

# Historical Museum of Southern Florida

## FACT SHEET

### ADDRESS

101C West Flagler Street  
Miami, FL 33130  
305.375.1492  
www.hmsf.org

### MUSEUM HOURS

Monday – Saturday, 10 am-5 pm  
Third Thursdays, 10 am–9 pm  
Sunday, 12-5 pm

### RESEARCH CENTER HOURS

Monday – Friday, 10 am-4:30 pm  
CLOSED Saturday and Sunday

### GENERAL ADMISSION

Adults \$8  
Seniors & Students with ID \$7  
Children (6-12) \$5  
HMSF Members & Children under 6 FREE  
Joint Ticket with Miami Art Museum (MAM) \$10  
Second Saturdays FREE

### HISTORY

The history of the Historical Museum of Southern Florida (HMSF) begins with the founding of the Historical Association of Southern Florida in 1940 by thirteen individuals. The organization has since grown to a current membership of nearly 1,600 individuals, families and affinity members.

The Association opened the first museum for regular public use in 1962 and ten years later, moved to a larger facility along with the Miami Science Museum and Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, expanding its exhibit and educational programs. From 1974 to 1979, the association focused on developing storyline exhibitions and its professional staff. The Historical Museum of Southern Florida was first accredited by the American Association of Museums in 1979, and reaccredited in 1987 and 1997, joining the elite ten percent of museums nationwide that meet the rigorous professional standards required. In 1984, the museum moved to downtown Miami, the site of its present facility in the Miami-Dade Cultural Center.

In 1985, award-winning folklife programs were added to aid the institution in fulfilling its mission of documenting and serving this multi-ethnic community. More than sixty-four distinct ethnic and cultural groups have been surveyed in the museum's folklife program to date. Folk artists coordinated and/or sponsored by the museum have performed for 400,000 people through local, state and national festivals and presentations.

In January 2008, HMSF executed a 44-year sublease with Florida's Department of State for management of the Miami Circle. The Miami Circle will provide active recreational and educational opportunities in an urban park open space for local residents, tourists, and those interested in its spiritual associations. The site will remain buried to ensure its historic preservation. Regular scheduled guided tours will also be offered. Interpretation at the site will complement the *First Arrivals: The Miami Circle* section in the museum's permanent exhibition, *Tropical Dreams: A People's History of South Florida*.



# Historical Museum of Southern Florida

## ACCREDITATION

HMSF is accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM). Initially accredited in 1979, HMSF was reaccredited in 1987, 1997, and 2008. The museum joins the elite twenty-four percent of history museums nationwide, and one of only two history museums in Miami-Dade County that meet the rigorous professional standards required.

## COLLECTION

HMSF is home to more than 30,000 three-dimensional artifacts, including a 1920s trolley car, gold and silver recovered from 17th and 18th century shipwrecks, artifacts from Pan American Airways and Eastern Airlines, a Haitian boat and a Cuban raft that brought refugees to Miami. The museum's collections relate to the history, cultures, folklife and archaeology of South Florida and the Caribbean area and illustrate the main themes permeating South Florida history including:

- Environmental Influences
- Immigration and Migration
- Maritime
- Aviation
- Tourism
- Miami as the "Gateway of the Americas"

HMSF is also the depository for all archaeological materials from the county, including the findings from the Miami Circle, and material from the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy of Florida.

## EDUCATION

HMSF is noted for its exciting and participatory approaches to the exploration of history through its extensive educational programs. Taking place both in the museum and at historic sites, these programs serve adults, students and children from across five counties. Educational programming includes gallery tours, historic tours to historically significant South Florida waterways and communities, free Family Fun Days and Thursday adult evening programming, Tropical Explorers Camps, and Discovery Days on Teacher Planning Days.

## RESEARCH CENTER

The Research Center houses the museum's archives and library, and is open to the public. It contains two named collections of research materials, the Tebeau Library and the Wilkins Archives. Its visual materials-- photographs, maps and pictures--are remarkable. The widely-used Research Center collection includes a rare, complete double elephant folio edition of John James Audubon's *The Birds of America*, as well as 6,000 bound volumes, 1,900 maps and more than one million historical images, making it one of the most important research centers in the state.

This year the Research Center added an online catalog and collections guides to the museum's website, <http://www.hmsf.org/collections-home.htm> to make our collections even more accessible to the public. Out-of-print issues of *Tequesta* journal and *Update* (*South Florida History magazine's* predecessor) have been added to the online collection to enable students, teachers, scholars and history buffs to conveniently read them and to serve as a research tool.

## MUSEUM STORE

The Indies Company, the museum's store, offers a unique array of Florida-themed books and gifts including past exhibition catalogs as well as *Tequesta* journal and *South Florida History* magazine.

