the construction of the new History Center, has set up a webcam for the public to view at <http://www.tampabayhc.com/>.

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 of 2004, Tampa and Hillsborough County leaders formally signed an agreement to build the Tampa Bay History Center on parkland fronting Garrison Channel. With the new facility scheduled to open in late 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.

###