

## Southwest Region

January 2024 to March 2024

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Photo 1: Annisa Karim (left) of the Randell Research Center and De La Torre Salas (right) at an event for Calusa Coast

### Third Quarter Highlight: Calusa Coast and Florida Archaeology Month event series

Throughout 2024, Natalie De La Torre Salas collaborated with multiple organizations in the area including Lovers Key State Park, the Randell Research Center on Pine Island, the Marco Island Historical Society, and many others to put together a series of events in March highlighting the archaeological record of the area. The Calusa Coast event series included talks, festivals, and

presentations. The program is a collaborative effort between museums and educational organizations in Southwest Florida to educate people about the archaeology and ethnography of the Indigenous peoples of Southwest Florida. This year the program had over eight events, ranging from archaeology festivals to Community Conversation about Heritage at Risk.



Photo 2: Participants at January History Happy Hour

### **Third Quarter Highlight: History Happy Hours**

This quarter, FPAN Southwest continued their partnership with the [Florida Trust for Historic Preservation](#) and local businesses in Fort Myers for [History Happy Hour](#). These events on Friday evenings involve a walking tour which highlights aspects of Fort Myers history, for example LGBTQIA+ history, the history of hurricanes, and community and coastal heritage at risk.

### **Other Highlights**

- De La Torre Salas completed Archaeological Resource Management training.
- Ayers-Rigsby provided assistance to the State Division of Historical Resources with

a potential 872 case. This case received significant media attention including [WINK](#), [New-Press](#), and [WBBH](#).