



NEWS RELEASE
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History Center Announces Partnership with Smithsonian Institution

(Tampa) –The Smithsonian Institution has selected the Tampa Bay History Center to participate in its Smithsonian Affiliations Program. The History Center joins a prestigious national list of affiliates and is one of only 12 in Florida.

This partnership between the History Center, which opened its new facility in downtown Tampa’s Channelside District in 2009, and the Smithsonian provides a broad range of benefits including access to technical support for programs and collections, professional development opportunities for History Center staff, and increased marketing and awareness through the Smithsonian Affiliations website and newsletter.

Perhaps most significantly, this relationship allows the History Center access to the Smithsonian’s collection of more than 130 million artifacts, offering extended loans for temporary and permanent exhibits.

“We are proud of this partnership and we are excited about the opportunities available to us through the affiliation agreement,” said the History Center’s Frank E. Duckwall Foundation President and CEO, C.J. Roberts.

“We are delighted to begin our affiliation with the Tampa Bay History Center,” said Harold A. Closter, director of Smithsonian Affiliations. “The History Center has a distinguished record of serving the public through exhibitions, educational outreach and public programming. Working together, we look forward to bringing the Smithsonian to Tampa, while we bring Tampa’s story to larger national audiences.”

Visitors will have the opportunity to visit the History Center free of charge as part of *Smithsonian Magazine’s* Museum Day, on Saturday, September 24.

For more information about the Tampa Bay History Center, visit www.tampabayhistorycenter.org. For more information about Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day, visit www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday.

About the Tampa Bay History Center

The Tampa Bay History Center includes three floors of permanent and temporary exhibition space focusing on 12,000 years of Florida history. The History Center also features a Museum Store, the Witt Research Center (a branch of the Hillsborough County Public Library System), a map gallery, an event hall and the Columbia Cafe. One of Tampa's premier cultural venues, the History Center's hands-on, kid-friendly activities, together with cutting-edge interactive exhibits and theaters provide a unique educational experience. For more information, visit www.tampabayhistorycenter.org.

About the Smithsonian Affiliations Program

Smithsonian Affiliations offers museums, nonprofit cultural organizations, and educational organizations across the country greater access to Smithsonian collections and resources. Established in 1996, the Smithsonian has established affiliation agreements with 168 organizations in 40 states, the District of Columbia, Panama and Puerto Rico. For more information, visit www.affiliations.si.edu.

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