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PR Orange Blossom 2.0

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**Beyond A Book:**

**Orange Blossom 2.0 Inspires A Movement**

**To Right Miami's Origin Story with Mary Brickell**

Historian, Cesar A. Becerra buries debate concerning Mary Brickell

as Miami’s unrecognized mother.

**MIAMI, FL August 2, 2021** – In a weeklong celebration of Miami’s 125th Anniversary, historian Cesar Becerra has been criss crossing Dade County educating the community about Mary Brickell and her critical and often overlooked role in birthing the city and people are listening. This story is told in Becerra’s new book, ***Orange Blossom 2.0***. In his decades of research he has amassed new documents and proof that Mary Bulmer Brickell could very well be the most marginalized female founder in Miami history.

In 7 presentations and at a total of 9 events over the course of 5 days, Becerra saw a major shift in key moments in the telling of the Julia Tuttle orange blossom myth.  In one 24 hour period beginning at the Historical Museum's exhibit opening *Its A Miami* *Thing* and at two other events, Mayor Cava made a point to clarify that Miami was birthed by two women plus African Americans that generally were disenfranchised. *"It really surprised me as I was prepared to be shouting into the wind on recognizing Mary Brickell as the marginalized, but correct co-mother of Miami"* said Becerra who just released his book, *Orange Blossom 2.0* at no less than 5 major Miami institutions such at FIU, Miami Dade Public Library, The Coral Gables Museum, The Historic Hampton House and on an all day tour with The Social Citizens of Southeast Florida. *"I never thought the tide could turn so quickly especially in an atmosphere where Julia seemed to be dominating no matter what we tried!"*

Beginning on Wednesday at FIU at a small ceremony everyone from Janet Reno's sister Maggy Hurchalla called Mary Brickell, if not the mother or co- mother*..."possibly the Abuella"* of Miami. Mark Rosenberg welcomed great granddaughter of Mary Brickell, Beatrice (Bea) Brickell as she donated critical items to FIU making the University the all time largest protector of 5 distinct Brickell collections. Betty Osceola of the Miccosukee Tribe and Director of African and African Diaspora Studies Valerie Patterson gave their thoughts on Mary Brickell and her care and treatment of marginalized communities such as African and Bahamian Americans and the Native Seminoles.

Mayor Cava who had attended the FIU event where she presented Bea Brickell with an award generally reserved for visiting dignitaries echoed the sentiment she shared from her January state of the county speech.

At Miami's 125th anniversary party thrown by Mayor Suarez at The Perez Museum, Mrs. Bea Brickell was seen dancing the night away along side Enid Pinkney who was but 5 honorees presented with a special lifetime achievement award. Dr. Paul George welcomed Becerra as if he had attempted to rob Dr. George at gunpoint with hands raised in the air, Becerra said *"Paul greeted me first by saying that he mentioned Mary Brickell on two interviews before he even said hello to me".*

**About the author** - Cesar A. Becerra is a South Florida historian who’s taken part in chronicling and sharing the stories of the region for two decades. He is the author of half a dozen books ranging from hiking the Appalachian Trail to the logging history of the Big Cypress Preserve. He is the former publisher of *The Everglade Magazine*, an award winning publication printed during Everglades National Park's 50th anniversary. He has walked, hiked, slogged, canoed, kayaked, airboated and swamp buggied all across the Everglades. In 1997, The Miami Herald named him an "Everglades Evangelist''. He also has a penchant for hidden history and knows no boundaries or distances when it comes to searching for it.

Further information can be found on the SideShow Charlie Productions affiliate site sofloweird.com where you can order the ***Orange Blossom 2.0*** book and the Miami History Time Capsule crate, and learn more about author and historian Cesar Becerra. Cesar Becerra is also available to give historical talks, presentations, workshops, and events.