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561.279.8883  
www.spadmuseum.org

A Newsletter of Expanding & Preserving Our Cultural Heritage, Inc.  
170 N.W. 5th Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33444

## New Exhibit Explores First Free Black Community

For more than 150 years the story of the first legally sanctioned free African-American community was buried from history on a remote island in the Florida marsh.

Now the story of that community, Fort Mosé, is being told in South Florida thanks to a traveling exhibit from the Florida Museum of Natural History, "Fort Mosé: Colonial America's Black Fortress of Freedom" presented by the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum through Sept. 22.



"We're very pleased to have the opportunity to share this exhibit with all of our visitors," said Museum Educator Brandy Brownlee. "The establishment of Fort Mosé represents a very important chapter in Florida's history."

In an effort to share the little-known story of Fort Mosé with younger generations, the Spady Museum will offer several children's programs and activities during the exhibit.

On July 18, the museum celebrated the opening with a reception and standing-room only lecture and presentation by Professor Ralph Johnson, Florida Atlantic University's Director of the Center for the Conservation of Architectural and Cultural Heritage.

The traveling exhibit tells the story of the slaves from English Carolina who were granted their freedom and established the colony near St. Augustine in 1738. It details the archeological discovery of Fort Mosé, and also chronicles the African-American colonial experience in the Spanish colonies.



The Auburn Group  
is a Proud Sponsor of  
EPOCH and the  
Spady Museum

# Spady Cultural Heritage Museum



170 N.W. Fifth Avenue ~ Delray Beach, Florida ~ 561.279.8883 [www.spadmuseum.org](http://www.spadmuseum.org)

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## Museum Breaks Ground on Phase II Expansion

Dignitaries and honored guests from throughout Palm Beach County were on hand May 30 as the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum and EPOCH (Expanding & Preserving Our Cultural Heritage, Inc.) broke ground on the Phase II expansion of the Spady Cultural Heritage Complex.

When completed, the complex will be one of the county's largest repositories of African-American, Caribbean and Haitian history and cultural collaboration. Plans for the complex include renovation of the historic 1935 Munnings Cottage, which will be turned into the Kids' Cultural Clubhouse; construction of a 50-seat C. Spencer Pompey Amphitheater; and construction of a new community support facility.

"The beginning of this expansion represents years of hard work, vision and belief in the mission of EPOCH," said Vera Farrington, president and founder of the organization. "The historical impact and contributions of so many ethnically diverse



Vera R. Farrington, EPOCH Board President; Mike Hammad, Community Markets; Doug Pugh, Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties; Jay Felner, I Have A Dream Foundation; Addie Greene, Palm Beach County Commissioner; Perry Brown, EPOCH Board Member; Rita Ellis, Delray Beach Mayor; Daisy Fulton, Executive Director of The Spady Cultural Heritage Museum.

of the I Have A Dream Foundation and Doug Pugh of the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties.

"It is time for us to grow," Mrs. Farrington said. "And the fact that we have the support of the city and the community behind us in this growth was cause for celebration."

people in Delray Beach and South Florida cannot be contained in our current space. There are too many stories to tell, too much art and education to be shared, and too many people working to make it all happen for us to remain in our infancy."

Joining Mrs. Farrington and other EPOCH board members for the groundbreaking ceremony were several local government officials and museum supporters. Among those participating were Palm Beach County Commission Chairperson Addie Greene, Mayor Rita Ellis, State Rep. Susan Bucher, Chief Larry Schroeder and Howard Lewis, vice-chair of the Community Redevelopment Agency. Also joining in the ceremony were Jay Felner

## Spady Living Heritage Day Festival Set for Sept. 22

Following the success of last year's inaugural efforts, the Spady Living Heritage Day Festival will be back again this year and it promises to be bigger and even better.

Visitors to this year's event, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 22 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., will once again see demonstrations of crafts from years past and will hear discussions of turn-of-the-century hand tools and life on the farm.

In addition, this year's festival will be expanded to include an entire block – from Northwest First Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Drive – on historic Northwest Fifth Avenue.

"The event will feature more vendors and more entertainment, as well as an expanded children's play area", said Daisy Fulton, museum executive director.

Demonstrations will include shining shoes, making grass brooms and cooking fried bread and cracklin'. Activities for children will include pony rides; face painting; traditional games, such as horseshoes, sack race, tug-



o-war and 3-legged race, a petting zoo and watermelon rolling contest.

An added attraction at this year's festival: The first 100 guests can register for one of three showings of the Spady Museum's latest documentary, "Old School," about the historical black high schools of Palm Beach County.

The 2007 Spady Living Heritage Day Festival is being sponsored in part by a grant from the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties and the Palm Beach County Cultural Council. Auburn Development and Community Markets are the presenting sponsors for this event.

### IF YOU GO

**What:** Spady Living Heritage Day Festival.  
**When:** Sept. 22, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
**Where:** 100 block of Historic Northwest Fifth Avenue  
**Highlights:** Demonstrations of crafts from yesteryear, entertainment and children's activities  
**Admission:** Free

## From the Executive Director



Daisy Fulton

2007 has already been a great year for the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum and there's still so much more to come.

Since the beginning of the year, the Museum has hosted many events, programs and presentations designed to preserve our community's heritage and history.

Our Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Breakfast in collaboration with Old School Square was once again a huge success as was the debut of one of our most exciting projects, the documentary "Old School," which details life in Palm Beach County's black high schools prior to desegregation. Since we first showed the documentary at the Delray Beach Public Library, it has been presented in several other locations, including West Palm Beach, Riviera Beach and the Glades area.

Other highlights of the year include our popular Connecting Community and Culture Lecture series and outstanding traveling exhibits including P.H. Polk, Gospel Music and Fort Mosé.

We're also proud of our monthly Ride & Remember Trolley Tours, presented in cooperation with the Delray Beach Historical Society. One highlight was the May tour which explored the evolution of Delray Beach's Haitian Community.

For EPOCH, the groundbreaking ceremony for Phase II of our expansion project was a major milestone accomplishment.

And within a few weeks, we'll be hosting one of our signature events, the Spady Living Heritage Day Festival.

All of these events would not be possible without the EPOCH board, funders and members, and the EPOCH staff.

If you're already a member of the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, we want to once again say thank you for helping us to continue to grow. If you're not a member yet, now's a great time to consider joining.

We look forward to seeing you at the Spady Living Heritage Day Festival and other upcoming events.

## Major Grants Help Fund Museum

Recent grants from local and national foundations, as well as from corporations and publicly funded organizations, will be instrumental in helping the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum offer special events, exhibits and activities in the coming months.

The museum will receive grants totaling \$84,000 from four organizations and has been recommended to receive \$29,655 from the Palm Beach County Cultural Council in the 2007/2008 fiscal year.

"We can't say enough to thank each of the funding organizations for their generosity," said Daisy Fulton, the museum's executive director. "With their support we're able to continue providing excellent programs to the community that help preserve an important part of our community's history."

Organizations providing grants to the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum are:

- Jay Felner of I Have a Dream Foundation, \$31,000 in general funding
- The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties,



Rocki Rockingham (center) and employees of Jarden Consumer Solutions present a check to the Spady Museum.

\$27,500 for the "Who We Are" series of programs and Spady Heritage Festivals.

- Palm Beach County Cultural Council \$24,293 for Spady Living Heritage Day Festival.
- Florida Department of State, \$16,436 for general operations
- Jarden Consumer Solutions Community Fund, \$10,000 for the Kids Cultural Club 3T program
- The Junior League of Boca Raton, \$1,000 for a kiosk

In addition, local and county governments, help support the museum with contributions representing more than 40 percent of revenue.



Doug Pugh, of the Community Foundation For Palm Beach and Martin Counties with Vera Farrington (left) and Daisy Fulton.



Jay Felner of the I Have a Dream Foundation and Daisy Fulton.

## Brown, Moncrief Join EPOCH Board

The board of directors of EPOCH (Expanding & Preserving Our Cultural Heritage Inc.) is pleased to announce the election of two new board members – Perry Brown and Lawrence Moncrief.



Perry Brown



Lawrence Moncrief

"We're very pleased that both of these gentlemen have agreed to join the board," said EPOCH President Vera Farrington. "Each brings a level of expertise that will be of great benefit to the organization as we move forward."

Brown, managing director and senior vice president of Northern Trust Bank's Palm Beach County office and regional sales manager for Palm Beach and Martin counties, is a member of the board of the Historical Society of Palm Beach County and has more than 10 years in the financial services industry.

Moncrief, a retired structural engineer and attorney, has extensive experience in corporate and business law. He spent 20 years working as a structural engineer in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Ohio, and 23 years as a corporate attorney for H.K. Porter and Co., where he retired in 1993 as vice president and general counsel.

## Kid's Cultural Club Unveils 3Ts Summer Program



The Spady Museum is introducing the next-generation of its Kids Cultural Club experience by adding the dimensions of Teach, Travel, and Tour.

The new 3T Program, will enhance the museum's cultural and historical education outreach to children and youth in South Palm Beach County schools

and after-school programs.

The Spady Museum's Kids Cultural Club staff will travel regularly to schools and after-school programs to introduce children to museum cultural and historical exhibits through activities and mini-exhibits. The museum will also provide transportation, if needed, from the school and after-school site to the Spady Museum so that children can tour the full exhibit. Museum staff will teach by preparing and using student booklets and teacher's guides specifically prepared about each exhibit.

Through the 3T program, Spady Museum's Kids Cultural Club goes outside its own walls and takes a mini-exhibit to the children that reinforces the information about the exhibit. Presentations stimulate the children's own interpretation of the events depicted in the exhibit.

The target population for the Spady 3T Program is fourth grade through high school children. The program is free and available to all schools and youth groups.

The Spady Museum is piloting the 3T program over the summer and has several tours scheduled to take place throughout August including presentation with students from the Milagro Center, the C.L.A.S.S. program and the Achievement Centers for Children and Families Foundation.



## Community and Culture Series Draws Large Audience

With audiences sometimes overflowing into the hallways, the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum this spring presented the popular six-part lecture series, "Connecting Community and Culture."

"We were very pleased with the response we received from the community to this series," said Museum Educator Brandy Brownlee. "We are looking forward to doing it again next year."

Funded by a grant from the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, the series highlighted the cultural heritage of African-Americans.



Author and lecturer Kitty Oliver



Lecturer Sherry Sherrod Dupree and Board Member Mim George.



Vera Farrington, Speaker Sika Dagbovie and Daisy Fulton

## Spady Museum Presents "Old School" Documentary

"Old School," a documentary detailing life in Palm Beach County's black high schools prior to desegregation, is continuing to offer residents throughout the area with an opportunity to learn more about an important part of the community's history.

First debuted in January at the Delray Beach Public Library, "Old School" has recently been shown to audiences in West Palm Beach, Riviera Beach and the Glades area where it has been enthusiastically received.

Created by the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, "Old School" includes an accumulation of recollections from students and teachers of several of the county's black high schools.

"The schools really were a focal point of the community back then," says Vera Farrington, a long-time educator and co-founder of the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum.

S. Bruce McDonald, also a veteran educator, believes some of the lessons of the past, highlighted in the documentary, can be valuable today.

"Some of our younger teachers might benefit from the techniques used in the past," said McDonald, a former area superintendent for the Palm Beach County School District, who is helping to bring the documentary to new audiences.

There will also be three showings of the documentary during the Spady Living Heritage Day Festival.