

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Tampa Bay Host Committee Showcases Tampa Bay** *Over 450 members of the media given warm welcome*

**Tampa, FL (December 12, 2011)** – The 2012 Tampa Bay Host Committee showcased the strength and charm of Tampa Bay to over 450 members of the national and international media last week during a welcome reception held at the Tampa Convention Center after their formal walk through of the St. Pete Times Forum for the 2012 Republican National Convention.

That evening, the Host Committee presented the media with their first taste of Tampa Bay culture and weather. “We are excited to showcase the vibrancy of Tampa Bay to local, national and international members of the media,” said Host Committee President and CEO Ken Jones. “We want to thank our community for supporting us in our efforts to market and promote the Tampa Bay region.”

As part of the Host Committee’s ongoing effort to drive economic development to the region, the Host Committee was supported by our local small business community for all of the reception needs. These vendors provided everything from the décor and entertainment to food and photography at the reception.

Tampa Bay’s community came together in support of the welcome reception. City of Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn, City of St. Petersburg Mayor Bill Foster, former Governor Bob Martinez and USF President Judy Genshaft joined the festivities and welcomed guests. USF student volunteers helped with registration and guests were greeted with smiles from Bucs Cheerleaders, Tampa Bay Lightning Girls and the Tampa Bay Rays Street Team. The Rays’ very own shortstop Sean Rodriguez took pictures with guests while their mascot Raymond strolled through the crowd and welcomed guests.

Local cigar rollers gave out hand-made cigars, Tampa Bay themed décor flooded the event and a local band played music throughout the evening with a beautiful backdrop of the water during a Tampa Bay sunset.

To view pictures from the reception, visit the Host Committee’s photo page on flickr at:  
[www.flickr.com/photos/2012tampa](http://www.flickr.com/photos/2012tampa)

#### ***About the [Tampa Bay Host Committee](#)***

*The 2012 Tampa Bay Host Committee, Inc. (“Host Committee”) is a Florida not-for-profit corporation that operates as a public charity under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Host Committee serves as the officially designated Presidential Nominating Convention Host Committee under federal law and is a registered host committee with the Federal Election Commission. The Host Committee is not involved in any political activity and is in no way considered a political committee under any state or federal laws.*

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