



## NEWS RELEASE

May 14, 2020

Contact:

Manny Leto

813.675.8985

[mleto@tampabayhistorycenter.org](mailto:mleto@tampabayhistorycenter.org)

### Tampa Bay History Center to Reopen June 1

(Tampa, MAY 14, 2020) --- The Tampa Bay History Center, 801 Water St., Tampa, will reopen to the public on Monday, June 1 at 10 a.m., and will do so in accordance with guidelines set forth by the State of Florida, in adherence to health and safety recommendations outlined by the Centers for Disease Control, and following recommendations on reopening from the American Alliance of Museums.

“We understand the historic nature of this pandemic and the dramatic effect it has had locally and across the nation,” said History Center President and CEO C.J. Roberts. “We also understand the importance of sharing our community’s stories, how learning about our common past can help to inform both the present and our future. We’re proud to continue that mission on June 1 when we reopen our galleries.”

In addition to limiting capacity in galleries and theater presentations, all of the History Center’s Visitor Services Associates and front-of-house staff are required to wear protective equipment while interacting with the public, ticket purchases will be conducted online only, some “hands-on” gallery interactives have been temporarily disabled, and a regular schedule for cleaning and disinfecting high-traffic areas has been implemented.

The History Center will also reduce Adult admission levels by \$2. An Adult ticket, normally \$14.95 is now \$12.95. All other ticket levels are as follows: \$12.95/Seniors (60+), Military, First Responders, Students; \$10.95 Youth (7-17); Children 6 & under are free.

Gallery capacity will be limited. Timed-entry tickets should be purchased in advance and will go on sale beginning Friday, May 22.

“We understand we’re offering a modified experience,” said Roberts. “To offset that, and to welcome our community back, we’re temporarily reducing our admission fees.”

A detailed list of safety protocols can be found at [tampabayhistorycenter.org/policies-and-procedures](http://tampabayhistorycenter.org/policies-and-procedures), and visitors are encouraged to call ahead or check the History Center’s website prior to visiting for up-to-date information and announcements.

While some of the History Center’s educational programs remain on hold, the museum has expanded its online offerings since closing in March. Lesson plans and activities for teachers and students, virtual tours of recent exhibits, artifact spotlights and more are available on the History Center’s website and social media channels while in-person programming is paused. A limited number of Summer Camp offerings are scheduled for July.

Columbia Cafe at the History Center will open Wednesday, May 20 with a streamlined menu and new social distancing practices. The Cafe will open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tables at the indoor/outdoor restaurant will be socially distanced and staff will wear masks and follow state and local hygiene guidelines for the safety of customers. The bar will be closed. Guests are not required to wear masks but are requested to observe social distancing guidelines as well.

If you have any questions, please call 813.228.0097, or visit our website, [tampabayhistorycenter.org](http://tampabayhistorycenter.org), and social media platforms for updates.

(End)

Located on Tampa's Riverwalk, the **Tampa Bay History Center** includes three floors of permanent and temporary exhibition space focusing on 12,000 years of Florida's history and culture. A Smithsonian Affiliate museum and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the History Center includes the Touchton Map Library and Florida Center for Cartographic Education and the Witt Research Center, and is home to the Columbia Cafe. One of Tampa's premier cultural venues, the History Center's hands-on, interactive exhibits and theaters provide an entertaining and educational experience for visitors of all ages. For more information, visit [www.tampabayhistorycenter.org](http://www.tampabayhistorycenter.org).