

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, Archaeology is the study of human activity through the recovery and analysis of material culture and environmental data that has been left behind, which includes artifacts, architecture, biofacts and cultural landscapes, and it has helped conclude that the history of Florida can be traced back to more than 12,000 years; and

WHEREAS, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon led the first European expedition to Florida, landing on its eastern shores in 1513, and it has evolved over the past five centuries to include numerous nationalities and cultures from around the world, creating a unique place in the United States of America, rich in diverse heritage and history; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Anthropological Society, Florida Public Archaeology Network, Florida Archaeological Council, Inc., and Florida Division of Historical Resources have named the month of March **Florida Archaeology Month** in honor Florida's distinct history with the theme *Viva Florida 500: Examining the Last 500 years of Florida's Cultural Diversity through Archaeology* and encourages Floridians to learn more about the archaeology of their state, and the uniqueness of each Florida city; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa recognizes the impact that our history has made on the character of our own community, and within the Tampa Bay area many important prehistoric sites have been found and linkages to our valuable ancestral past are maintained throughout the area with the Upper Tampa Bay Park, Weedon Island Preserve, and Dade Battlefield Historic, Crystal River State Archaeological and Fort De Soto State Parks; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa community's heritage and culture is preserved for residents and visitors to enjoy through dedicated institutions including the Tampa Bay History Center in downtown Tampa, and Fort Foster State Historic Site, part of Hillsborough River State Park, and the diverse history of our community will be celebrated during Florida Archaeology Month, with several events planned including *Viva Tampa Bay: Florida Archaeology Day* on March 2, 2013 at Weedon Island Preserve that will feature reenactments, pottery demonstrations, educational activities and artifacts on display.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by the virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of March, 2013 as

"FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH"

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens and visitors to celebrate the rich cultural history of Florida, and the Tampa Bay area, and thank the members of archaeological organizations for their dedication in discovering and preserving the past for the benefit of us all.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 22nd day of February, 2013.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

