

(D R A F T – 3 / 20 / 00)

## COMMEMORATIVE MUSEUM/PARK PLANNING TASKS

From the outset of efforts to restore Virginia Key Beach and Park, there was popular consensus that site can and must be significant commemorative site for Miami's rich African American history and the Civil Rights struggle from which so many Miamians of all groups have benefited. Furthermore, it was widely understood that in implementing this vision, "The future is now," so a number of initial steps have already been taken, while others are planned for the immediate future.

The Planning Tasks outlined here are separate from, but compatible with, those required for environmental restoration and preservation, recreational activities, and cultural events.

### Phase I. Initial Activities (already begun)

#### A. On-site

- 1) **Cleaning and painting** of selected historical structures by Parks and Recreation Department. These include the Picnic Pavilion and the Refreshment Stand. (*Latter will require new formica counter tops*).
- 2) **Temporary interpretive signage** placed at historic structures on the site for special events in June, September, October, and November, 1999.
- 3) **Ceremonial tree plantings** on the site at special events in June, September, October, and November, 1999. Commemorative plaques are to be placed, identifying the plant species, the dates and occasions of the plantings, and the honorees.

#### B. Off-site

- 1) **Virginia Key lobby exhibition** at Historical Museum of Southern Florida. To coincide with the presentation of Task Force Recommendations to the City Commission on March, 9, 2000, a small exhibition of historic photographs, maps and memorabilia, entitled "Saving Virginia Key Beach: The Past, Present, and Future of a Miami Jewel" has been generously hosted by the Museum. It will remain through the month of March and most of April.
- 2) **Planned Civil Rights Museum Panel Discussion and Workshop.**  
(As part of the Charette, visiting presenters from existing civil rights museums in other cities were to be invited. The timing on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday weekend, however, obligated most of the prospective visitors to activities in their own localities. Furthermore, it was found that the importance of what such visitors could bring warranted its own time and space).

A Thursday evening panel discussion (date TBA) is planned for the Historical Museum in conjunction with the Lobby Exhibition. This would be followed by Workshop sessions with the participants to explore such issues as marketing and audience development, community participation, economic feasibility, administrative challenges, fundraising issues, etc.

The occasion would also allow the visitors to visit Virginia Key Beach.

Phase II. Follow up planning sessions, as needed, to assess the needs and content of the Commemorative Museum complex, suitable methods and materials, interface with other Beach and Park components, environmental impacts, financial strategies, etc.

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