



# Collier County Government



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FULLY FUNDS COUNTY MUSEUMS

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Collier County Museum • 3301 E. Tamiami Tr. • Naples, FL

(Naples, FL) – The Tourist Development Council voted unanimously today to fully fund the Collier County Museums including the Museum of the Everglades, the Naples Depot, the Naples Museum, Roberts Ranch in Immokalee and a new satellite museum set to open in 2010 on Marco Island.

The TDC awarded the Collier County Museums \$1,435,500 with an additional \$100,000 to assist with the design and construction of exhibits for the Marco Island Historical Museum, which is scheduled to open to the public in January 2010. The new museum is made possible by a partnership between the Marco Island Historical Society, which raised more than \$4 million to construct the museum, and the Collier County Museum Department, which will provide staffing and operational funding once the new facility opens.

The Marco Island Historical Museum will consist of three buildings near the Marco Island Branch Library and includes 15,500 square feet of historical exhibits and meeting space.

The TDC has reported that tourism has declined by an estimated 14 percent since last year, and the Collier County Museum Department, during the current fiscal year, has already implemented a mid-year budget cut of 10 percent.

“We appreciate the Tourist Development Council’s continued and generous support,” said Collier County Museum Director Ron Jamro. “The County Museum system has become an increasingly important investment in heritage tourism.”

Collier County Museums welcomed a record 85,961 visitors this past year.

The Board of County Commissioners will review the Collier County Museum Department’s budget on Monday, June 29 with the rest of the county’s departments.

Media may contact Director Jamro for comments at (239) 252-8476.