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FRENCH AMBASSADOR VISITS LITTLE HAITI CULTURAL CENTER **-City of Miami launches “French Heritage-Miami” Campaign-**

On Saturday, February 27th, City of Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado and District 5 Commissioner Richard P. Dunn, II welcomed U.S French Ambassador, Pierre Vimont, with a press conference to launch “French Heritage Miami.”

The Consul General of Haiti in Miami, Ralph Latortue; the Consul General of France, Gael de Maisonneuve; and Principal Liliane Delbor of Toussaint Louverture Elementary School were also in attendance.

French Heritage Language-Miami is a series of creative and educational workshops, in French language, specially designed for 7 to 15-year-old children of the Haitian community and their parents.

Due to the recent earthquake, hundreds of Haitian families are expected to temporarily resettle in the United States, and many children and teenagers face a damaging break in their education. The opportunity to maintain their skills in French is of particular interest to these families, as education in Haiti is mostly conducted in French.

Following the press conference, Mayor Regalado presented Ambassador Vimont with a key to the City; Ambassador Vimont reciprocated with a token of France.

The dignitaries were then led on a tour of the City’s newly built Little Haiti Cultural Center; which includes an art gallery, currently housing the Global Caribbean exhibit; dance studios and a state-of-the-art black box theater.

The tour culminated with a look at the center’s multi-purpose wing and a peek into the classroom where approximately 20 students and parents, participated in the French Heritage Language 1st Discovery Session.

These workshops are based on a previously established French Heritage language Program, of the non-profit foundation FACE and a joint initiative of the French Embassy and the Alfred and Jane Ross Foundation. This program is designed to support and enrich the teaching and learning of the French language and French-speaking cultures for students of Francophone background.

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Classes, organized by the Haitian Cultural Arts Alliance with the support of the Alliance Française of Miami, the City of Miami and the Consulate General of France in Miami, are free and open to the community.

The City of Miami has offered use of classroom space at the Little Haiti Cultural Center, where courses are scheduled to begin on Saturday, March 13th.

For more information regarding classes, please call the Little Haiti Cultural Center at 305.960.2969.

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