



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Rachel Nelson
Director of Public Relations
813-935-8552 x 212
Rachel.Nelson@LowryParkZoo.com

Leinani Bernabe
Public Relations Coordinator
813-935-8552 x 390
Leinani.Bernabe@LowryParkZoo.com

TAMPA'S LOWRY PARK ZOO FACILITIES HONORED WITH CONSTRUCTION AWARDS

TAMPA, Fla. (May 15, 2009) – Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is pleased to announce that its Safari Lodge events facility and Gator Falls water flume ride each received "Excellence in Construction" awards from the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. (ABC). The awards were presented to Cutler Associates, a nationally ranked construction management and design build firm, the general contractor for both major projects.

In the competition, entries were submitted by more than 90 general contractors, trade contractors, and related firms in the Florida Gulf Coast area. ABC's Awards of Excellence Program has become the premiere competition within the construction industry that recognizes outstanding construction projects that exemplify quality of work, the size of the projects, and the amount of different materials used.

The 17,000 square-foot Safari Lodge, opened in December 2008, is a unique climate-controlled events facility in the heart of the Zoo's Africa exhibit area designed to accommodate private parties and functions, special events, and meeting space, as well as sit-down dining and quick service food for Zoo guests. The building's exterior reflects a kaleidoscope of regions in South Africa with an interior designed to incorporate an African village into the décor including stunning views of giraffes, zebra and elephant habitats.

In an area designed to resemble a historic "Florida Cracker" homestead, the Gator Falls ride begins at ground level on a loading platform resembling a general store. The flume climbs to nearly 30 feet where riders float in a log and explore "Old" Florida with a birds-eye view before weaving over the boardwalk and ending with a 30-foot drop over a lush new alligator exhibit and themed gift shop kiosk.

About Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is operated by the Lowry Park Zoological Society, an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization committed to excellence in education, conservation and research. Named the No. 1 zoo in America by *Parents* magazine (2009) and *Child* magazine (2004), Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The Zoo is located at 1101 W. Sligh Avenue in Tampa, one mile west of I-275 (exit 48). The Zoo is open seven days a week, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parking is free. Visit LowryParkZoo.com or call (813) 935-8552 for more information. Find us on www.Facebook.com and www.Twitter.com.

About Cutler Associates

Cutler Associates, established in 1972, is a planning, architecture, and construction firm specializing in integrated project solutions for corporate industrial, scholastic, and senior living clients. The firm has offices in Worcester, Massachusetts; Tampa, Florida; and Allentown, Pennsylvania. For more information, visit www.cutlerassociatesinc.com.

###