



NEWS RELEASE
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Contact:
Ashleigh Slyker
813.675.8980
aslyker@tampabayhistorycenter.org

Tampa Bay History Opens Research Center

(Tampa, FL) - The Tampa Bay History Center, together with the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System, is pleased to announce the opening of the **Currie B. and Lavinia Sparkman Witt Research Center**, located on the 2nd floor of the Tampa Bay History Center.

The Witt Research Center is a non-lending library focusing on Florida History and features a diverse collection of books, maps, periodicals, microfilm, photographs, subject files, and family histories. In addition to this collection, several computers, a copier and a scanner will be available to help visitors meet their research needs.

“We are excited about our partnership with the Hillsborough County Library System. The Witt Research Center adds another dimension to what the History Center has to offer the community,” said C.J. Roberts, president and CEO of the Tampa Bay History Center.

The library is named by Lavinia Witt Touchton, in honor of her parents, Currie B. Witt and Lavinia Sparkman Witt, both native Tampons who were very involved in the community during their lifetimes.

The library will launch on June 18 with an Open House that starts at 11:30 am with a ribbon-cutting and tour. On-going library hours will be Monday-Friday from 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm, with Saturdays **by appointment only**. The library is free and open to the public. Call (813) 228-0097 or visit www.tampabayhistorycenter.org for more information.

About the Tampa Bay History Center

The new 60,000-square-foot Tampa Bay History Center in Tampa’s bustling Channelside District takes an illuminating walk through 12,000 years of powerful stories. The Center features the first native inhabitants, Spanish conquistadors, pioneers, sports legends, a 1920s-era cigar store, interactive maps, and exhibits that feature a rich ethnic heritage and adventurous spirit that has inspired generations. The Center boasts a visually captivating atrium, a theater, map center, library, event hall, museum store and the Columbia Café.

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