

NEWS RELEASE

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THE DEERING ESTATE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

(MIAMI, February 11, 2009) – At its annual meeting in January, The Deering Estate Foundation elected *Walter Flores* (Golden Rule Seafood), President, and *Dan Yglesias* (Palmetto Ford Truck), Vice President, to lead the Foundation's efforts in 2009. The Foundation also welcomed newly elected directors *Heather Attong* (Healis Rehabilitation Centers), *Laura Beaton-Aguilera*, (BNY-Mellon Bank), *David Marley Jr.* (Creative Financial Solutions, Inc.), *Becky Matkov* (Dade Heritage Trust), *Paul Neidhart* (Curbside Florist & Gifts), *Betty Noe* and *Thomas Schaefer*.

Walter Flores, a native and well established entrepreneur in South Dade, owner of Golden Rule Seafood, began as a volunteer and has served on the Board of Directors since 2007. "I originally got involved to help with the annual Deering Seafood Festival which was a natural fit for me, but the more I learned about the diversity of the Estate, the more engaged my family and I became." says Flores. "It didn't take me long to understand the importance of having a community-based organization supporting the Estate's development and sustainability. It is truly an amazing place and we are very lucky to have it here in our community. I am looking forward to leading the Foundation's efforts this year especially as we celebrate our 20th Anniversary."

Established in 1989, The Deering Estate Foundation, Inc., is a private nonprofit member based 501(c) 3 Florida Corporation and the philanthropic arm of the Deering Estate at Cutler. The Deering Estate Foundation's Board of Directors, members and volunteers are made up of a diverse group of business and community leaders who are dedicated advocates of the Estate and active supporters of education, research, cultural arts, restoration and preservation.

"We are honored and privileged by the service of these distinguished and talented members of our community and look forward to embracing their enthusiasm and leadership", said Mary Pettit, Executive Director. "The Deering Estate at Cutler is a crown jewel of South Florida's park system that offers so many unique environmental, cultural and educational opportunities. As *Partners in Preservation, Education and Recreation*, the professional experience and wisdom of these individuals will serve the goals of our organization and community extremely well. I congratulate and welcome each and every one of them."

For information on The Deering Estate Foundation please contact, Mary Pettit, Executive Director at 305-235-1668, ext. 266.



Newly Elected President & Vice President - Pictured from left to right – *Walter Flores and Dan Yglesias*



Newly Elected Deering Estate Foundation Directors - Pictured from left to right – *Thomas Schaefer, Laura Beaton-Aguilera, Betty Noe, Becky Matkov, Paul Neidhart, David Marley, Jr., Heather Attong (not pictured)*

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The Deering Estate at Cutler, a Miami-Dade County Park, is located at 16701 SW 72 Avenue in Miami. This 444-acre natural and archaeological preserve and historic site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and serves as a center for education, culture and recreation. During the summer, historic house tours are offered daily with admission to the Estate. Eco-tours are also offered throughout the year for an additional fee. For more information on the Deering Estate's educational and cultural programs please visit www.deeringestate.org.

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Miami-Dade Parks provides quality and diverse cultural and recreational experiences for persons with disabilities. Call 305-365-3128 (V) or 305-365-6705 (TDD) to request materials in accessible format, a sign language interpreter (five days notice required) and for information on access for persons with disabilities.