

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE FLORIDA KEYS PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Community Foundation of the Florida Keys (CFFK) Receives State Grant for Key West Historic Marker Project

(Key West, FL) The Florida State Legislature has appropriated \$29,300 in Historic Preservation funds as a matching grant for the Key West Historic Marker Tour Project. The grant will be awarded if the \$29,300 is matched by donations from the community before October 1, 2010. The Key West Historic Markers applied for the grant under CFFK in order to be eligible.

The Historic Markers Project is one of the 5 applicants out of 105 state wide to be awarded funding for their category from Historic Preservation this year. The purpose of the Key West Historic Marker Tour is to encourage our community and its visitors to discover, understand and preserve our rich history through a dynamic, state of the art project. By placing historic markers around the City, visitors and residents can call a toll free number located on each marker and hear an audio guided history of the location. The website, www.KeyWestHistoricMarkerTour.org will serve as a historic markers map reference as well as provide a virtual tour of Key West along with a guide to our history.

Currently, there are 13 Historic Markers around the city of Key West, with 30 more sites being researched. The grant will also provide funding for an internship/ researching initiative with students from the Florida Keys Community College and Key West High School. Through this, students will be exposed to personal collections and collectors, City and County archives and stories of the community. Students will experience hands-on research about their ancestors through the latest documenting and archiving technology.

Key West Historic Markers has been operating under the umbrella of CFFK until recently when they obtained their 501c(3) designation. All donations to help aid in matching this state grant or for sponsoring a Historic Marker site can be addressed to the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys, 300 Southard St, Suite 201, Key West FL, 33040 or submitted via

www.cffk.org. More information on the Key West Historic Marker Tour project can be found on their website at www.KeyWestHistoricMarkerTour.org.

Established in 1996, the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys' mission is to make Key West and the Florida Keys a better place to live now and in the future by encouraging philanthropy and matching these acts of caring to the community needs. CFFK has granted more than \$12 million to the community from its donor advised and unrestricted funds to support the important work of our local nonprofit organizations. CFFK currently manages over 90 endowments for individuals and other not for profit organizations and causes throughout the Florida Keys.

PHOTO available upon request.

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