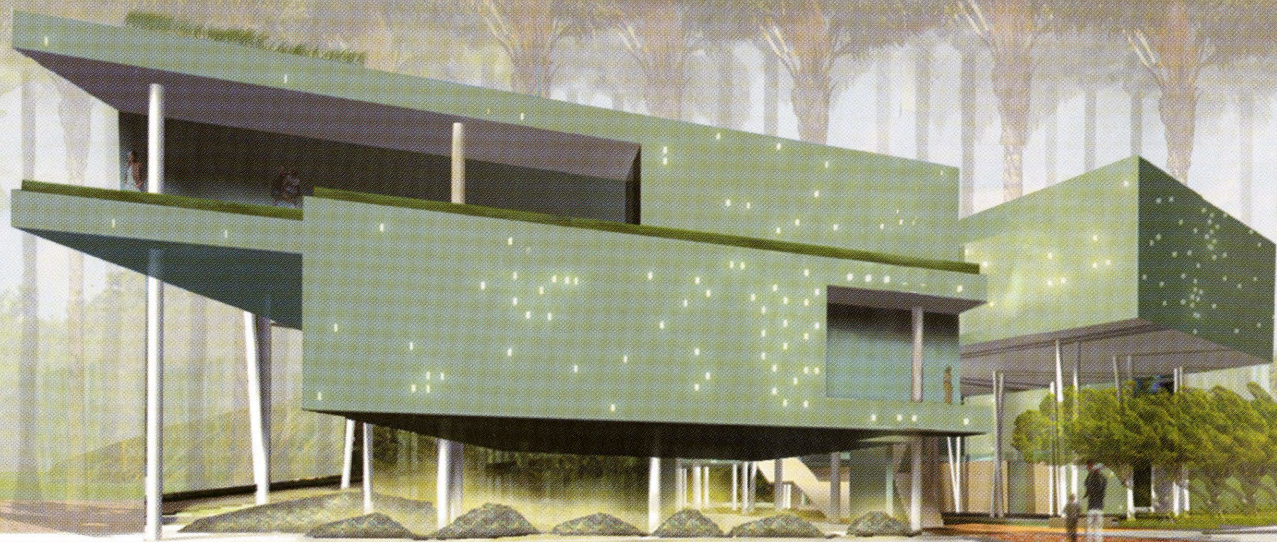
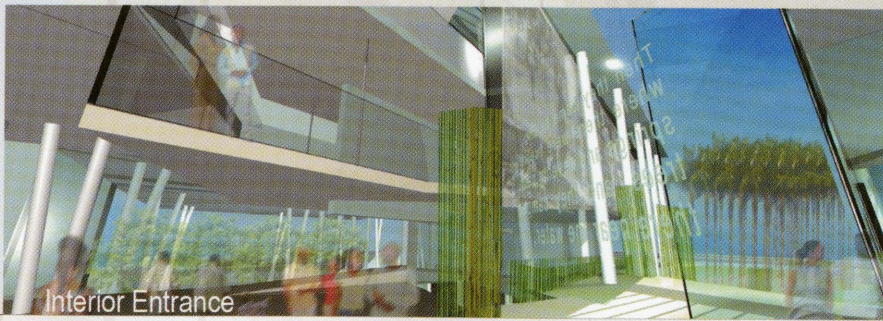


VIRGINIA KEY BEACH PARK MUSEUM

OPENS SUMMER 2008



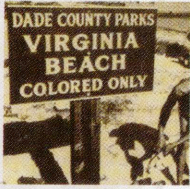
MIAMI FLORIDA



Interior Entrance

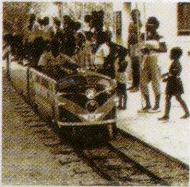


THE DREAM IS FAST BECOMING REALITY, THANKS TO THE LEADERSHIP OF
MRS. M. ATHALIE RANGE
 CHAIRPERSON OF THE VIRGINIA KEY BEACH PARK TRUST.



Following a rigorous, nation-wide competition, the Trust has chosen local architects BEA International, in partnership with Huff + Gooden Architects of Charleston, South Carolina, to design the Park's new museum, a major milestone in the Trust's short life.

Dedicated to the struggle for equality, the museum's indoor and outdoor exhibitions will tell this too-often overlooked and underreported story from its earliest South Florida days through to the present. Our **unique museum** will serve as a living memorial and as a metaphor for the lives of generations of Americans deeply affected by segregation.



African Americans' involvement with Virginia Key began in the 1920's. Entire families, including many newly arrived Bahamian, Caribbean, Cuban and Latin Americans, adopted the Key as their only (or their preferred) local beach. Through WWII and into the 50's, this attachment continually grew stronger. Hundreds visited each week; **Mrs. Range is quoted as saying:**

"I ENJOYED MY FAMILY VISITS AS A YOUNG GIRL."



The Park's *mini-train and carousel*, shady spots, open areas and sandy shore were perfect for picnics and Sunday religious services. Virginia Key provided a respite, a place to enjoy family and friends in this beautiful subtropical environment, free from Jim Crow restrictions, free to be oneself. The Park was officially opened **August 1, 1945**, as South Florida's sole "colored only" beach, an early victory in the Civil Rights movement.

These are exciting times. As the museum design progresses, you have the first chance to participate from the beginning of this major project. We'd love for you to help ensure the museum's future by providing your personal or corporate donation, thus becoming a founding donor to the Trust's Capital Campaign supporting museum construction.

Our community-wide effort provides many funding opportunities, from the naming of facilities and exhibition areas to outside areas reclaiming and restoring the Key's ecosystem, which will provide natural hammocks, pathways, lake overlooks and more. Donor possibilities in a variety of amounts are available.

We encourage you to join us in this once-in-a-lifetime endeavor, a significant project that will, in the spirit of Mrs. M. Athalie Range and all our predecessors, be open for all to enjoy.



Second Floor Walkway



Exterior Pathway



An intense competition for the coveted privilege of designing the new museum structure for Virginia Key Beach Park, Miami's one-time segregated but beloved "Colored Beach" and treasured environmental site, came to an official end when the Park's Board of Trustees unanimously approved Coral Gables-based architectural firm BEA International, who will be working in close collaboration with Huff+Gooden, LLC of Charleston, SC, a dynamic African American partnership that provided most of the creative design.

The winning team is rounded out by internationally renowned innovative African American landscape architect Walter Hood of California, whose creative approach to the unifying of landscape of the park with the building design was a major factor in the jury's final selection.

The competition began several months ago, with seven architectural firms from around the country submitting proposals. Comprising the jury were Mr. Maurice Cox, a leading African American architect and former mayor of Charlottesville, VA; Mr. Richard Dozier of Florida A&M University School of Architecture; Ms. Toni Griffin of Washington, DC; Dr. Gary Haeck, Dean of the University of Pennsylvania School of Architecture, Miami-based historic preservation architect Mr. Richard Heisenbottle, and renowned Miami Architect Mrs. Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk. In addition to the architects, the Trust was officially represented by Chairperson Mrs. M. Athalie Range and Vice Chair Mr. Gene Tinnie.

VIRGINIA KEY BEACH PARK MUSEUM MIAMI FLORIDA



www.virginiakeybeachpark.net