



Miami River Commission

Annual Report 2012

In 2012, 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. This year another 4 sections of the Greenway were constructed by the private and public sectors. In 2013, another 6 fully funded and designed sections of the Greenway will be built, finishing more than half of the planned 10-mile public Miami River Greenway.

The Miami River Commission (MRC) thanks the Florida Inland Navigation District and the City of Miami for appropriating \$1.7 million for the Wagner Creek & Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup project in 2012. The fully permitted project now has \$3.4 million appropriated. Efforts continue to identify the remaining funding balance for this long awaited project, which will significantly improve the economy and natural environment.

COVER: International shipping vessel being towed past "Lower" River residences and public riverwalks.



Recreational Boats docked at new "River Cove Marina."



International shipping terminals in the "Upper" River.



Public Riverwalk under construction.



Recreational boats being serviced at Norseman and Cay Boatyards.



International shipping vessel entering "Middle" River homes and marinas.

“ Testimonials

“The recently renovated Casablanca Seafood Bar and Grill is grateful for the hard work conducted during the Miami River Commission’s coordinated and funded Miami River Greenway beautification events. Frequent wonderful plantings, painting, and cleaning up makes the Miami River more attractive for customers and employees.”

Lazaro Sanchez,
Casablanca Seafood Bar & Grill

“When Garcia’s Seafood Grille and Fish Market needed more parking, the Miami River Commission secured funding from the Miami Parking Authority, and vacant land from Miami-Dade County, to create a nearby public paid parking lot, which opened this year. As business owners, the Garcia family sincerely appreciates the Miami River Commission’s support and dedication.”

Luis Garcia,
Garcia’s Seafood Grille and Fish Market

“As a homeowner in the beautiful Spring Garden historic district, the Miami River Commission is an excellent resource, from hosting the fun, educational and free Miami Riverday festival, to helping communicate with the appropriate public sector contacts to address needs in the neighborhood.”

Eileen Broton,
Spring Garden Homeowner and Resident





HORACIO
STUART
AGUIRRE

Chair's Report

The historic Miami River's epic story is entering its next intriguing chapter. Over a decade ago the Miami River Commission (MRC) adopted an award winning strategic plan. The plan recommended supporting the "Middle" and "Upper" Miami River's job generating marine industrial businesses, which 10-years ago were struggling to operate on a shallowed federal navigable channel. After heroic efforts, the Miami River's first-ever Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project was successfully undertaken from 2003-2008. This dredging significantly improved navigation for international shipping vessels and recreational yachts. Today the restored Port of Miami River has new international shipping terminals, recreational boatyards, marinas, is part of the expanded Enterprise Business Zone, the new Free Trade Zone, and was protected by the public whom overwhelmingly voted to approve the "Working Waterfront" State Constitutional Amendment.

THE STRATEGIC PLAN RECOMMENDED the large, vacant and contaminated parcels in the "Lower" Miami River's urban core be developed into mixed-income residential projects with public riverwalks. Today those sites have been environmentally remediated, and now feature over 7,000 new affordable, workforce, and luxury residential units, with the celebrated public Miami

River Greenway. In addition, the plan recommended the "Middle" Miami River's low-density neighborhoods be preserved. Today homeowner's in the River's historic Spring Garden, Lummus Park, Grove Park, and Durham Park neighborhoods are taking pride and improving their residences to enhance the "Miami River experience."

TEN YEARS AGO THE PLAN recommended more public access and green spaces along the Miami River in order to become a destination landscape, featuring special events to further attract residents and tourists alike. Since then, over half of the 10-mile public Miami River Greenway has been constructed, including new Parks such as the Miami Circle, a designated National Historic Landmark. In 2012, the public Riverwalk was the location of the 17th Annual Miami Riverday festival, Annual Ironman Triathlon, Annual ING Marathon, 4th Annual Downtown Riverwalk Festival, monthly Miami River Art Walks, and the 1st Annual Miami River Art Fair, which featured over 500 renowned international artists during Art Basel week. The strategic plan recommended more restaurants along the public Miami River Greenway and a decade later there are 11 new restaurants operating along the Greenway, for an increased total of 15 wonderful culinary experiences to choose from.

THE MRC THANKS the strong private – public partnership which brought the success of the Miami River's previous chapter to fruition, including the Dade Congressional Delegation, South Florida Water Management District, Florida Inland Navigation District, Florida Legislature, Miami-Dade County and the City of Miami.

ALTHOUGH GREAT PROGRESS has been made, there is still much work to be done including finishing the Miami River Greenway, the Seybold Canal and Wagner Creek Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project, and further revitalization of the marine industries to name a few. Therefore we invite you to join us in writing the Miami River's next exciting chapter.

*Horacio Stuart Aguirre
Chairman,
Miami River Commission*

Awards

- "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 Bagué – 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

Subcommittee Reports

MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY

Dr. Ernest Martin, Chair

THE MRC THANKS THE CITY OF MIAMI, which in 2012 nearly finished construction of three sections of the public Greenway in Spring Garden, East Little Havana, and Brickell West. In 2013, the City will construct three more sections of the fully funded and designed public Miami River Greenway's south shore from the NW 5 ST Bridge to NW 12 Ave Bridge, and the north shore's Lummus Park. In addition, the City has sufficient funds to construct the Riverwalk in the Health District (north shore, west of NW 12 Ave) and from the Miami Circle to South Miami Ave. Bridge, both of which will be designed and permitted in 2013.

The MRC thanks Miami-Dade County, which in 2013 will commence construction of 4 sections of the public Riverwalk on the south shore at the 5 ST Metro-Mover Station and 2 Ave. Bridge, and along the north shore adjacent to Lummus Park and South Miami Ave. Bridge. In addition, the voter approved funding will be used to construct the designed public riverwalk beneath Metro-Rail on the Miami River's north and south shores.

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, 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.

STORM WATER

Sallye Jude, Chair

THE ANTIQUATED STORM-WATER 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 storm water from this area drains into the Miami River

through over one hundred outfalls. The Storm Water subcommittee's highest priority is the City of Miami's Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup project. The project is fully permitted, and the MRC thanks FIND and the City of Miami for appropriating \$3.4 million for the project. The MRC supports the City's efforts to secure the remaining funding needed to construct the long awaited and widely supported project. In addition, the MRC supports efforts to implement the action items identified in the *2010 Wagner Creek Walk the Waterbody Identification (WBID)*, and the *Miami River Basin Water Quality Improvement Report*. In 2013, agencies will conduct a Walk the Waterbody Identification (WBID) for the Miami River in order to create a plan to achieve the State's new water quality goal (TMDL).

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.



Public riverwalk in Point Park.



Miami River's mouth, public riverwalks and Downtown residences.

VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN
Jay Carmichael, Chair

THE MIAMI RIVER VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (VIP) identifies and encourages riverfront parcels to address issues which are potentially detrimental to the River, the environmental quality of the River's attraction as a destination for residents and businesses. In 2012 alone, the plan resulted in the removal of 2,000 lbs of trash, a fuel leak, 16 Miami River cleanup volunteer events featuring removal of invasive species, and graffiti cleanup. The plan also includes Miami River, repairing street water drains, and marine patrol enforcement of the idle / no wake speed zone. The plan is supported by Dade County, City of Miami, and the estimated one thousand hours of volunteer work bringing these River improvements.

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
 marine-industrial



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

In partnership 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 Miami River Greenway constructed

2003
 Sections of Miami River Greenway constructed

PLAN

PRIMARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Engages public and private sector to address various riverfront issues essential to operations on the Miami River, and the overall quality of the River, and the environment for residents, tourists and businesses. One, the Miami River "VIP" program, addressing 22 derelict vessels, stopping illegal dumping, river Greenway Beautification, removal of illegal dumping, installation of streetlights, unclogging storm drains, and increased enforcement of regulations. The MRC thanks Miami-Dade County, FDOT, private sector, and volunteers for their hard work and improvements to fruition.



Antillean Marine's "Habib Express," the largest and fastest international shipping vessel operating from the Miami River.

MIDDLE RIVER

Includes historic neighborhoods, businesses, parks, etc.



LOWER RIVER

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



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2002

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2004

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

2010-2012

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2003

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2005

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

Miami River Commission Members

Learn more about the river's history, view records of our meetings, see all our major reports on our web site at www.miamirivercommission.org a great resource for what's happening on and near the river.

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

Vice Chair: JAY CARMICHAEL, Esq.
Member-at-Large appointed by the Governor

Florida Gov. RICK SCOTT
Designee: **MS. PATRICIA "PATTY" HARRIS**

State Rep. EDDY GONZALEZ
Chair, Miami-Dade Delegation

Mayor CARLOS GIMENEZ
Miami-Dade County Mayor
Designee: **MR. FRANK BALZEBRE**

Mayor TOMÁS REGALADO
Mayor of the City of Miami

Commissioner BRUNO BARREIRO
Miami-Dade County Commissioner
Designee: **MS. MARLENE AVALO**

Commissioner FRANK CAROLLO
City of Miami Commissioner

KATHERINE FERNANDEZ-RUNDLE, Esq.
Miami-Dade State Attorney
Designee: **GARY WINSTON, ESQ.**

Mr. JOE COLLINS
South Florida Water Management
Designee: **MS. SANDY BATCHELOR**

Mr. RICHARD DUBIN
Chair, Miami River Marine Group
Designee: **MR. ORIN BLACK**

Ms. ALYCE ROBERTSON
Downtown Development Authority
Designee: **MR. JAVIER BETANCOURT**

Mr. BARRY JOHNSON
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
Designee: **MS. MEGAN KELLY**

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: **MS. JANE CAPORELLI**

MR. PHIL EVERINGHAM
Designee of: **ED SWAKON,**
Chair of Marine Council

Ms. SARA C. BABUN
Member-at-Large appointed by the Miami-Dade County Commission
Designee: **MR. CHRISTIAN LARACH**

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

Ex-Officio Members:
CONGRESSWOMAN ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Designee: **MS. DEBBIE ZIMMERMAN**

CAPT. CHRIS SCRABA, USCG
Captain of the Port of Miami

Managing Director: **Mr. BRETT BIBEAU**

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