

Florida Historic Marker Grant Proposal Presented to the City of Miami Beach

Submitted by Dr. Lynette Long

Run by the Division of Historical Resources, the Florida Historical Marker Program is Florida's most popular and visible public history program. Aimed at both citizens and tourists the markers are designed to raise awareness of Florida's history and to enhance the enjoyment of historic sites. Approximately 1000 markers have been installed throughout Florida, fifty of which are located in Miami-Dade County. Twenty-three of these markers are located in the City of Miami, eleven are located in Coral Gables, eight are located in Coconut Grove, the remaining eight are distributed throughout the rest of Miami-Dade County. There is only one Florida Historical Marker in Miami Beach. One.

Miami Beach has a rich history yet the recently installed Florida Historical Marker honoring historic preservationist Barbara Baer Capitman is the only historical marker on the Beach. Increasing the number of historic markers on the Beach would increase the public awareness of Miami Beach's rich and deep history and would be a step toward rebranding Miami Beach as not just a party destination but a place with real historical significance. More historic markers would add another layer to the tourists experience.

I wrote the application and got the approval for the Barbara Baer Capitman Historic Marker. I have also written applications and gotten approval for markers honoring aviatrix Amelia Earhart, Seminole Chief Betty Mae Tiger Jumper, Miami's first female doctor Eleanor Galt Simmons, and marathon swimmer Diana Nyad. I am extremely familiar with the historic marker application process and speak regularly with Michael Hart, the Director of the Florida Historic Marker Program. I am confident I could get markers approved that highlighted the history of Miami Beach.

I am proposing to research, write the applications and assure approval of ten different markers each of which would celebrate the history of Miami Beach for a cost of \$25,000. Marker applications are complex and require extensive research, verification of significance, and writing skill. Often the marker review committee requires additional research and at times requests the entire application be rewritten before approval. After each of the markers received approval from Tallahassee the City of Miami Beach would be responsible for paying the \$1900 directly to the State of Florida for the construction of the marker. It would also be the city's responsibility to install the marker and potentially organize an unveiling ceremony.

As a five year resident of Miami Beach I am eager to share the city's rich history with the tourists who visit our city from all over the world. Miami Beach is not just the entertainment capital of South Florida, it is a place where troops trained for war, various styles of architecture were defined and stars were born. Attached is a list of over twenty potential markers honoring places or events in Miami Beach. This list is not meant to be complete and I am open to suggestions of other historic buildings or places associated with historic events. In order to qualify for a historic marker a building or site must be at least 30 years old and have significance in the areas of architecture, archaeology, Florida history or be associated with a significant event that took place at least 30 years ago. Individuals honored should have died 30 years ago or if they are still living completed a historically significant event 30 years ago.

I know I can successfully complete this project in a timely manner. I have a Ph.D. and I am the author of over twenty books on a variety of subjects. I research topics extensively and verify my work. I would complete two markers per month and complete the applications for all ten markers in five months time. If the City of Miami Beach is interested in this proposal, I would request a 50% deposit.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss this proposal at DrLynetteLong@gmail.com. My phone number is 301-325-6976.

Potential Historic Markers for Miami Beach

- Betsy Hotel
- Brown's Hotel
- Collins Avenue Waterfront Architectural District (National Register of Historic Places)
- Colony Theatre
- Espanola Way and the Clay Hotel
- Flagler Monument Island
- Fontainebleau Hotel (National Register of Historic Places)
- Historic Coral House
- Jackie Gleason Theatre
- Jewish Museum of Florida (National Register of Historic Places)
- Joe's Stone Crabs
- Lincoln Road Mall (National Register of Historic Places)
- Lincoln Theatre
- Lummus Park
- Miami Beach Community Church
- Miami Beach Women's Club
- Monticello Hotel (National Register of Historic Places)
- Normandy Isles Historic District (National Register of Historic Places)
- North Shore Historic District (National Register of Historic Places)
- Ocean Spray Hotel (National Register of Historic Places)
- Van Dyke Building and Carl Fisher's Real Estate Office
- Venetian Causeway (National Register of Historic Places)
- Versace Mansion
- Wolfsonian Museum