

**DRAFT RESOLUTION FROM  
THE COCOANUT GROVE VILLAGE COUNCIL**

**2 MAY 2006**

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HISTORIC DESIGNATION FOR THE ENTIRE COCONUT GROVE PLAYHOUSE SITE

WHEREAS, the Coconut Grove Playhouse ("the Playhouse") was built in 1926 by contractor Albert Peacock, grandson of Charles and Isabella Peacock and owned by the first Mayor of Coconut Grove, Irving J. Thomas and his partner Finn Pierce, and

WHEREAS, the original design for the "Playhouse" was done by the critically important and renowned architect Richard Kiehnel and credited with originating the Mediterranean Rival style in the Miami area, and

WHEREAS, the "Playhouse" is an extraordinary example of the style that relied on architectural prototypes from around the Mediterranean Sea that became known as Mediterranean in the 1920's, and

WHEREAS, a great majority of the exterior of the building remains as it did when it was first designed and can be restored to its former condition, and

WHEREAS, the "Playhouse" ranks among the landmark buildings in Coconut Grove and in south Florida, along with the Plymouth Congregational Church, the Barnacle, the Pagoda at Ramsom Everglades school and El Jardin, another building designed by Richard Kiehnel, and

WHEREAS, the "Playhouse" has significance in the historical, architectural and cultural heritage of the City of Miami and possesses integrity of design, setting, materials and workmanship, and

WHEREAS, In order to produce a Paris artist Left Bank feeling for the Coconut Grove Playhouse's production of "Irma la Duce" play from the 63-64 season the Coconut Grove Arts Festival was born, and

WHEREAS, George Engle, another prominent man in Miami's history, created a legitimate regional theater in the "Playhouse", which added a new dimension of culture in Coconut Grove, and

WHEREAS, the "Playhouse" is one of the very few remaining structures that typifies the flamboyant era of the real estate boom in the 1920's, and

WHEREAS, the "Playhouse" is the gateway to Coconut Grove and the City of Miami from the south:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COCOANUT GROVE VILLAGE COUNCIL:

- 1) To safeguard a priceless cultural, historical, and architectural asset;
- 2) To ensure public input;
- 3) To secure that any redevelopment of "the Playhouse" is sensitive to the unique Mediterranean style and perpetuates the low density ambiance of the village center;

- 4) To preserve a piece of history that can be seen touched and enjoyed for future generations.

We therefore request that the City of Miami Commission designate the entire site of "the Playhouse" Historic under the City of Miami Historic Preservation Ordinance.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Chairman Coconut Grove Village Council, 2 May 2006

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Secretary Coconut Grove Village Council, 2 May 2006