



Pelican Harbor

SEABIRD STATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP WITH BANK OZK BRINGS PELICAN HARBOR SEABIRD STATION ONE STEP CLOSER TO GROUNDBREAKING

Miami, FL – On August 28, 2023, Pelican Harbor Seabird Station (PHSS), Miami's native wildlife hospital, secured a \$4.4 million construction loan thanks to a successful partnership with Bank OZK.

These funds are instrumental in the forward progress of PHSS's capital campaign for the construction of its new 2.6-acre native wildlife hospital and education center. Soil remediation and site work are set to start in September 2023, with vertical construction to commence before year-end. This pivotal juncture comes after four years of planning and fundraising efforts, with the Deeks and Batchelor Foundations being founding supporters.

"This financing is the final piece of the puzzle that allows us to begin construction on our new \$15,000,000 wildlife rehabilitation campus. We are grateful to Bank OZK and our generous donors for partnering with us. We are so close to making this dream a reality, but we still need more help. We invite everyone in the community to stand with us and [make a donation](#) or pledge to champion our mission as we embark on this historic project." said Christopher Boykin, Executive Director of Pelican Harbor Seabird Station.

Special gratitude is given to Kevin Beuparlant, SVP Commercial Banker, Bank OZK, for his enthusiastic support of the project from the onset. "Bank OZK is proud to partner with the Pelican Harbor Seabird Station to bring this much needed state-of-the-art facility to the Miami community. We look forward to seeing this amazing facility in action," Beuparlant remarked.

Melissa Tapanes of the law office of [Bercow Radell Fernandez Larkin & Tapanes](#) secured a Land Use Amendment and Zoning change from the City of Miami, successfully modifying the project site's designation from multi-family residential to restricted commercial use, allowing for the construction of a community facility.

Additional thanks are given to the Project Managers at [Sharpe Project Developments](#) and the team at [Stiles](#), who is the Architect and General Contractor on the project, in addition to the legal team at [Leopold Korn, P.A.](#), who worked tirelessly on the construction loan closing.

PHSS would also like to acknowledge Senator Ileana Garcia and Representative Vicki Lopez, whose assistance helped secure \$500,000 in appropriations from the State of Florida and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, who recently granted PHSS \$500,000 for remediation and testing of the soil on the property.



Wildlife Hospital and Education Center



Street View



Donor Wall in Main Lobby



Aerial View