



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ybor City Museum Society

Ybor City Museum Society Announces Expansion of Mission & New President & CEO

TAMPA, FL –The Ybor City Museum Society (YCMS) has announced plans to expand their mission under the guidance of their new President & CEO, Arminda Mata.

As a constant pillar of the Ybor City community for over 40 years, the YCMS has maintained the position as primary interpreter and conservator of Ybor City’s rich history and heritage.

There have been many changes throughout Tampa over the past 40 years and YCMS has adapted and grown with these changes. With the recent challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, YCMS has reflected on new opportunities to expand its mission to the community. As witness to the growth in Ybor City through tourism and development, YCMS is delighted to be a part of an expanding community.

YCMS has expanded the mission of “preserving, promoting, and celebrating the unique cultural heritage of Ybor City,” first by renovating, designing and operating the Tampa Baseball Museum at the Al Lopez House, creating a mobile museum, “Rollin’ Through History”, and most recently beginning the Ybor City Historical Society.

The mobile museum is available for all ages and offers a variety of topics related to Ybor City, from the birth of a city to 135 years of baseball in Tampa. The staff of YCMS will bring historical presentations and artifacts to different facilities throughout Tampa and surrounding counties, to educate the community of the cultural heritage that made Ybor City unique. The staff has already had the pleasure of visiting schools, senior living centers, and businesses throughout Tampa, and witnessed the success of reaching the community on a new level.

With the exciting opportunities and expansion ahead, there are a few organizational changes happening within YCMS. Firstly, “On behalf of the Board of Trustees we are proud to announce the appointment of Arminda Mata to President and CEO,” said Steven Hovsepian, Chairman of the Board of the Ybor City Museum Society. Ms. Mata holds a Master’s of Arts Degree in History from the University of South Florida with a minor in anthropology. She interned with the Tampa Bay History Center and then the Ybor City Museum Society from 2020 to 2021. In January of 2022, Ms. Mata was hired as a Contracted Curator at Ybor City Museum Society and curated the *Following Fernando’s Footsteps: A Tale of Tampa’s Invisible Immigrants* exhibit in November of 2022. In January of 2023, Ms. Mata was named the Interim CEO of Ybor City Museum Society where she

remained until being named the President and CEO in October. Ms. Mata brings a passion for the community along with over 20 years of banking, bookkeeping, and professional experience.

Secondly, the new office location for YCMS beginning January 1, 2024, will be 1909 N. 19th St., Tampa, FL, 33605, just a few doors down from the Tampa Baseball Museum. The mailing address of PO Box 5421, Tampa, FL 33675, the office phone number of 813-247-1434, the emails of current employees, and the website, www.ybormuseum.org, will all remain the same.

Lastly, the Ybor City Museum Society will transition its relationship with the State Park System from a traditional Citizen Support Organization (CSO) to a community collaboration. YCMS will remain a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and through the newly acquired title of Ybor City Historical Society, YCMS will continue to enhance its mission through building new and strengthening existing relationships with community partners.

The board and staff of the Ybor City Museum Society are enthusiastic about the growth opportunities in Ybor City and are honored to be part of a cultural gem.

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