

Media Inquiries

Holly Evarts, Director of Communications, World Monuments Fund
646-424-9594, hevarts@wmf.org

Nord Wennerstrom, Director of Communications, National Trust for Historic Preservation
202-588-6380, nord_wennerstrom@nthp.org

**MIAMI MARINE STADIUM—WIDELY CELEBRATED MODERNIST ICON—
TAKES IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD POTENTIAL RESTORATION****WORLD MONUMENTS FUND AND NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION JOIN WITH
LOCAL GROUPS TO COMMISSION NEW ENGINEERING STUDY TO HELP DETERMINE
RESTORATION COSTS AND GUIDE DECISION MAKING**

Miami, FL (June 24, 2009)—Miami Marine Stadium, an icon of modern architecture currently threatened with demolition, has taken an important step toward potential restoration. World Monuments Fund and the National Trust for Historic Preservation have joined with local supporters in Miami—The Villagers, the Friends of Miami Marine Stadium, the John and Selene Devaney Foundation, and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Carlos Gimenez, whose district includes the stadium—and have raised the \$50,000 necessary to commission an engineering study that will help determine the cost of its restoration. The partners expect the results of the study, due later this fall, to help guide decision making about the future of the facility, designed by Cuban-born architect Hilario Candela and built in 1963.

Miami Marine Stadium was recently included on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2009 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places and has been nominated to the 2010 World Monuments Watch biennial list of 100 most endangered sites, which will be announced in October 2009.

"I am proud to do what I can in order to help preserve our rich cultural asset. Clearly, Miami Marine Stadium has played a vital role in the growth and attraction of Miami. It is facilities like these that help tell the story of Miami to our future generations," said Miami-Dade County Commissioner Carlos Gimenez.

"What better symbol could there be of Miami's ties to the waterfront than the fantastic Marine Stadium?" said Lisa Ackerman, World Monuments Fund executive vice president and chief operating officer. "The Marine Stadium, taken together with the man-made basin and natural setting, embodies the exuberance of a city that has contributed greatly to American artistic and cultural life. World Monuments Fund wants to see Miami Marine Stadium restored to its former glory so that spectators, concert-goers, and the public can once again marvel at the double joy of great architecture and a waterfront view."

"Modernist architecture reflects a remarkable time in our cultural development," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, "and Miami Marine Stadium, an integral part of Miami's robust and diverse history, is an especially important place we can't afford to lose."

(more)

“Dade Heritage Trust greatly appreciates the support of the World Monuments Fund, The Villagers, Inc., the National Trust, and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Carlos Gimenez in helping fund this essential engineering study,” noted Becky Roper Matkov, President of Dade Heritage Trust, Miami’s largest nonprofit historic preservation organization. “The Marine Stadium, embracing the blue waters of Biscayne Bay, is both a quintessential Miami landmark and an international architectural icon, and we must restore it for new generations to use and enjoy.”

The 6,566-seat stadium, located on Virginia Key, is built entirely of poured concrete and features a dramatically cantilevered fold-plate roof. Originally built for spectators of power boat races, it was also the site of highly popular concerts by Jimmy Buffett, Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops, Jose Luis Rodgriuez (El Puma), and many others, who performed on a floating stage. It is a sentimental favorite of many Miami residents who experienced their first concerts under the stars over Biscayne Bay. More information about the stadium can be found on www.marinestadium.org, the website of Friends of Marine Stadium.

The Boston-based engineering firm Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, Inc. (SGH), which specializes in designing, investigating, and rehabilitating structures and building enclosures, will do the structural analysis and core sampling to determine the cost of restoring the stadium. Michael Brainerd, senior principal at SGH, will head the investigation. This is the second time Brainerd and SGH have assessed the structure’s condition and feasibility for restoration. In 1993, he and SGH, as consultants for the City of Miami, determined that the stadium, closed after 1992’s Hurricane Andrew, could be restored for \$2 to3 million. The city opted to do nothing and the stadium has been vacant and deteriorating ever since.

###

World Monuments Fund is the leading independent organization devoted to saving the world’s most treasured places. For over 40 years, working in more than 90 countries, our highly skilled experts have applied proven and effective techniques to preserve important architectural and cultural heritage sites around the globe. Through partnerships with local communities, funders, and governments, we inspire an enduring commitment to stewardship for future generations. Headquartered in New York, WMF has offices and affiliates worldwide. www.wmf.org

The National Trust for Historic Preservation (www.PreservationNation.org) is a nonprofit membership organization bringing people together to protect, enhance and enjoy the places that matter to them. By saving the places where great moments from history—and the important moments of everyday life—took place, the National Trust for Historic Preservation helps revitalize neighborhoods and communities, spark economic development, and promote environmental sustainability. With headquarters in Washington, DC, nine regional and field offices, 29 historic sites, and partner organizations in all 50 states, the National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to a national network of people, organizations, and local communities committed to saving places, connecting us to our history and collectively shaping the future of America’s stories.

Friends of Marine Stadium is a coalition of individuals and organizations organized under the administrative umbrella of Dade Heritage Trust that was formed in the spring of 2008. The objective of the group is to restore and return to service the Miami Marine Stadium. www.marinestadium.org

(more)

Dade Heritage Trust (DHT) is the leading voice for historic preservation in Miami-Dade County. Founded as a nonprofit membership organization in 1972, Dade Heritage Trust works to enrich the quality of life for the entire community by sustainably preserving the best of the past for the future. www.dadeheritagetrust.org

The Villagers, Inc. is the oldest preservation organization in Miami-Dade County, having been founded in 1966 to help save and restore the Douglas Entrance in Coral Gables. Since those early years, the organization has raised close to \$1 million for restoration projects in the county and for scholarships for students in the field of historic preservation or related subjects. Their two annual signature fundraising events are a house tour in December and a garden tour in March. www.thevillagersinc.org