

# Miami Villagers support restoration at Tropical Audubon's Doc Thomas House



**PICTURED IN FRONT OF THE DOC THOMAS HOUSE ARE (L-R) TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY (TAS) BOARD MEMBER DAN JONES; VILLAGERS APRIL MATTEINI, BEVERLY LOFTUS AND MARIE VACCA, AND PAOLA FERREIRA, TAS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**

**BY KAREN BUCHSBAUM**

The Miami Villagers have continued to support Tropical Audubon's preservation efforts with the most recent grant of \$10,000 supporting the completion of Phase 1 renovation of the historic Doc Thomas House.

Located on Sunset Drive near South Miami, the 1932 structure was the home of popular local pharmacist Arden Hayes "Doc" Thomas and currently serves as the headquarters for the Tropical Audubon Society.

The first residential commission of renowned local architect Robert Fitch Smith, the architectural style is Florida wood-frame vernacular with Arts and Craft features within. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as well as being named both a Florida and Miami-Dade Heritage site.

In this phase of the home's restoration and rehabilitation, external work was completed on the roof, compromised sections of cypress siding were replaced, and work was done on windows and shutters.

Non-original screens and awnings were removed.

"The Doc Thomas House is a wonderful example of early Miami architecture, which, like so many of the historic sites in Miami, is in the heart of a busy commercial district," said Villager vice president April Matteini. "It has been a delight to drive by and see their progress, and the Villagers are proud to be a part of this ongoing restoration project."

The Villagers Inc. is Miami-Dade County's oldest historic preservation organization, founded in 1966. The not-for-profit all-volunteer group, originally formed to save the Douglas Entrance, has grown to identify and assist almost 80 other endangered sites with 170 grants. Through educating, advocating, fundraising, restoration, and documentation The Villagers continue a 55-year tradition of service for the preservation of local historic sites.

For more details about projects funded, fundraising events, scholarships, membership opportunities, and the full scope of The Villagers legacy, visit [www.thevillagersinc.org](http://www.thevillagersinc.org).