

February 18, 2022



### Mission

Preserving, promoting, and celebrating the unique cultural heritage of Ybor City and supporting the Ybor City Museum State Park

## *NEWS BRIEF*

This week's newsletter features two important examples of Ybor City's Cuban heritage. The first is a sneak peek into the Cuban Club, one of the buildings on tour during *Buildings Alive!* Note that discounts for early registration for the event have been extended to February 26, to coincide with our participation in the Ybor Chamber's *Fiesta Day*. The second example is a nod to Black History Month with a story about Paulina Pedroso and the La Union Martí-Maceo. We have introduced a new column entitled "Our Community" to share the diverse activities and events in our nearby community. There are many ways to enjoy Ybor City's heritage and culture in the next few weeks.

Chantal Ruilova Hevia, President and CEO

## 10 Years! 10 Stops! March 10!



It's back! Join us for the 10th Anniversary ***Buildings Alive! Ybor City Architecture Hop*** on March 10, 5:00-10:00 PM. This year's hop returns bigger than ever with four additional stops. "Hoppers" will enjoy a Send-Off Party in the Museum Garden, "behind-the-scene" tours of 10 historic buildings, and an array of light bites and beverages along the way. They will be transported to an evening of discovery and Ybor-style hospitality by Jolley Trolleys. Signature cocktails will be provided at the Send-Off Party by WhistlePig Rye Whiskey. "Early Bird" discounted tickets are now on

sale. Buy now before the \$10 price increase after February 26. See you at the hop!

Buy Discounted Tickets

## Thank You to Our Sponsors



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**Sponsorships are still available** for Buildings Alive! Ybor City Architecture Hop and the Buildings Alive! Commemorative Video that will be released in April. Get on board with these two high-profile opportunities.

## The Cuban Club

This week's sneak peek into Buildings Alive! is the Cuban Club, which was originally a mutual aid society for Cuban immigrants. The original building was destroyed by fire in 1907, rebuilt in 1916 in the Neo-Classical Revival Style, and inaugurated in 1918.

Prior to unifying in 1902 under the organizational name of El Círculo Cubano de Tampa, or the "The Cuban Circle of Tampa", Ybor City was home to more than 40 patriotic Cuban clubs. After the unification, the focus of what is known today as the Cuban Club shifted from patriotic to social. However, the club and its members remained supportive of their native country during the struggles for independence and other political hardships.

The Cuban Club, as one of Ybor City's larger social clubs, supported their members through education, arts, sports, and health, including an onsite medical clinic. The building now functions mostly as an event center. It is stop #5 in Buildings Alive!

*(Cuban Club 1926, photo courtesy of the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library)*



## Celebrating Black History Month - Paulina Pedroso



It would be impossible to celebrate Black History month without honoring the Afro-Cuban men and women who helped build Ybor City. Among them were two dedicated friends and supporters of José Martí (the "George Washington" of Cuba), Ruperto and Paulina Pedroso, who offered their boarding house as a safe haven for Martí and the Afro-Cuban community. The house was also the first meeting place for La Unión Martí-Maceo, Ybor City's first Afro-Cuban Club.

[Read More](#)

*(Photo of Pedrosa House 1890s courtesy of USF Special Collections)*

## COOKING CORNER



### Churros

The origins of the churro are uncertain. Some say that the churro originated in China, and Portuguese merchants brought the delicacy home, added sugar to make it a dessert, and then shared the recipe with their Spanish neighbors. Another story is that Spanish shepherds, not having many ingredients while in the fields, created the churro. Regardless of the origins, the churro was brought to the Americas by the Spanish during the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Spanish, Cubans, and many South Americans prefer to dip their churros into a side of hot chocolate.

In honor of the Spanish and Cuban heritage of Ybor City, enjoy this delicious recipe!

*(Photo courtesy of Sassy Spoon)*

[Get the Recipe](#)

## Membership Bonus

Join or renew your Ybor City Museum Society membership during the month of February and we will enter you into a **drawing for two free tickets to Buildings Alive!** The higher your level of membership, the more entries you will receive.

Membership donations support exhibits and educational programming.

## The Ybor City Museum State Park

A visit to the Ybor City Museum State Park is a terrific way to share Tampa's cultural heritage with friends, family, and out-of-town guests.



You can also inquire about renting the Garden, a beautiful 10,000 sq. ft. outdoor space, by **clicking here**. This unique venue creates its own ambience for your wedding, corporate meeting, or other special event.

**New Hours of Operation :** 9 am - 5 pm Wednesday - Sunday

The "Casita" is currently closed for maintenance.

Admission: \$4 per person, free for children 5 years and younger

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## Our Community

February is Black History Month. Stop by the **Tampa Baseball Museum** to learn more about Tampa's Negro Leagues and iconic players like Buck O'Neil and Minnie Miñoso, who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in July.

**75th Annual Fiesta Day, February 26, 11am - 6pm.** Stop by our booth on 7th Avenue during this traditional event that commemorates the history of Ybor City and highlights the heritage of its first immigrants. Cultural foods, arts and crafts, and specialty products will be featured along with live entertainment.

**Buildings Alive! Ybor City Architecture Hop, March 10, 5pm - 10 pm.** This year's 10th Anniversary hop has been expanded to feature tours of 10 buildings, with light bites and drinks at each stop. Discounted tickets can be purchased through February 26. Sponsorships are still available. Contact 813.247.1434.

**Baseball, Bourbon and Cigars, March 25, 6:30pm - 9:30 pm.** Join the Tampa Baseball Museum and the Florida Sports Hall of Fame for an intimate evening shared with Tampa baseball legends and other MLB Player Alumni. The event includes Latin food, live music, drinks and cigars in historic Ybor City.

Save the date for **El Reloj's 100th birthday celebration** on March 31. Tickets to the event at J.C. Newman Cigar Company are now available. Those who attend will enjoy a fabled part of Ybor City's history.

We are so proud of **Shore Elementary Magnet School of the Arts** in Ybor City, which was one of 12 Tampa Bay area schools to receive the highest honor in an annual awards program held by Magnet Schools of America. Congratulations to Principal Cheri Bollinger, who will be bringing some of her students to the Tampa Baseball Museum and the Ybor City Museum State Park for a tour. **MacFarlane Park Elementary** in West Tampa also received the award. Both schools served the children of Tampa's early immigrant communities and have thrived for a century.

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Donate

The Ybor City Museum Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID No. 59-2274494. While we do not give tax advice, donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

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