

New Museum Preserves Culture, Marks Miami's Rich Cuban History

(Miami-Dade, FL) -- Get out the guayabera and get ready to hear Cuban classics while sipping cafecito. On June 8, Miami-Dade County and the Cuban Museum will break ground on a new facility at the former Florida Grand Opera building located at 1200 Coral Way.

The museum project, funded by the County's *Building Better Communities* General Obligation Bond program, provides \$10 million for renovations to the building that will showcase the influence and history of Miami's Cuban culture.

"The *Building Better Communities* Bond Program, approved by voters in 2004, provides the resources to make important improvements to facilities throughout Miami-Dade including those that will help us preserve our culture and history," said Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez. "I am pleased that the Cuban Museum is one of the first such cultural projects underway."

The Cuban Museum, which currently has exhibition space at the University of Miami and other community locales, is scheduled to move into its new building in 2009. The new facility will have space for exhibits, literary collections and historical displays, as well as concerts and performing arts.

"The mission of the Cuban Museum is to preserve and share the Cuban cultural heritage in freedom," said Cuban Museum President and Founder Dr. Ofelia Tabares-Fernandez. "Cuban culture has shaped much of Miami's history for the past 50 years—it is our mission to preserve for future generations."

The Cuban Museum Board has selected the Coral Gables architectural firm of Rodriguez and Quiroga for the project.

What: **Cuban Museum Groundbreaking Ceremony**

When: **Friday, June 8
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Where: **1200 Coral Way**

Who: Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez
Miami-Dade Commission Chairman Bruno Barreiro
City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz
Museum President and Founder Dr. Ofelia Tabares-Fernandez

Visuals: Preliminary museum renderings will be available at the groundbreaking.
Performance by Florida Grand Opera.

Groundbreaking Ceremony / Photo op.

Parking: Please note limited street parking is available. Free shuttle service will be provided by Miami-Dade Transit from the Vizcaya Metrorail Station at 3201 SW 1 Avenue.

Refreshments will be served courtesy of sponsors to date:
Versailles Restaurant, La Rosa Bakery, Café La LLave, Navarro Pharmacy, Conchita Foods, Eduardo de la Fuente and Bacardi.

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