



PRESS RELEASE

OPA-LOCKA
CITY COMMUNICATIONS

780 Fisherman Street, Opa-locka, FL 33054
www.opalockafl.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Opa-locka's Historic Palace Expected To Be Fully Restored by Fall 2023

The Palatial 1926 Structure, A National Register of Historic Place, Is One Of North America's Most Unique Moorish Revival Icons



Opa-locka Commission Meeting and Historic Restoration Presentation Video [Available Here.](#)

OPA-LOCKA, Fla. - April 27, 2023 - The City of Opa-locka Mayor and Commission last night voted unanimously at the regularly scheduled commission meeting to approve the bid from general contractor Diamanti Construction and Development to complete the restoration of the Opa-locka Company Administration Building, the city's most unique Moorish Revival icon. The restoration is expected to be finished by Fall of 2023.



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Completed in late Summer of 1926, the three-story building was the landmark attraction for drawing buyers to Opa-locka from the Northeast during Florida's Land Boom of the 1920s. Designed by Opa-locka chief architect Bernhardt Muller for developer and famed American aviator Glenn Curtiss of The Opa-locka Company, the architectural style is defined as Moorish Revival, a composite of Persian, Arabic, and Orientalist elements. It has been occupied as a leasing office, mayor's residence, a film studio, a chamber of commerce, an archeological museum, and, prior to its vacancy, as a city hall.

The restoration will require new electrical, plumbing, roofing, interior finishing, exterior facade repair, as well as ADA-accessible improvements. The total cost of the project is expected to cost \$1,452,330.00, with funds coming largely from grants and a portion from the city's general fund. For the first time in decades, the Opa-locka Company Administration Building will be repurposed as a cultural event and community center.

Restoration of the structure began back in 2015, with a significant amount of work having been started, including the removal of debris, replacement of windows, and resurfacing of roofs. Due to financial complications and changes in administration, the project was halted indefinitely.

Diamanti Construction and Development will serve as contractor, with the architecture firm MCHarry and Associates overseeing the project along with city officials.

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About the City of Opa-locka

The City of Opa-locka is one of Miami-Dade County's oldest and most unique historic cities rich in architecture, industry, and culture. Boasting a diverse residential and business community that stretches 4.5 square miles in size and with a population of over 16,500, Opa-locka is strategically positioned as a central hub of South Florida, with access to all major transportation corridors, including the neighboring Opa-locka Executive and Miami International Airports, as well as higher education institutions, including the universities of St. Thomas, Florida Memorial, Barry, and Miami-Dade College. Founded on May 14, 1926 by American aviator Glenn Hammond Curtiss, who earned the nickname "The Father of Naval Aviation," Opa-locka has been awarded designations which include being a Main Street America community, Tree City USA, a Bird Sanctuary City and is also a member of the Florida League of Cities (FLC). Additionally, the city has four parks, a Tri-Rail station connecting to the larger public transit system, and the largest collection of historic Moorish Revival architecture in the country. For more information, please visit: www.opalockafl.gov.