



# Miami River Commission Annual Report 2022

**In 2022** the public approved two sections of the public riverwalk in two referendums. Evidence of the continuing revitalization of the Miami River District was found in construction of another 6 sections of the public Miami River Greenway at the Miami River Special Area Plan featuring 1,670 residential units, “Aston Martin Residences” featuring 384 residential units, “10X Miami River” Phase 2 featuring 350 residential units, riverfront restaurants in Little Havana and Downtown, and the new Ronald Reagan Park. In addition, renovations continued at Norseman Boatyard, will commence at Hurricane Cove Marina & Boatyard in 2023, and the City of Miami installed a new pool in Curtis Park, next to the riverwalk.





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 9,770 new residential units (additional 9,100 approved units), 5 major hotels (additional 7 planned hotels with 1,500 new rooms), 21 operating restaurants (additional 25 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 2023 funding providers: Miami-Dade County (\$200,000), City of Miami (\$200,000), and private sector advertisers in the MRC's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Miami River Map and Guide and the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Miami River Calendar. 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, Ernie Martin, Nancy Jackson and Captain Jo Ann Burdian for their years of volunteer service. The MRC welcomes our newest volunteer board members Mercedes Librada Rodriguez, Spencer Crowley, Eddie Kring and Captain Chris Cederholm.

**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

## 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



“10X Miami River” Phase II under construction in Little Havana, featuring the public riverwalk.



In 2022 construction continued on a new restaurant featuring the public riverwalk in Little Havana.



Miami River Special Area Plan continued construction in 2022.

## TESTIMONIALS

“I appreciate the Miami River Commission and voters for approving ‘Miami Riverbridge’ in the recent public citywide referendum, featuring 1,500 residential units, 615-room Hyatt Hotel, riverfront restaurants, 190,000 square feet of meeting space, new Public Open Space and upgrading the public riverwalk on the existing site. In cooperation with the Miami River Commission, we were pleased to contribute to a study which proved the effectiveness of posting off-duty traffic police at the Brickell Bridge as means to reduce congestion.”

– **Allen Matis, on behalf of HRM Owner, LLC**

“Thank you Miami River Commission and the voters whom in 2022 approved ‘Riverside Wharf’ in a public citywide referendum, featuring the Dream Luxury Hotel, 2 riverfront restaurants, Garcia’s Seafood Fish Market, event space, nightclub, dockage, new seawall and a new section of the public Riverwalk, which will commence construction in early 2023.”

– **Alex Mantecon, MV Real Estate**

“The Miami River Commission has been a pleasure to work with, and we appreciate their approval of ‘Casa Neos’ which is currently under construction on the Miami River’s downtown shoreline, featuring 3 riverfront restaurants, 4 hotel rooms, pool, new seawall and a new section of the public Riverwalk, scheduled to open in 2023.”

– **Guillaume Vidallet, Riviera Dining Group**

“I appreciate the Miami River Commission’s support for ‘Lofty Brickell’, located on the Miami River’s south shore immediately east of Metro-Rail and the Underline, featuring 782 residential units, a riverfront restaurant, and a new section of the public Riverwalk . The Newgard Group cleared the site in 2022, and we are excited to commence construction in early 2023.”

– **Harvey Hernandez, Newgard Group**



# Subcommittee Reports

## MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY

**IN 2022 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 2022, another 6 sections of the public Riverwalk were under construction by the private and public sectors. Over 6.8 miles of the public Miami River Greenway have been constructed, with an additional planned 3.2 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 two referendums for the redevelopment of the “Miami Riverbridge,” and “Riverside Wharf”.

## STORMWATER

**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 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 per hour into the Miami River.

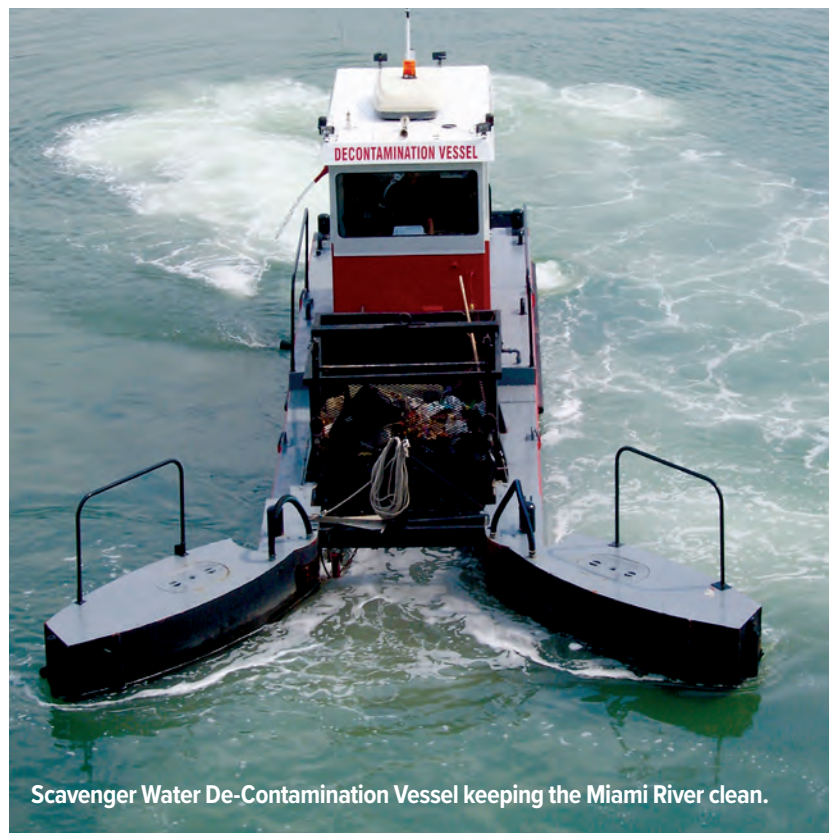
## URBAN INFILL

**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](http://www.miamirivercommission.org).

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCE

**IN 2022, CONSTRUCTION CONTINUED** at the “Miami River Special Area Plan” featuring 1,670 residential units, “Aston Martin Residences” featuring 384 residential units, “10X Miami River” Phase 2 featuring 350 residential units, and riverfront restaurants in Little Havana and Downtown.

In addition, the important job generating marine industry on Port Miami River is improving with a sizeable expansion of Norseman Boatyard, and Hurricane Cove Marina and Boatyard’s new dockmaster, marine retail building and piers commencing construction soon. Therefore the Miami River District is ripe with mixed-use economic development, commerce and jobs.



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





Antillean Marine international shipping vessel.

## VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT

### THE MIAMI RIVER VOLUN

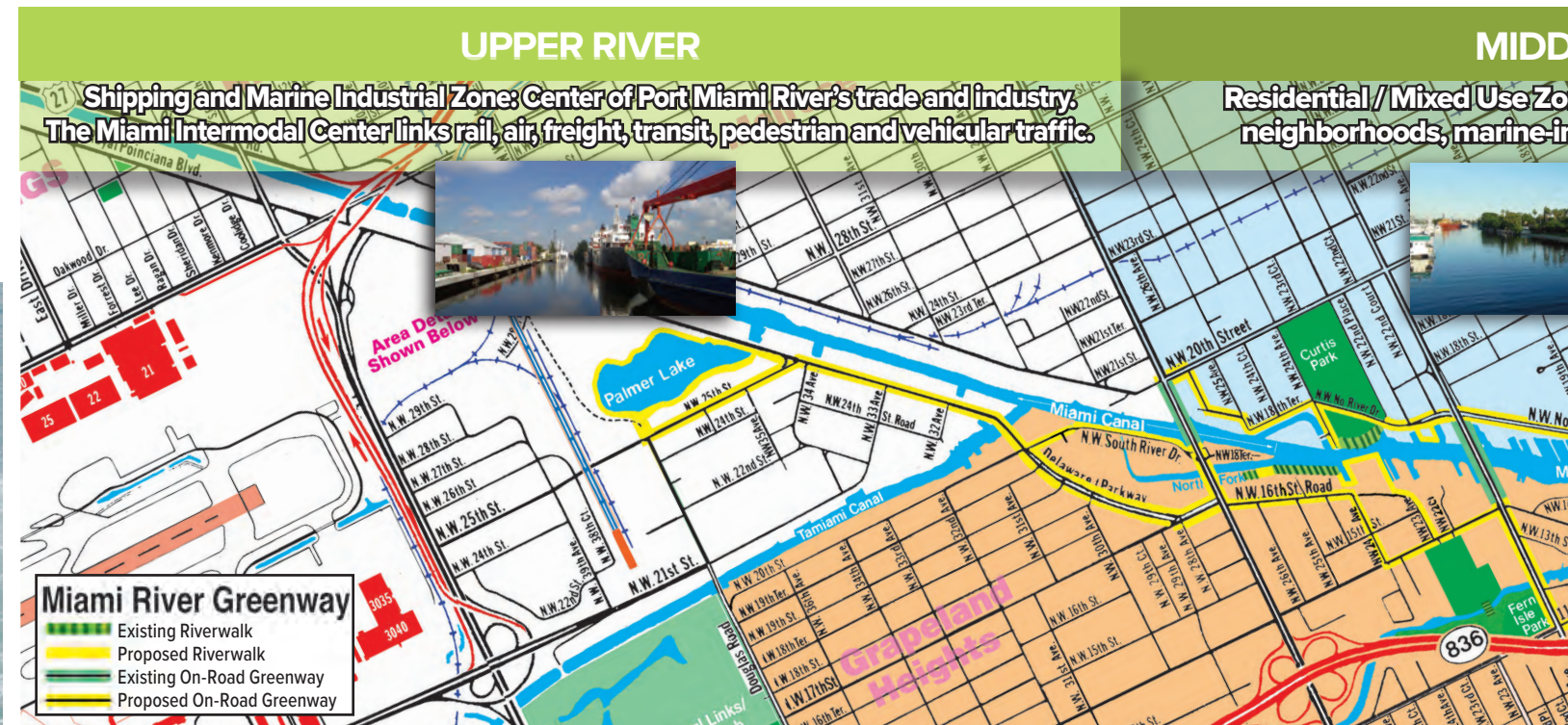
(VIP) identifies and encourages riverfront parcels to address various issues that are potentially detrimental to the environmental quality of the River. As a destination for residents, in 2022 alone, the Miami River Greenway Beautification Program includes the removal of illegal dumping, installing several sections of the Miami Riverwalk, repairing Riverwalk lights, and removing a floating hazard to navigation and corrected sources of contamination. Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, and the private sector, and the fantastic volunteers have helped bring these River improvements to fruition.

## UPPER RIVER

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

## MIDDLE RIVER

**Residential / Mixed Use Zone: Diverse neighborhoods, marine-industrial, and recreational.**



### 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 River Greenway constructed  
**2003**  
Sections of River Greenway constructed



# PLAN

## MULTI-SECTOR IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Addresses public and private sector issues along the riverfront which include boat operations on the River, the River's attraction for tourists and businesses. In 2010, the "VIP" resulted in 15 Miami River Greenway volunteer events featuring environmental education, graffiti removal, removing derelict vessels, unclogging stormwater drains, cleaning navigation and oil sheen, boat maintenance etc. The MRC thanks the City of Miami, FIND, FDOT, private contractors for their hard work bringing the River back to life.



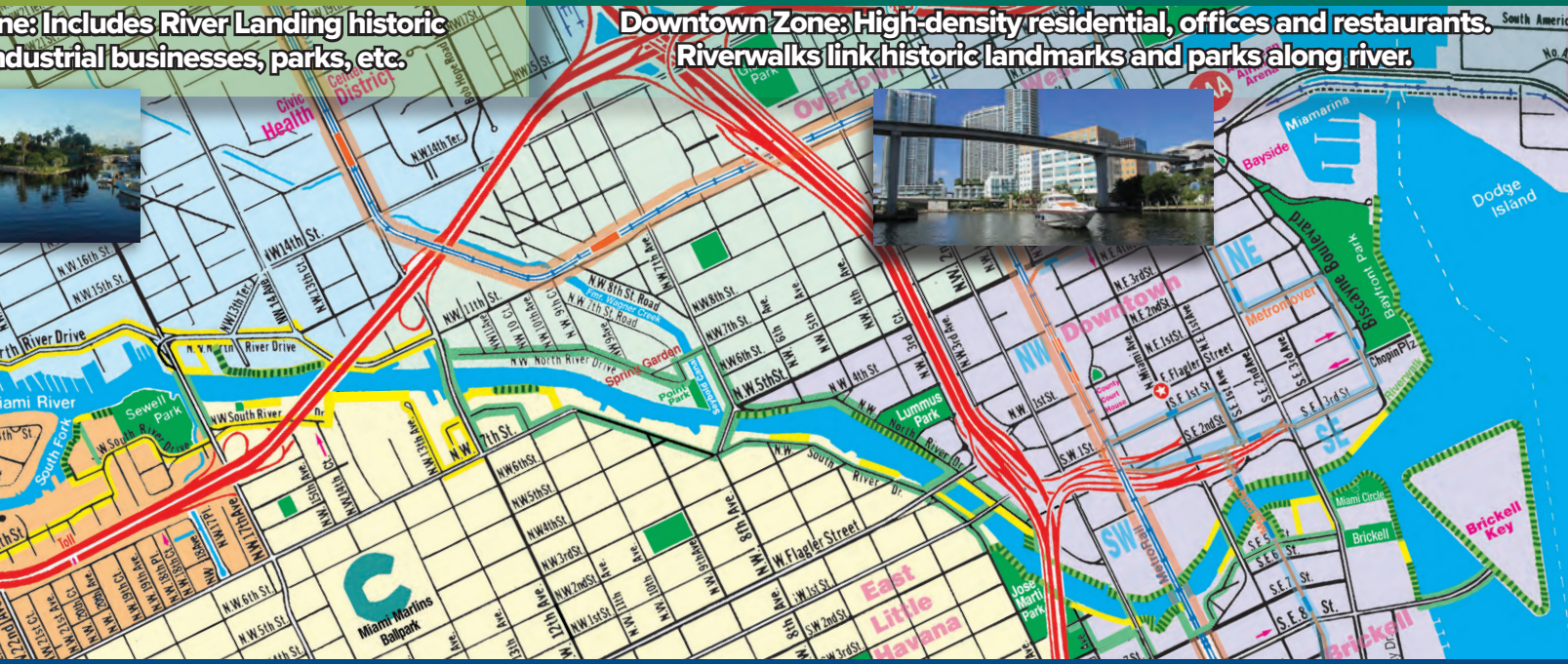
RMK Merrill-Stevens historic shipyard recently completed significant renovations including a new seawall, new sheds, new shiplift, etc.

## UPPER RIVER

Includes River Landing historic industrial businesses, parks, etc.

## LOWER RIVER

Downtown Zone: High-density residential, offices and restaurants. Riverwalks link historic landmarks and parks along river.



Map © 2001 Richard Troutner. All rights reserved.

### 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 Miami River 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

### 2010-2022

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed



# 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](http://www.miamirivercommission.org) for updates.

The Miami River Commission thanks all of the incredible volunteers of all ages and walks of life who picked up litter along the riverwalk during 15 volunteer beautification events in 2022. The MRC is thankful for all of the “Your Miami River Cleanup” sponsors, who contributed volunteers, supplies and funding to the “greening” of the river, and removed an estimated 275,000 pounds of garbage.

All MRC and subcommittee meetings are publicly noticed. Public participation is encouraged.





## Miami River Commission Members

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](http://www.miamirivercommission.org)

### **CHAIR: HORACIO STUART AGUIRRE**

Representative from environmental or civic organization appointed by the Governor

### **FLORIDA GOVERNOR: RON DESANTIS**

Designee: Ms. Patricia "Patty" Harris

### **SENATOR ANA MARIA RODRIGUEZ**

Chair, Miami-Dade Delegation  
Designee: Senator Ileana Garcia

### **MAYOR DANIELA LEVINE CAVA**

Mayor of Miami-Dade County  
Designee: Mr. James Murley

### **MAYOR FRANCIS X. SUAREZ**

Mayor of the City of Miami  
Designee: Ms. Megan Kelly

### **MR. LUIS GARCIA**

Member-at-Large Appointed by the Governor  
Designee: Mr. John Michael Cornell

### **Commissioner EILEEN HIGGINS**

Miami-Dade County Commissioner  
Designee: Mr. Eddie Marti Kring

### **Commissioner ALEX DIAZ de la PORTILLA**

City of Miami Commissioner  
Designee: Ms. Mercedes Librada Rodriguez

### **KATHERINE FERNANDEZ-RUNDLE, Esq.**

Miami-Dade State Attorney  
Designee: Mr. Nilo Cuervo

### **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. CHRISTINA CRESPI**

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  
Designee: Mr. Mike Simpson

### **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: Mr. Alvaro Coradin

### **Mr. T. SPENCER CROWLEY III**

Member-at-Large appointed by the City of Miami Commission

### **EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:**

Congresswoman  
**MARIA ELVIRA SALAZAR**

**CAPTAIN Chris Cederholm**  
United States Coast Guard  
Captain of the Port of Miami

Managing Director:  
**Mr. BRETT BIBEAU**

### **MIAMI RIVER COMMISSION**

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