

Flamingo Gardens Receives \$500,000 Grant from Community Foundation of Broward Mary N. Porter Legacy Fund For New Welcome Center



Flamingo Gardens Board member Barbara Murrish (third from left) and Executive Director Keith Clark (fourth from left) accept a \$500,000 check from the Board of Directors at the Community Foundation of Broward. Left to Right: Gary Bitner, Cynthia Borders-Byrd, Murrish, Clark, Stacy Ostrau, and Alicia Lucia Jackson.

DAVIE, FL- Flamingo Gardens is receiving a half million dollars from the estate of a local philanthropist to help fund a new 10,000 sq. ft. Welcome Center at the botanical gardens and wildlife sanctuary.

On Tuesday, the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Broward announced a total \$1.9 million in grants from the Mary N. Porter Legacy Fund to fund capital projects at four area nonprofits, including the grant to Flamingo Gardens.

The Mary N. Porter Legacy Fund at the Community Foundation of Broward is one of several Funds created in the fall of 2012 from her \$43 million estate gift. It is designed to support capital projects including new construction, renovations, and other major capital initiatives to improve the quality of services in Broward.

Porter was a philanthropist and humanitarian who lived in Broward, and believed in giving back to the community. She passed away in 2009 at the age of 98. Porter's \$43 gift represents the largest endowment at the Foundation and the largest gift of its kind in Broward County at the time.

More than two dozen Broward nonprofits submitted applications seeking a total of \$13 million from Porter's Legacy Fund. Flamingo Gardens was one of four organizations to receive funding. Grants were also presented to Habitat for Humanity, Arc Broward, and the Broward Navy League.

Flamingo Gardens will use its \$500,000 grant to help finance a new \$2.4 million Welcome Center to bear Mary N. Porter's name.

The new Mary N. Porter Welcome Center will provide a new entrance into the gardens with expanded ticketing area, exhibitions space, additional classroom and multipurpose meeting spaces, centralized administration offices, gift shop, a dining area, and expanded visitor facilities and parking. In its first year the new building is expected to service over 200,000 guests, including over 34,000 school children, visiting the botanical garden and wildlife sanctuary.

"We are thrilled to receive this wonderful grant from the Mary Porter Legacy Fund," say Barbara Murrish, President of the Flamingo Gardens Board of Trustees, who received the award on Tuesday. "The gift is a fitting legacy for Mary Porter, as her vision parallels that of Mr. and Mrs. Wray when they established the gardens."

The Flamingo Gardens Board of Trustees has retained CPZ Architects of Fort Lauderdale, who is currently developing the design for the new building. More information about the project can be found on the website at www.FlamingoGardens.org/capital-campaign.html

Flamingo Gardens is located at 3750 S Flamingo Rd, in Davie, FL. More information is available at www.FlamingoGardens.org or by calling (954) 473-2955 For more information about the Community Foundation of Broward and the Mary N. Porter Legacy Fund visit www.CFBroward.org

Flamingo Gardens was established in 1927, and is one of the oldest botanical gardens in South Florida and is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Located west of Fort Lauderdale, the 60-acre botanical garden and wildlife sanctuary contains over 3000 tropical and sub-tropical species of plants and trees, the historic Wray Home Museum, and the largest collection of native wildlife in the state. For more information visit www.FlammingoGarden.org

Hi Res photos available upon request.

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