



September 1, 2021

Everglades Society for Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 46
Everglades City, FL 34139

This letter is in support of the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation's (ESHP) important project to restore a piece of Florida's treasured past. The Bank of Everglades building is a unique window into the history of Collier County and the nearly 100 years of stories of those who made the building come alive.

The Bank of Everglades was listed in the 2018 issue of Preservation Magazine (Florida Trust) as one of eleven buildings in Florida most important to save. The bank was chartered in 1923 when Collier County was established by Baron Gift Collier who chose the village of Everglade as his County Seat and the engineering headquarters for the construction of the Tamiami Trail. For 36 years the Bank of Everglades was the only bank in Collier County.

The importance of the structure lies not only in its past but in the future that the ESHP has planned for the structure once it is restored. A visitor center, a community space, a retail establishment, office space and a place to experience the rich history of the Everglades City area will preserve its precious stories for generations to come.

The Marco Island Historical Society's mission is to preserve and to share the history and heritage of Marco Island and the surrounding communities. As a partner in saving history, we support the Bank of Everglades restoration and applaud the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation for their commitment to this project and to our shared past.

Sincerely,

Patricia Rutledge
Chief Executive Officer
Marco Island Historical Society

Preserving the History and Heritage of our Community.