



Join us in welcoming Russell Etling as the new Cultural Affairs Programs Coordinator

GAINESVILLE, Fla. - On Monday, Nov. 28, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs was pleased to welcome the new Cultural Affairs Programs Coordinator, Russell Etling. Etling will supervise the Cultural Affairs staff, and Visual Arts Programs which include the Thomas Center Galleries and the Art in Public Places Trust Programs.

Etling graduated from the Lawrenceville School in N.J., and also with a Fine Arts degree in Theatre Management from the University of Miami, Fla. Etling's early career included work for Walt Disney Productions and the Shaklee Corporation's Incentive Convention Shows. He produced and directed a primetime halftime spectacular for CBS television, promoted stadium concerts, staged numerous major fundraising events and was production manager/lighting director for the legendary singer Perry Como's national concert tours. A member of the Actors' Equity Association since 1980, Etling has produced, stage-managed or appeared in more than 2,500 live performances with many of America's greatest performers.

Etling served as Miami Museum of Science's permanent Executive Director and later as President and CEO (1988-2002). During his tenure, the Museum was accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM) and grew its budget from \$1.8 to \$6.5 million. It also became one of the first Affiliates of the Smithsonian Institution, a national leader for training teachers in technology and mentoring low-income, minority youth and a regional resource for threatened and endangered raptor research and rehabilitation of injured birds of prey. Etling has served as an accreditation site review chair and team member for the AAM and as a peer reviewer for the State of Florida's Division of Cultural Affairs and Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC). He has been a grant review panelist for the Miami-Dade Department of Cultural Affairs and served on the AAM Subsequent Accreditation Review Advisory Committee.

In the area of institutional advancement, Etling has a long history of fostering partnerships and cultivating support from the public and private sectors. In 2002, he created and managed a major new traveling exhibition featuring a world-class collection of more than 250 artworks and artifacts that had been the personal possession of Napoléon Bonaparte, his family or members of his Imperial Court. The Treasures of NAPOLÉON opened in September 2005 at the prestigious National Geographic Museum in Washington, DC and toured significant venues across the U.S.

Etling has devoted his career to entertaining, educating and inspiring audiences on a variety of platforms and has been active in many professional and civic organizations. He has directed the development and/or presentation of dozens of featured, permanent and traveling exhibitions on art and design, history, archaeology, physical science and natural history. His experiences make him exceptionally qualified to provide leadership to the Cultural Affairs Division.