

## INTERAMA TODAY

Interama, the meeting place of the Americas, is rapidly moving towards completion at the geographic center of the Western Hemisphere in Miami, Florida.

Created by the Legislature of Florida, the Inter-American Cultural and Trade Center -- Interama -- is financed by a \$21 million bond issue underwritten by Goodbody & Co. of New York and by a \$22 million loan from the Land and Facilities Development Administration (formerly Community Facilities Administration) for the construction of the International Area.

On April 1, 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson officially invited the presidents of 19 Latin American nations to participate in this 680-acre international exposition. The majority of these nations have pledged their participation and sent official delegates to our offices to select the site of their National Houses and exhibition facilities, provided free of construction and rental costs through the CFA loan.

Congress approved a \$9.5 million authorization bill in February 1966 for the establishment and maintenance of the United States exhibit. In October 1966, the appropriations bill providing funds for this exhibit was passed by Congress and signed by the President.

Today, the internal roads and one of the three access roads, including a bridge over the Oleta River, are under construction by the Florida State Road Department. The remaining two access roads are under final design. Utilities are being installed underground at no cost to Interama by the Florida Power & Light Co. and Southern Bell. The City of North Miami has validated and sold \$3.3 million of bonds for the construction of the water and sewage systems.

Interama's 680-acre core will be divided into four major areas -- International, Industrial, Cultural-Festival and Sports-Leisure.

The buildings in the International Area have been designed by six world-famed American architects -- Jose Luis Sert, Marcel Breuer, Paul Rudolph, Harry Weese, Edward Durell Stone, and Louis I. Kahn. This area also include community facilities such as the Ceremonial Plaza, Special Projection Theater, Parliamentary Building and the International Bazaar where each participating nation may display and sell their handicrafts. The

schematic designs for the Latin American National Houses and community facilities have been approved by the Authority and the final engineering drawings and bid documents are now being prepared.

Edward Durell Stone, who designed the U.S. Embassy in New Dehli, India, and the U.S. pavilion at the Brussels exposition, has delivered the final plans and specifications for the United States pavilion which includes the residence for the U.S. Commissioner to Interama, dormitories for 50 students, exhibition spaces, an auditorium and a tropical garden. Final plans and specifications for the five pavilions of the Caribbean Community have been delivered by Harry Weese, the architect who designed the Milwaukee Center for the Performing Arts. All these plans have been reviewed by Interama and forwarded for approval to the Atlanta regional office of the Land and Facilities Development Administration.

A contract has been let for the design of the 1,000-foot Tower of Freedom, by Minoru Yamasaki, which is destined to take its place among the major monuments of the world. Financing for the Tower has been assured by Goodbody & Co. and core drillings have been completed.

The Authority has awarded the contract for the excavation, embankment and site grading of the International Area - a step toward the actual construction of the various facilities.

The Sports - Leisure Area will provide facilities for both the professional and amateur sportsman. We are devoting a great deal of attention to a vast all-purpose stadium and plans are being developed to include the leisure industry along with the sports activities.

In Interama's Cultural-Festival Area, the creative, performing and participating arts will be reflected in all their brilliance through a series of experiences ranging from the formality of operas and symphonies to the casual merry-making associated with side-walk cafes and festival processions. Each different festival happening -- whether it be a Latin American fiesta, a re-creation of the waterways of Venice or of the streets of Paris -- will be correlated to tie in with scheduled performances in the Theater, Music Hall, Experimental Theater, Marine Amphitheater and the Visual Arts Museum. This area will also include festive parks and squares, a Restaurant Complex, a Marina and an Inter-Faith Center.

The Industrial Area will present a limited number of major American industries that have contributed to our system of free enterprise as typified by the Interama theme, The American Way of Life -- Progress with Freedom. Some 40 major American firms have indicated their interest in Interama to the Department of Commerce.

Land will be made available free of charge to industrial participants who construct exhibition facilities in the area. Using the lasting dignity of the architecture in the International Area as a model, industrial construction will be scaled to harmonize with the permanence of the overall project.

Interama -- the bridge between the Americas -- will provide the much-needed, long-awaited vehicle on which to build future communications and understanding between all the peoples and nations of the Western Hemisphere.