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Feel Tampa's Heartbeat Through Cultural Encounters

TAMPA, Fla. (July 1, 2009) — Experience Tampa's pulsating cultural scene through the Tampa Bay Businesses for Culture and the Arts' (TBBCA) *Cultural Encounters* of five Bay area cultural institutions.

The TBBCA's *Cultural Encounters* program takes the public on a behind-the-scenes tour of local cultural institutions in order to support and foster a greater understanding of the arts and its audiences. Last year the TBBCA was able to provide financial support to each of the following *Cultural Encounter* sites: Spanish Lyric Theatre, USF's Graphic Studio, the USF School of Music, USF Contemporary Art Museum and Tampa Realistic Artists.

The cost for the total program is \$99 per person, which includes refreshments, drinks, shows and all visits. Seats are limited. Must RSVP to 813-221-2787 in advance.

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| July 23, 2009 – 3 p.m. | Tampa Museum of Art
Hard hat tour of new building with a private meet-and-greet reception with executives of the Tampa Museum of Art |
| Aug. 11, 2009 – 12 p.m. | The Art Institute of Tampa
Lunch / Culinary art prepared and served by students of the Art Institute and facility tour of the school and art gallery |
| Sept. 24, 2009 – 11:30 a.m. | Tampa Bay History Center
Guided tour of the museum and an interactive exercise examining and recommending objects and items for possible acquisition |
| Oct. 22, 2009 – 7 p.m. | Jobsite Theater
Cocktails and conversations with Artistic Director and showing of "Night of the Living Dead" |
| Dec. 3, 2009 – 5:30 p.m. | Florida Pro Musica
Behind-the-scenes look on how to put on a concert, demonstration of miraculous acoustics |

If the media would like to attend one encounter, please contact the TBBCA. Interviews and photo opportunities are available at each location. Please add Cultural Encounters to your events calendar.

WHO: Tampa Bay Businesses for Culture and the Arts
WHAT: *Cultural Encounters*
WHEN: July 23, 2009 at 3 p.m.; Aug. 11, 2009 at 12 p.m.; Sept. 24, 2009 at 11:30 a.m.; Oct. 22, 2009 at 7 p.m.; Dec. 3, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.
INFO: Christina Cook, 813-221-ARTS (2787) or Christina.cook@tbbca.org.

About Tampa Bay Businesses for Culture and the Arts (TBBCA):

The TBBCA, founded in 1989, is a nonprofit organization of businesses committed to supporting the arts. The TBBCA is an affiliate of the national Business Committee for the Arts, which in 2008 became a part of Americans for the Arts. In 2009 TBBCA changed its name from Tampa Bay Business Committee for the Arts to better reflect the mission of the organization. The mission of the TBBCA is to help build a stronger arts and cultural community with the support of area businesses. It works with businesses and cultural institutions in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties.

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