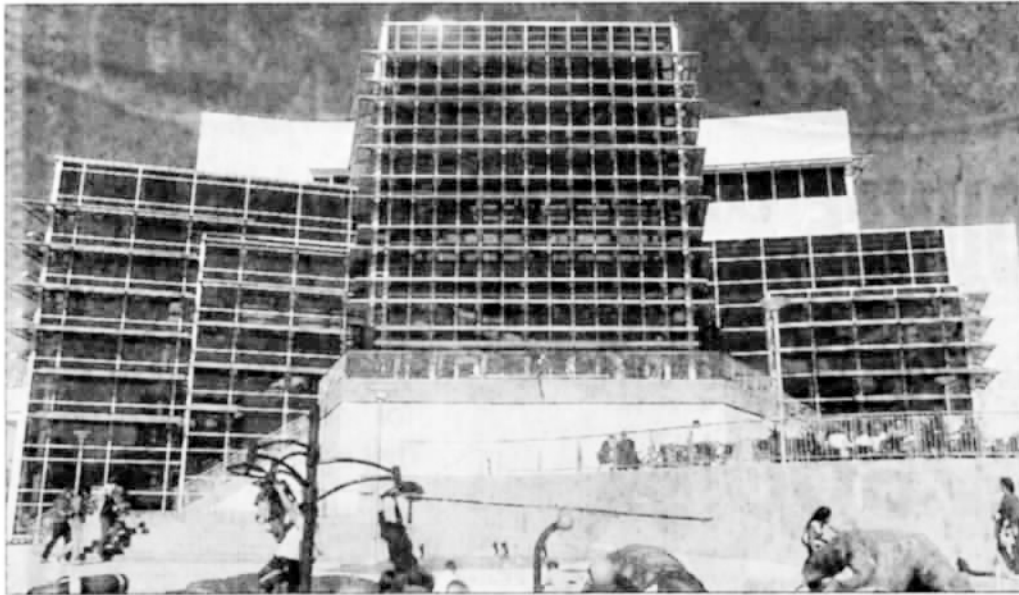


# THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

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Tribune photo by MICHAEL SPOONEYBARGER

Including the anonymous gift, the Tampa Bay History Center has raised \$30.7 million toward its goal of \$32 million. The exhibits span Florida history and include Tampa's early cigar industry.

## Anonymous Donor Pledges \$1.5 Million Challenge Gift

Tampa Bay History Center opened last month in Channelside.

By **MIKE SALINERO**  
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**TAMPA** — An anonymous donor has promised to give \$1.5 million to the Tampa Bay History Center in the form of a challenge grant.

The donor hopes to attract matching donations for the history center's capital campaign, said Grant Martin, the center's vice president for advancement.

"We are energized by this

challenge gift, especially since it has come so quickly after our grand opening just four weeks ago," C.J. Roberts, president and chief executive officer, said in a news release. "We've opened our doors and people love what they see, but there is certainly more to come."

The donor is challenging others to donate \$800,000 for the center's capital projects and \$700,000 for an operating endowment. He promises to match those donations.

Including the challenge gift, the History Center has raised \$30.7 million toward its

previously announced goal of \$32 million.

Interested donors can contact Martin at (813) 228-0097, or [gmartin@tampabayhistorycenter.org](mailto:gmartin@tampabayhistorycenter.org).

The 60,000-square-foot history center in Tampa's Channelside district opened in January. The exhibits span Florida history from prehistoric Native Americans through Spanish conquistadors, pioneers, Tampa's early cigar industry, sports heroes and railroad tycoons.

Reporter Mike Salinero can be reached at (813) 259-8303.