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The Edison-Ford Winter Estates Foundation Board would like to take this opportunity to thank *Times of the Islands* magazine for its wonderful story featuring the Edison & Ford Winter Estates, which helps tell the story of the foundation's fight to restore and preserve the homes for hundreds of years to come.

During the 1980s and 1990s, it became apparent to many of us local folks, who had watched the Edison & Ford Winter Estates go through season after season with very little repair, how dramatic the deterioration at the homes was. It also became apparent that it was going to take many millions of dollars to restore and preserve these homes.

The foundation took the initiative leadership role in securing public and private funding for the restoration. As a result, the state of Florida, through the Division of Historical Resources, provided \$2.8 million in 2003, matched by a gift of \$1.5 million from Lee County and \$1.5 million from the City of Fort Myers. The foundation's "Partners in Preservation" capital campaign also brought many individuals and businesses from the private sector together to support the historic homes. And our foundation continues to work throughout Southwest Florida, the state, and the nation to raise funds for ongoing restoration, preservation, and artifact maintenance.

The board of directors and I are deeply grateful to all who have supported the foundation's mission with contributions and attendance. Your dedication and con-

tinued commitment have truly made a difference, as evidenced by this award-winning restoration effort. A national treasure right in our own backyard, the Edison & Ford Winter Estates will live forever, as most assuredly the site should.

This issue of *Times of the Islands* includes a number of other stories that also recognize the importance and significance of both historic and more recent architecture and design. Features explore the varied and plentiful historic structures in St. Augustine and Italian architect Paolo Soleri's urban experiment in the Arizona desert. The magazine also takes a look at the area's new International Design Center, the concepts of feng shui and universal design, and new trends at shopping centers in the region.

It is the responsibility of every citizen of Southwest Florida to be a steward of our community's cultural heritage. As such, we must continue to be aware of our collective duty to ensure that the Edison & Ford Winter Estates, as well as other historically and architecturally significant sites, will continue to provide enjoyment and education for our children and for generations to come.

With sincere appreciation,

Sam Galloway, Jr.
*Southwest Florida Automobile Dealer
and President of the Edison-Ford
Winter Estates Foundation*