

Heckscher Foundation for Children Funds Miami Art Museum's New Brick by Brick Education Program

The New York City-based Heckscher Foundation for Children has awarded \$500,000 to help support Miami Art Museum's educational programs over two years, including the launch of **Brick by Brick**. This innovative initiative is thematically tied to the construction of MAM's new home in Museum Park.

Brick by Brick is an after-school program aimed at underserved teenagers, linking their home environment to the larger community. It will use MAM's own building project to inspire integrated problem-solving and provide direct experience in fields such as architecture, computer graphics, geography, landscape design, mathematics and sociology.

"The Heckscher Foundation has been a generous supporter of MAM's educational programming for many years," MAM Director Terence Riley said. "The Foundation's support moves MAM's new **Brick by Brick** program off the drawing board and in to community centers in Overtown, Liberty City, Little Haiti and Coconut Grove."

"Many young people living in neighborhoods surrounding Miami Art Museum live difficult and challenging lives," said Heckscher Foundation Trustee Gail Meyers, who also serves on the board of Miami Art Museum. "We've now been given the opportunity to engage these young people in a meaningful and substantive way and maybe even inspire a new generation of artists, architects and community leaders! After all, the museum belongs to them, as it does to all of us."

"For the past three years, the generous support of the Heckscher Foundation has helped MAM bring art into the lives of Miami's underprivileged youth," MAM Curator of Education Chipi Morales added. "Their support has helped us reach thousands of children through programs such as **MAM in the Neighborhood**, which just received the 2007 National Association of Counties Achievement Award for effective and innovative programming. This additional support will certainly enhance MAM's ability to make a difference in the lives of Miami's young people."

Participants in the two-year program, to be offered at the Overtown YWCA, Little Haiti Housing Authority, Liberty City Community Center all girls' group and Barnyard - Coconut Grove Cares, will examine and document their immediate neighborhoods in the first year of the program. The second year will introduce the role of architecture in creating community and will engage participants in a public art project. Plans call for successful graduates of the preceding two-year program to participate in an art,

architecture and design exhibition offering the opportunity for design, curatorial and marketing experience.

In addition to **Brick by Brick**, MAM is partnering with Design and Architecture Senior High (DASH) in a new program to engage its senior architecture students in the process of MAM's new museum facility. The construction process of the new museum will be used as an instructional laboratory. Students will meet at the site, the present museum facilities and other locations for the duration of the building project.

School groups from throughout Miami-Dade County will also visit MAM during the exhibition *Work in Progress: Herzog and de Meuron's Miami Art Museum* (December 1, 2007- April 6, 2008), giving them an insider's view to the design process behind the new museum. Shenandoah Middle School and Southside Elementary School, both participants in the Museums Magnet School Program, have scheduled "Learning Expeditions" related to the exhibition.

Additional sources of funding for MAM's educational programs include Assurant Solutions, Blank Family Foundation, Carnival Corporation, MetLife Foundation, Peacock Foundation and Wachovia Bank.

Education at MAM

Education is at the heart of MAM's mission. The museum has established a broad range of educational programs at the museum and in the community for children, families and adults. MAM's offerings for teachers and students from kindergarten through twelfth grade make up the largest art-museum education program in Miami-Dade County. Throughout the year, MAM offers exciting programs and activities for young people and families to learn about art and discover new ways of seeing together – both at the museum and at community centers throughout Miami-Dade County, especially in underserved areas. The museum's schedule of lectures, tours and programs, encourages all visitors – novices or connoisseurs alike – to experience the world of contemporary art.

The New MAM

In September 2006, MAM's Trustees selected Herzog & de Meuron to design a new and expanded facility, scheduled to open in Miami's Museum Park in 2011. The new, 125,000-square-foot MAM, which will overlook Biscayne Bay, is nearly three times the size of MAM's current facility. It will include 32,000 square feet of galleries, providing space for larger and more diverse displays of the Museum's permanent collection as well as special exhibitions.

The facility being designed by Herzog & de Meuron will occupy four acres on the north side of Museum Park, overlooking Biscayne Bay. The new space will allow for the display of the permanent collection and special exhibitions; an educational complex with a library, auditorium, classrooms, and workshop space; and such amenities as a cafe and store. The new MAM will also include outdoor sculpture installations contiguous with the Museum.

The Museum anticipates a total cost for the building project of \$220 million, the largest portion of which—\$131 million—will be used to underwrite the costs directly associated with the construction of the building and sculpture garden. The total also includes a plan to raise \$70 million for the Museum’s operating endowment and \$19 million in transitional expenses related to the project.

The largest single source of funding for the project is the County’s General-Obligation Bond. In November 2004, Miami-Dade County voters overwhelmingly approved a bond that includes \$100 million for the construction of the Museum building. The City of Miami also made a key contribution by providing the land for the new MAM. The trustees of the Museum are committed to raising additional funds from a combination of public and private sources, and have begun the fundraising process. Prominent civic leaders and MAM Trustees Ambassador Paul L. Cejas, Ella Fontanals-Cisneros, Jorge M. Pérez, and Craig Robins are co-chairs of Miami Art Museum’s Capital Campaign Committee.

The Museum will remain in full operation in its current location on Flagler Street until the new building is complete.

Museum Park

The new MAM is critical to the transformation of forty acres of underused waterfront property on Biscayne Bay into Museum Park, which will include lawns, public gardens, and two major museums—MAM and Miami Science Museum, which will also host a branch of the Historical Museum of Southern Florida. The creation of Museum Park is the result of a public-private partnership with four stakeholders: Miami Art Museum, Miami Science Museum, Miami-Dade County, and the City of Miami.

Miami Art Museum

Miami Art Museum is dedicated to engaging the public with international art of the 20th and 21st centuries, taking a hemispheric perspective of the Americas. Since its founding in 1996, the Museum has exponentially built a body of contemporary art called by *Art in America* "the quintessential Miami collection."

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Media Contact:

Mitch Snow

305.375.1705

msnow@miamiartmuseum.org

Ilana Simon/Chris D’Aleo

Resnicow Schroeder Associates

212.671.5176/ 212-671-5178

isimon@resnicowschroeder.com/cdaleo@resnicowschroeder.com

Miami Art Museum is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts; with the support of Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners. Miami Art Museum is an accessible facility. For sign language interpretation or assistive listening devices please call MAM’s Education Department 305.375.4073 at least five days in advance. Materials in accessible format may be requested.

Open Tuesday through Friday - 10 AM to 5 PM, Saturday and Sunday – noon to 5 PM. Third Thursdays until 8:30 PM. Closed Monday. Admission for MAM members, children under 12 and students (with valid ID) is free. Adults \$8, seniors \$4. Free admission every second Saturday.

101 West Flagler Street

Miami, FL 33130

305.375.3000

miamiartmuseum.org

Garage Parking

\$5 at 50 NW 2nd Ave

between Flagler St and NW 1st St

Overflow parking at 270 NW 2nd Street

Metrorail: Government Center Station