The Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum presents a new exhibition
“Native Floridians: Seminole and Miccosukee Art and Culture,” A Viva Florida 500 Event

In conjunction with Viva Florida 500, the Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum will present the exhibition Native Floridians: Seminole & Miccosukee Art and Culture January through June of 2013. The exhibit will feature the collections of Ms. Patsy West, director of the Seminole Miccosukee Archives. Established in 1972, the archive contains over 11,000 images as well as artifacts relating to the history of South Florida’s Native American people. Ms. West is the author of many scholarly publications about the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes including Enduring Seminoles from Alligators to Ecotourism; Images of America: Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes of Southern Florida and her newest title (2012) Postcard History: Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes of Southern Florida. Ms. West has curated many exhibitions based on her well researched collection of Seminole ethnographic art including patchwork clothing, basketry, woodwork and more. Her exhibit The Art of the Seminole and Miccosukee Indians was featured at the Society of Four Arts 2007-2009.

Native Floridians will feature photomurals, clothing, and artifacts from Ms. West’s extensive collection on display at the historic Boca Raton Town Hall January 16 through June 28, 2013. Two additional exhibits, Mizner Industries/Mizner Style and the Mizner Apartment Collection, are on display at the history museum. Museum hours are Monday through Friday 10-4. Admission is free to BRHS&M members, $5 for adults and $3 for students.

Native Floridians will be accompanied by three “Town Hall Talks,” the BRHS&M lecture series:

February 13: From Hard Times to Hard Rock, Seminole History, Art, and Culture presented by guest curator Patsy West
March 13: Seminole Voices, a new book examining interviews conducted in the 1970s and 2000s of these native peoples by coauthor Dr. Harry Kersey
April 10: Health and Healing: When Old and New Worlds Meet, a discussion of medicinal plants and practices of Florida’s prehistoric and early historic peoples by archaeologist Dr. Michele Williams

Town Hall Talks are presented at 7PM at the Boca Raton History Museum at the historic Boca Raton Town Hall. Admission is $5 for nonmembers and free to members (includes gallery admission). Please RSVP to (561) 395 6766 X 101.
Viva Florida 500, sponsored by the state of Florida, recognizes the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Juan Ponce de Leon on Florida’s shore. Viva Florida will celebrate all of the multiple nationalities and communities that have made an impact on the history of the state.

*Native Floridians* is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. The Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to preserving the past to enrich the future. Go to www.bocahistory.org or call (561) 395 6766 for more information.

For media information, contact
Susan Gillis, Curator
Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum
561 395 6766 X104
Or
Mary Csar, Executive Director
561 395 6766 X 106