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Poised for the Future

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Marie Antoinette once said of history: "There is nothing new, only what we forget."
It is with this thought in mind that the original founders of the Tampa Historical Society, Inc. in 1971 set forth their mission "to bring together those people interested in history, and especially in the history of Tampa and Florida." Your board has searched diligently over the past year to determine how we can best fulfill our obligations to the Society’s founders and to you the membership. The key element of our efforts this year has been partnership. Successful programs and fundraising events were developed and carried out through partnerships with the H. B. Plant Museum, the Tampa/Hillsborough County History Museum, Inc., the Florida Historical Society, Mosaic, Inc. and many others. We have found strength and unity of purpose in the bonds made during the year and will continue to build on these new relationships.

In July of this year, a partnership was forged which may have an impact on the Society and our community like no other before it. Your board of directors adopted unanimously a resolution to pledge our efforts and resources to the Tampa/Hillsborough County History Museum, Inc. We have embraced as our own the mission of this organization to develop and build a first class history museum in Tampa; it is a mission very closely akin to our own. It is our ultimate goal to help facilitate establishment of a temporary museum and, ultimately, construction of a new building within the very near future. The trustees of this organization should be applauded for their efforts and supported by the community at large.

In order to support the costs of our new endeavors, fundraising has been a priority this year. Generous grants from both the Saunders and David Falk Foundations have allowed us to expand our programs and focus on the future. A major membership drive is currently planned to begin before
year’s end. I hope all of our members will not only continue their support but also generate new memberships through friends and family.

Our headquarters at the Peter 0. Knight cottage will be undergoing a facelift in 1992. The home has been fumigated, the grounds refurbished, and with the help of a recent designation by the City for eligibility as a Community Contribution Tax Incentive Program, we intend to raise $60,000. to renovate the building and preserve this jewel of Hyde Park.

Your board is poised and committed to the opportunities that lie ahead. We ask for your support and we welcome your comments.

I would like to thank our supporters and benefactors, our partners in history and the officers and board of directors of the Society for a memorable year of fun, hard work and accomplishment.

Respectfully yours, George B. Howell