



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Rachel Nelson  
Director of Public Relations  
813-935-8552 x 212  
[Rachel.Nelson@LowryParkZoo.com](mailto:Rachel.Nelson@LowryParkZoo.com)

Leinani Bernabe  
Public Relations Coordinator  
813-935-8552 x 390  
[Leinani.Bernabe@LowryParkZoo.com](mailto:Leinani.Bernabe@LowryParkZoo.com)

**TAMPA'S LOWRY PARK ZOO TO HOST KARAMU XXI - "CARNAVAL"**

***Saturday's Annual Gala to Raise Funds for Animal Care and Education at the Zoo***

**TAMPA, Fla. (April 15, 2008)** – Celebrated in towns and villages throughout Brazil, the festival known as "Carnaval" is the inspiration for **Karamu XXI**, the signature black-tie dinner fundraiser at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, to be held Saturday, April 18 at the Zoo.

This year's event is designed to bring the extravagance and embellishments of Carnaval to the Zoo's new 17,000 square-foot events facility known as the Safari Lodge. Through an atmosphere of tropical greens, fiery oranges and sapphire blues, guests will encounter the country's culturally decadent celebration, the samba parade, as well as elaborate and colorful costume masks, Brazilian inspired cuisine and drinks, and a striking sunset view of the Zoo's giraffe, zebra and elephant habitats.

Karamu (pronounced Keh-rah-moo), from the Swahili word for "party," is presented by Regions Bank, the title sponsor for the tenth consecutive year (previously as AmSouth Bank). The annual gala, known for its distinctive theme, décor, cuisine and auctions in a unique zoo setting, welcomes guests at 6:30 p.m., where they are treated to cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and up-close animal encounters. At 8 p.m., a seated dinner catered by the Grand Hyatt will be served in the Safari Lodge, the Zoo's new climate-controlled events facility located in the heart of the Safari Africa habitat area. The samba parade, live music by Late Night Brass, dancing, silent and live auctions, and a raffle for a \$5,000 shopping spree at Saks Fifth Avenue, WestShore add to the evening's festivities.

- more -

Chair of the Karamu committee, Mrs. Kelly Feldman, has enthusiastically devoted hours of her time and talents to this event, which has raised more than \$2 million for animal care and education programs at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo in its 20-year history.

"I'm delighted and honored to chair Karamu this year," Feldman said. "Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is such an important part of Tampa's culture and it offers so many wonderful benefits to our community. I can't think of a more worthy cause than one that encourages culture and education, and directly benefits the children and families in our community."

Feldman is married to Dr. Randy Feldman, civic leader and local orthodontist, and has been an active volunteer in many other civic and community organizations including Make A Wish Foundation, Voices for Children, American Heart Association, and the 13 Ugly Men Foundation.

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo gratefully acknowledges the sponsors who make Karamu XXI possible: Regions Bank, The Wallace Family Foundation and Ceviche Tapas Bar & Restaurant.

Karamu tickets are \$275 or \$350 per person, all-inclusive with food and beverage, or \$500 per person for Bwana-VIP level. Raffle tickets are \$20 per person. Winner need not be present. For more information about Karamu XXI visit [www.LowryParkZoo.com](http://www.LowryParkZoo.com). To purchase tickets or inquire about remaining seats at the event please call (813) 935-8552 x 235.

### **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 both *Parents* magazine and *Child* magazine, 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. Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Visit [LowryParkZoo.com](http://LowryParkZoo.com) or call (813) 935-8552 for more information. Find us on [www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com) and [www.Twitter.com](http://www.Twitter.com).

# # #