

FLORIDA ARTS

From page 1

"It's from a large donation from the Collier family of Naples," Griffith said.

Rash explained that some of the support for the project came in the form of materials.

"It's hard pine wood...This wood is from a tobacco barn from North Carolina," Rash said. "...It's 200 years old."

The second floor hallway revealed yet to be utilized rooms and had a view of the lower rooftop right outside the windows.

"This is where the sculpture garden



PHOTO CARL-JOHN VERAJA

Jim Griffith, Florida Arts' director, where the rooftop bar will be when work is complete.



PHOTO CARL-JOHN VERAJA

Workmen are renovating the old Federal Building on First Street.

are doing a major street project and they came to me and said they know what I'm doing and they want to help."

Griffith's plan is big and bold and has already taken over four years to get to this point. Millions of dollars are at play and Griffith has successfully garnered support by promising to name the buildings and parts thereof after donors.

Starting on the ground floor from a table covered with large blueprint sheets, Griffith gave this reporter a tour of the interior of the arts center. David Rash, a superintendent for Kraft Construction, was on hand.

Pews that had once occupied to the ground floor were now missing.

"We couldn't use them," Griffith said. "We offered them to the Black History Museum but they were too long for them."

Griffith also talked about the center's funding needs.

"Money must be raised at the November gala," Griffith said. "\$200,000 will be needed for the ceiling. Do you know James DiGiorgio? He will be doing the chandeliers." (DiGiorgio is a Fort Myers-based metal designer who creates hand-forged items such as gates, furniture and functional art.)

We went up the original marble staircase where Griffith pointed out a small doorway with a metal knob.

"That was how they accessed the back of what was a beautiful clock," Griffith said.

On the second floor there were long piles of lumber, bound with blue tape, stacked against the dilapidated walls.

will be," Griffith said.

On the girders above us there were handprints from an earlier construction project.

"There are six fingers on each of those handprints," Griffith said. "They must have been pranksters."

From there we ascended another staircase to the higher rooftop and views of the Caloosahatchee River, its bridges, downtown and the new high-rise condo buildings.

"The bar will be here," Griffith said, leaning against an old, red, metal frame.

He posed asking if he looked like he was "enjoying a libation."

Griffith pointed out the proposed new site for the Hall of Fifty States, which will be moved as part of downtown redevelopment.

"I've suggested we make that a satellite for Florida Arts," Griffith said. "It could be used as an educational tool for children visitors."

Griffith said the center needs another \$1.6 million to complete the project on top of the generous donations from local arts lovers such as Pamela Templeton of Fort Myers Toyota who has purchased the naming rights to the rooftop. ■

If you go

>>What: Phantom of the Art Center Gala:
 >>Where: The Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center
 >>When: November 3
 >>Info: Call 337-1933 or visit www.SBDavisArtCenter.com

Back to COOL

Tune-Up Special

\$1000 OFF (Reg. \$50.00)

HOURS: Tues-Sat 9 to 6, CLOSED Sun & Mon

SCHWINN Cyclery & Fitness

239-939-2899

3630 Cleveland Ave., Ft. Myers • www.SchwinnCyclery.com

Gladys' Hair Design & Spa

A Full Service Salon
 Ladies • Gentlemen • Children

Hair • Color • Highlight • Perm • Facial
 Massage • Manicure • Pedicure

239-936-3573
 Mon - Sun 9am-6pm
 1906 Boy Scout Drive • Fort Myers



THIS SATURDAY
 ON
CHARITY
Live

It is hard to imagine there are children in Collier and Lee Counties that do not have sneakers for their physical education classes.

Well there are hundreds...

No sneakers = no class = no grade

Join Misha on Saturday and meet

"Laces of Love"

an organization dedicated to making sure that the children do get sneakers & much more



WATCH ON SATURDAYS 6AM WBBH-TV



Buy One Ticket Get One Free!

Offer available for Miracle games on 8/26, 8/27, and 8/29. Only good for home games at Hammond Stadium. May not be combined with any other offer.

flwkl082007

Don't Miss These Great Upcoming Games:

Saturday, August 25th, 7:05 PM - Miracle vs. Clearwater Threshers - Fan Appreciation Fireworks! Join us as we light up the skies of SW Florida one last time this summer, and thank you for being the best fans in all of baseball! Presented by North Trail RV and TIB Bank.



Sunday, August 26th, 1:05 PM - Miracle vs. Clearwater Threshers - Family Fun Sunday Featuring a Meet and Greet with The Care Bears. Get a Family Fun Pack for only \$20.00! Includes 4 general admission tickets, 4 hot dogs, 4 sodas and a Miracle program.

Monday, August 27th, 7:05 PM - Miracle vs. Clearwater Threshers Dog Daze At Hammond Stadium. Your Final Chance to bring your pup to the game this season.

Wednesday, August 29th, 7:05 PM - Miracle vs. Sarasota Reds Final Miracle regular season home game of 2007!

GREAT TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR ALL GAMES!

Box Seats - \$7.00 General Admission - \$5.00
 (Fireworks games - \$8.00 for box seats & \$6.00 for reserved seats.)

Buy tickets on-line at www.miraclebaseball.com

For more information, call 239-768-4210