



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Writer, producer, director Beth Brickell to speak at 2011 FLHC Speaker Series
Monday, July 18 at 6:00pm**

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL, July 1, 2011– The Fort Lauderdale History Center is fortunate to have writer, producer and director Beth Brickell join us on July 18, 2011 at 6pm for the 2011 FLHC Speaker Series. Ms. Brickell will be speaking about her book *William and Mary Brickell: Founders of Miami and Fort Lauderdale*. She will share what she uncovered of this dynamic couple, from William’s origins in Ohio to his adventures in the California and Australian gold rushes and marriage to Mary. She will discuss this never-before-told story which reveals both disappointment and triumph as these two pioneers clashed with Flagler and John D. Rockefeller during the robber baron days of the oil industry and finally tamed the wilderness of South Florida.

Beth Brickell is president of Luminous Films, Inc., and is the writer, producer and director of a trilogy of movies—*A Rainy Day*, *Summer’s End* and *Mr. Christmas*—that has won twenty-five film festival and television awards. Formerly an actress, she starred in the CBS television series *Gentle Ben* and received Emmy consideration for guest starring roles on *Bonanza* and *Hawaii 5-0*. She also has a newspaper background as an investigative reporter. Beth has a BA degree in history and political science from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and an MFA degree in film from the American Film Institute in Los Angeles. She lives in Beverly Hills, California.

Praise for *William and Mary Brickell: Founders of Miami & Fort Lauderdale*:

“Beth Brickell has gone where no one else has been before. She has written a compelling account of the Brickells, early Miami’s most important family.”

—Dr. Paul S. George, professor of history, Miami-Dade College; historian to the Historical Association of Southern Florida

“Beth Brickell has created an important work. She has succeeded in putting a human face on two of the icons of Miami history, William and Mary Brickell. She goes on to make an excellent case for declaring Mary Brickell the true ‘Mother of Miami.’ It is extremely well researched, organized, documented and written.”

—Tim Robinson, author, *A Tropical Frontier: Pioneers and Settlers of*

Southeast Florida

For more information or to RSVP for the July 18, 2011 FLHC Speaker Series, please email education@fortlauderdalehistorycenter.org or call (954) 463-4431 ext. 12.

ABOUT THE FORT LAUDERDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Formed in 1962, the Society is responsible for the restoration, preservation and interpretation of the Fort Lauderdale History Center (FLHC). FLHC is home to six different buildings (four of which are historic): the New River Inn, built in 1905; the Philemon Bryan House, built in 1905; the Acetylene Building, built in 1905; the King-Cromartie House, built in 1907; the Hoch Heritage Center, built in the 1940s as a post office warehouse; and the 1899 Replica Schoolhouse. All of the buildings are open to the public over 300 days a year. Through a wide range of educational programs, exhibits, publications, research, tours, outreach and the historic preservation of our buildings, the Historical Society shares the story of the history of our community and the individuals who shaped it.

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