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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2008
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CORAL GABLES MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER RECEIVES CHAMBER MERRICK AWARD

Coral Gables Museum Board of Directors member, author and historian Arva Moore Parks won the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce inaugural George E. Merrick Award of Excellence Saturday evening at a ceremony at the Biltmore Hotel. Well know for her tireless community-wide work in preservation and historical research, Ms. Parks is the authoritative source when it comes to Gables' history. She has dedicated and donated countless hours to the Museum project and acted as guest curator for the Museum's *"Celebrate"* exhibit - a lovely historical timeline exhibit showcasing the early development of the City Beautiful which is housed in the City's original Art and Architecture Center at 2901 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, now the Old Spanish Village Sales Gallery.

Ms. Parks was chosen from a field of ten finalists who, per the qualifications of the award sponsored by the Allen Morris Companies, exemplifies the spirit of Coral Gables' founder and developer, George Merrick and works for the betterment of the cultural, historical and financial aspects of the community. The Coral Gables Museum Chairman George Kakouris was also one of the finalists.