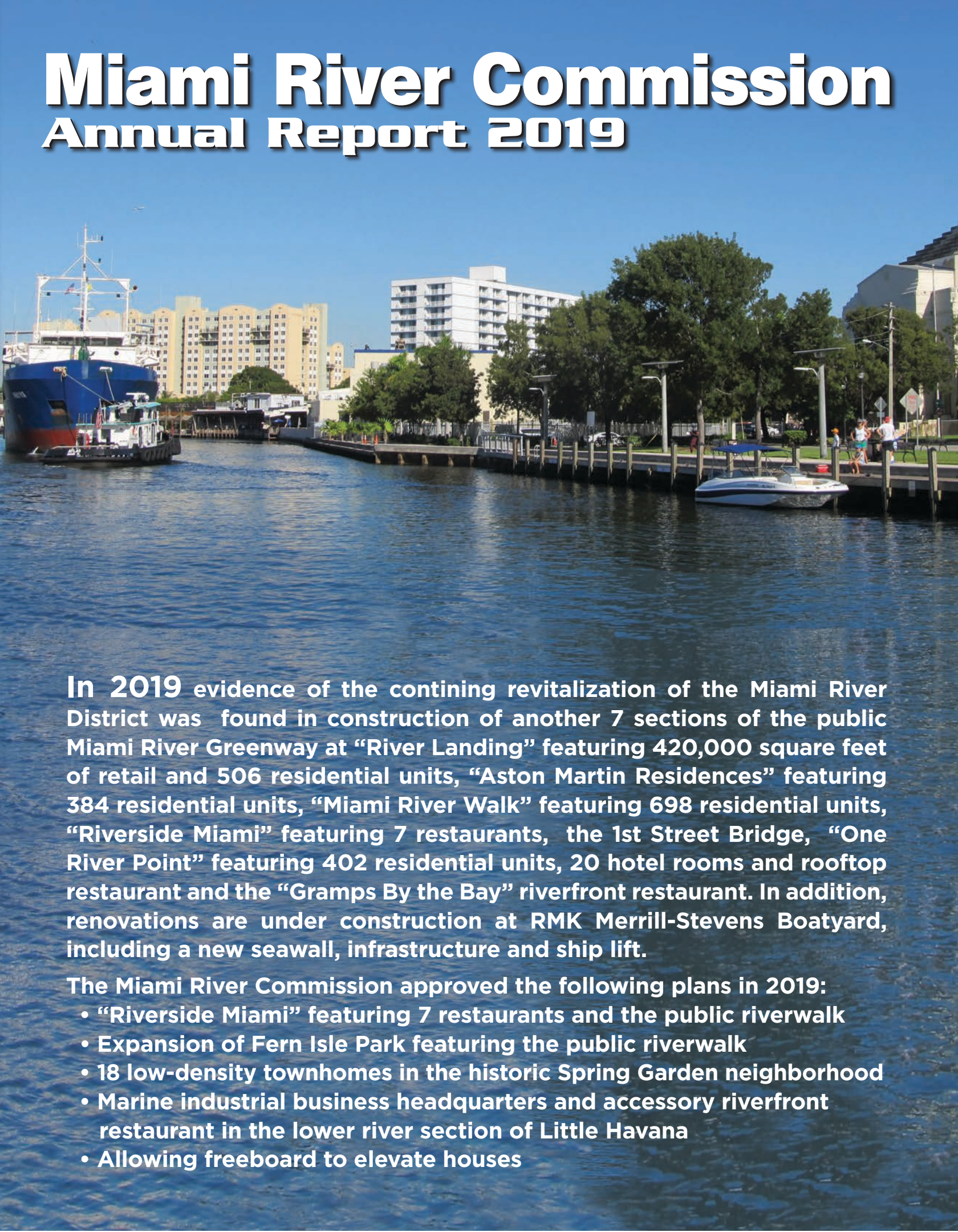


Miami River Commission Annual Report 2019



In 2019 evidence of the continuing revitalization of the Miami River District was found in construction of another 7 sections of the public Miami River Greenway at “River Landing” featuring 420,000 square feet of retail and 506 residential units, “Aston Martin Residences” featuring 384 residential units, “Miami River Walk” featuring 698 residential units, “Riverside Miami” featuring 7 restaurants, the 1st Street Bridge, “One River Point” featuring 402 residential units, 20 hotel rooms and rooftop restaurant and the “Gramps By the Bay” riverfront restaurant. In addition, renovations are under construction at RMK Merrill-Stevens Boatyard, including a new seawall, infrastructure and ship lift.

The Miami River Commission approved the following plans in 2019:

- “Riverside Miami” featuring 7 restaurants and the public riverwalk
- Expansion of Fern Isle Park featuring the public riverwalk
- 18 low-density townhomes in the historic Spring Garden neighborhood
- Marine industrial business headquarters and accessory riverfront restaurant in the lower river section of Little Havana
- Allowing freeboard to elevate houses



HORACIO
STUART
AGUIRRE

Chair's Report

KEEPING THE BALANCE of uses along the historic mixed-use Miami River District is amongst the most important and challenging successes of the Miami River Commission. The proof is in the numbers. The Miami River's shorelines feature public riverwalks, 9 major parks, over 9,410 new residential units (additional 6,667 approved units), 5 major hotels (additional 5 planned hotels with 1,200 new rooms), 23 operating restaurants (additional 31 planned restaurants), 16 historic sites, 25 boatyards and marinas, over a dozen International Shipping Terminals, and other job-generating marine industrial businesses operating along "Port Miami River". International Shipping Terminals provide vital international trade to our neighbors in the Caribbean and Central America. Recreational boatyards, marinas, commercial fishing and tug boat basins are highly active. The river is used daily by international shipping vessels, yachts, manatees, dolphins, marlins, and other marine life. This critical balance of uses makes the beautiful Miami River the ideal place to live, work and play in the heart of the City of Miami.

THE MIAMI RIVER DISTRICT features wonderful multi-cultural neighborhoods in Downtown, Little Havana, Spring Garden, Overtown, Grove Park, Allapattah, Durham Park, etc. The Miami River District's nine major parks offer every type of recreation including a boat ramp, kayak and paddleboard launch, pools, new playgrounds, barbecues, picnic tables, basketball, tennis and racquetball courts, baseball diamonds, football stadium, track, weights,

gym, community centers, riverwalks for running, walking, biking and fishing, and historic sites such as the 2,000 year old Miami Circle, 1844 Fort Dallas, and the oldest standing home in Miami-Dade County, the 1856 Wagner Homestead.

THE MRC THANKS THE FOLLOWING Fiscal Year 2020 funding providers: Miami-Dade County (\$200,000), City of Miami (\$50,000), and private sector advertisers in the MRC's 17th Annual Miami River Map and Guide, 9th Annual Miami River Calendar, and 24th Annual Miami Riverday. This funding allows the broad based MRC to continue its work partnering with the public and private sectors to bring significant improvements to the Miami River District. In addition, the MRC thanks board members Rep. Kionne McGhee, Commissioner Willy Gort, U.S. Coast Guard Captain Megan Dean, Mr. Federico Fernandez, and Duber Luzardo for their years of volunteer service. The MRC welcomes our newest volunteer board members: Congresswoman Donna Shalala, Sen. Oscar Braynon, U.S. Coast Guard Captain Jo-Ann Burdian, Chancey Goss, Scott Wagner, and Roselvic Noguera.

I INVITE YOU TO BRING family and friends to the Miami River District and enjoy the experience. The Miami River Commission promises that regardless of your individual interests, age, gender, race, or income level, you will find something special to enjoy.

*Horacio Stuart Aguirre
Chairman, Miami River Commission*



Aston Martin Residences featuring public riverwalk under construction.



In 2019, RMK Merrill-Stevens historic shipyard constructed significant renovations including a new seawall, new sheds, new shiplift, etc. which will be completed in 2020.



River Landing under construction, featuring public riverwalk, 420,000 sq ft of retail and 503 residential units.

Awards

- "BEST OF MIAMI 2016" awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau -Miami Today
- "BEST OF MIAMI 2015" awarded to MRC Urban Infill Subcommittee Chairman Jim Murley -Miami Today
- "BEST OF MIAMI 2014-UNsung HERO" awarded to MRC Member Ernie Martin -Miami Today
- "PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION" for volunteer Miami River Greenway beautification events- City of Miami, 2013
- "PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION" for volunteer Miami River Greenway beautification events - City of Miami, 2012
- "PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION" for volunteer Miami River Greenway beautification events - City of Miami, 2011
- "BEST OF MIAMI 2011 - TURNING GREEN" awarded to MRC member Sandy Batchelor -Miami Today
- "BEST OF MIAMI 2011-VISIONARY" awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau -Miami Today
- "SUSTAINABLE SOUTH FLORIDA AWARDS, GREEN EDUCATION & OUTREACH AWARD" 2011 FINALIST -Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
- "PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION" for volunteer Miami River Greenway beautification events -City of Miami, 2010

- "BEST OF MIAMI - BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE" awarded to Eric Buermann and Brett Bibeau -Miami Today, 2008
- "AWARD OF MERIT" awarded to the MRC for its Multimodal Transportation Plan - American Planning Association, 2007
- "THE NEWSMAKER" awarded to MRC Chair Eric Buermann -Miami Today, 2007
- "BEST BACKSTAGE LEADER" awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau who was then included in the "Book of Leaders" -Miami Today, 2007
- MIAMI IMAGE AWARD OF 2006 awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau -Realtor Association of Greater Miami and the Beaches
- "BEST OF MIAMI - IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE" awarded to former MRC Chair Irela Bague -Miami Today, 2006
- "THE ACHIEVER - MIAMI RIVER'S RENAISSANCE MAN" awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau - Miami Today, 2006
- "COMMUNITY STEWARD AWARD" awarded to MRC-1,000 Friends of Florida, 2005
- "BEST NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION" awarded to MRC -Miami Today, 2004
- "MOST POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT" for the Miami River Greenway, Urban Environment League, 2004
- EXCELLENCE AWARD for the Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan, American Landscape Architects, 2003

TESTIMONIALS

“Miami-Dade County is grateful for the partnership with the Miami River Commission, addressing resiliency in the critical Miami River Water Basin. The Miami River Commission's public meetings bring together representatives from the public and private sectors to work towards implementing time sensitive resilient solutions.”
- James Murley, Chief Resilience Officer, Miami-Dade County

The Riverfront Master Association applauds the Miami River Commission's (MRC) hands on approach to directly improving the Miami River District. Ivy, Mint and Wind's 1,549 residents pay \$15 million in taxes per year, and we appreciate the non-profit MRC's constant availability and attention to successfully work on mutually desired improvements along the Miami River.”
- Troy Taylor, President, Riverfront Master Assn.

“The Florida Department of Transportation appreciates the Miami River Commission's (MRC) continued assistance in communicating with Miami River residents and businesses regarding projects that affect navigation on the Miami River. The MRC is an important partner, helping the Department communicate the needs and benefits of these projects.”
- James Wolfe, P.E. FDOT District Six Secretary

“Riverside Miami is 7 new restaurants and a tap room, featuring the public Riverwalk and greenspace, adjacent to the SE 5 ST Metro-Mover Station and across the street from Brickell Citi Center. I appreciate the Miami River Commission's tremendous assistance in communicating with the community in public meetings, removing an obstacle to connect our new section of the public Riverwalk with a previous section to the east, positive press, etc.”
- Antonio Primo, Owner of Riverside Miami

MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY *Dr. Ernest Martin, Chair*

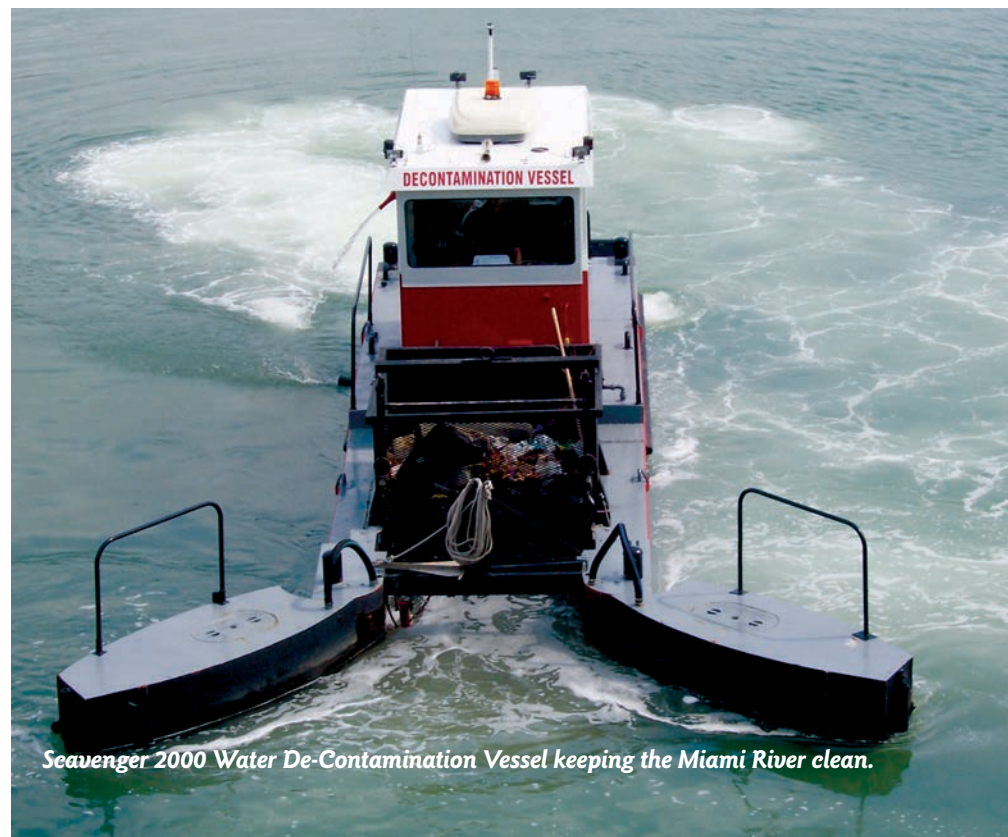
IN 2019 THE MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY continued construction, featuring a public pedestrian & bicycle pathway, landscaping, decorative lights, way-finding signage, historic markers, informational kiosks, benches, art installations, and other amenities. In 2019, another 7 sections of the public Riverwalk were under construction by the private and public sectors. Over 6.5 miles of the public Miami River Greenway has been constructed, with an additional planned 3.5 miles to complete.

The MRC appreciates the mutual efforts to implement the Miami River Greenway Action Plan, and the cost shares provided to date from multiple public and private funding sources including Congress, State of Florida, Florida Department of Transportation, South Florida Water Management District, Florida Inland Navigation District, City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, Downtown Development Authority, and numerous private sector developments.

The MRC thanks the City of Miami and its residents for voting to include the Miami River Greenway in the approved Miami Forever Bond Issue, redevelopment of the “Miami Riverside Center,” and “The Wharf”.

STORMWATER *Sallye Jude, Chair*

THE STORMWATER SYSTEM is the leading source of pollution into the Miami River. The Miami River water basin includes a 69-square-mile area of the most densely populated neighborhoods in the State of Florida. All stormwater from this area drains into the Miami River through over one hundred outfalls. The Miami River Commission appreciates Commissioner Eileen Higgins, Mayor Carlos Giménez and the Board of County Commissioners for renewing \$140,000 for the Scavenger Water DeContamination vessel's services in the Miami River. In addition to removing floating debris and hazards to navigation, the Scavenger Vessel significantly improves water quality by decontaminating 600,000 gallons of water per hour and injecting 150,000 liters of oxygen



Scavenger 2000 Water De-Contamination Vessel keeping the Miami River clean.

per hour into the Miami River.

URBAN INFILL *James Murley, Chair*

THE MRC'S URBAN INFILL SUBCOMMITTEE continued efforts to assist implementing various adopted and award-winning plans, including the *Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan*, *Miami River Corridor Multi-Modal Transportation Plan*, *Miami River Greenway Action Plan* and others, all available for downloading at www.miamirivercommission.org.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCE

Philip Everingham, Chair

IN 2019, CONSTRUCTION CONTINUED at River Landing featuring 420,000 square feet of retail, 506 residential units and the public riverwalk, Aston Martin Residences featuring 384 residential units and the public riverwalk, Miami River Walk Apartments featuring 698 units and the public riverwalk, Riverside Miami featuring 7 restaurants and public riverwalk and renovations at RMK Merrill-Stevens shipyard, featuring a new seawall, infrastructure and ship lift. In addition, the MRC favorably received FDOT's “Miami River Freight Improvement Plan”. Therefore the Miami River District is ripe with mixed-use economic development, commerce and jobs.



Volunteers replanting the public riverwalk's community vegetable and fruit garden

Get Involved!

The Miami River Commission invites groups and individuals from the community to get involved in improving your Miami River District, and the private sector to help us as sponsors of events. To learn more about what you can do, visit our website at www.miamirivercommission.org for updates.

The Miami River Commission thanks all of the incredible volunteers of all ages and walks of life who planted, painted murals, picked up litter, removed invasive plants and spread recycled mulch along the riverwalk during 24 major volunteer beautification events in 2019. The MRC is thankful to our growing list of sponsors, partially listed at right, who contributed volunteers, supplies and funding to the “greening” of the river, and removed an estimated 196,800 pounds of garbage.

The 24th Annual Miami Riverday festival is scheduled April 4th, 2020, in Lummus Park, 250 NW North River Drive. Just like the 23rd annual festival, held April 6, 2019, Miami Riverday features free river boat tours, live music, environmental education, marine expo, historic re-enactors, children's activities and much more.

All MRC and subcommittee meetings are publicly noticed. Public participation is encouraged. The full MRC usually meets on the first Monday of the month at noon, in the conference room at 1407 NW 7 Street.

MRC thanks volunteers and sponsors:

- [Miami-Dade County](#)
- [City of Miami](#)
- [Florida Department of Transportation](#)
- [Florida Department of State](#)
- [One River Point](#)
- [Downtown Development Authority](#)
- [RMK Merrill-Stevens](#)
- [Epic Marina](#)
- [Sightseeing Cruises](#)
- [Miami Dolphins](#)
- [University of Miami](#)
- [Hands On Miami](#)
- [Florida International University](#)
- [Florida Drawbridge](#)
- [Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart](#)



Left to right: Sewell Park, Terrazas, international shipping vessel under tow, Hurricane Cove Marina & Boatyard.



Riverside Miami under construction, featuring public riverwalk and 7 restaurants.

VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Frank Balzebre, Chair

THE MIAMI RIVER VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (VIP)

identifies and encourages public and private sector riverfront parcels to address various riverfront issues which are potentially detrimental to operations on the River, the environmental quality of the River, and the River's attraction as a destination for residents, tourists and businesses. In 2019 alone, the Miami River "VIP" resulted in 24 major Miami River Greenway Beautification volunteer events featuring plantings, removal of illegal dumping, invasive species, and graffiti along several sections of the Miami River, removing derelict vessels, repairing Riverwalk lights, unclogging stormwater drains, removing a floating hazard to navigation and oil sheen, found and corrected sources of contamination etc. The MRC thanks Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, FIND, FDOT, private sector, and the fantastic volunteers for their hard work bringing these River improvements to fruition.



Left to right: Spring Garden neighborhood, downtown skyline and the Miami River Walk Apartments under construction in Little Havana featuring the public riverwalk.

UPPER RIVER

Shipping and Marine Industrial Zone: Center of the river's trade and industry. The Miami Intermodal Center links rail, air, freight, transit, pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

MIDDLE RIVER

Residential/Mixed Use Zone: Includes historic neighborhoods, one marine-industrial businesses, parks, etc.

LOWER RIVER

Downtown Zone: Urban, high-density residential, offices, commercial businesses. Riverwalks link historic landmarks and parks along river.



MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY'S TIMELINE

- 1897** Henry Flagler opens six-story Royal Palm Hotel, including first greenway
- 1910** Lummus Park created on Miami River
- 1972** Parks For People bond issue passed by voters, funds portions of the Miami River Greenway
- 1980s** Miami River Greenway section constructed along north shore from Biscayne Bay to NW 2 Avenue
- 1998** Florida Legislature creates Miami River Commission as a watchdog, advocate and clearinghouse for the river. Miami Circle site discovered
- 2000** Florida Legislature passes Miami River Improvement Act
- 2001** With the Trust for Public Land, the MRC, City of Miami and Miami-Dade County unanimously approve Miami River Greenway Action Plan
- 2002** Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed
- 2003** Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed
- 2004** Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed
- 2005** Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed
- 2006** City of Miami adopts "A Vision for Miami's 21st Century Parks & Public Spaces" recommending completion of the Miami River Greenway • MRC hosts Greenways summit • Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed
- 2007** Miami River Corridor Multi-Modal Transportation Plan created by Metropolitan Planning Organization and MRC recommending completion of the Miami River Greenway • Greenway construction continues
- 2008** Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed
- 2009** City Bicycle Master Plan adopted recommending completion of the Miami River Greenway • Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed and additional sections funded and designed for construction in 2010-2011
- 2010-2019** Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

Learn more about the Miami River's past, present and future, view reports, plans, public meeting minutes, agendas and more at the informative www.miamirivercommission.org



Antillean Marine international shipping vessel

Miami River Commission Members

Chair: HORACIO STUART AGUIRRE
Representative from environmental or civic organization appointed by the Governor

Vice Chair: Mr. FRANK BALZEBRE
Designee for Miami Dade Mayor:
Mayor CARLOS GIMENEZ

Florida Governor: RON DeSANTIS
Designee: Ms. PATRICIA "PATTY" HARRIS

Mr. LUIS GARCIA
Member-at-Large Appointed by the Governor
Designee: Mr. JOHN MICHAEL CORNELL

SEN. OSCAR BRAYNON
Chair, Miami-Dade Delegation

Mayor FRANCIS SUAREZ
Mayor of the City of Miami

Commissioner EILEEN HIGGINS
Miami-Dade County Commissioner
Designee: Ms. MAGGIE FERNANDEZ

Commissioner WIFREDO "Willy" GORT
City of Miami Commissioner

KATHERINE FERNANDEZ-RUNDLE, Esq.
Miami-Dade State Attorney
Designee: Mr. DAVID MAER, Esq.

Mr. CHAUNCEY GOSS
Chair, South Florida Water Management District
Designee: Mr. SCOTT WAGNER, Esq.

Mr. BRUCE BROWN
Chair, Miami River Marine Group
Designee: Mr. RICHARD DUBIN

Ms. ALYCE ROBERTSON
Downtown Development Authority
Designee: Mr. NEAL SCHAFERS

Mr. ALFRED SANCHEZ
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
Designee: Ms. SANDY O'NEIL

Dr. ERNEST MARTIN
Neighborhood Representative appointed by the City of Miami Commission
Designee: Mr. THOMAS KIMEN III

Ms. SALLYE JUDE
Neighborhood Representative appointed by the Miami-Dade County Commission

Mr. PHILIP EVERINGHAM
Designee of: MICHAEL KARCHER, Chair of Marine Council

Ms. SARA C. BABUN
Member-at-Large appointed by the Miami-Dade County Commission
Designee: Ms. ROSELVIC NOGUERA

Mr. MANNY PRIEGUEZ
Member-at-Large appointed by the City of Miami Commission

Ex-Officio Members:

CONGRESSWOMAN DONNA SHALALA

CAPTAIN JO-ANN BURDIAN
United States Coast Guard
Captain of the Port of Miami

Managing Director:
Mr. BRETT BIBEAU

Designed by: Toni Kirkland LLC

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