

# Miami River Commission Annual Report 2016

Photo by: [www.disc-hover.com](http://www.disc-hover.com)

**2016** was another strong year for the blossoming mixed-use Miami River District. Highlights included approvals of 1,100 new residential units featuring additional sections of the public Riverwalk, a new riverfront restaurant opened with another 2 under construction, the historic Miami River Inn was restored, a new section of the public Riverwalk opened with 3 additional sections under construction, a Marine Industrial Vocational School was created, and more.

The Miami River Commission (MRC) thanks the Federal Government and Florida Department of Transportation for awarding \$1 million to the City of Miami to construct another section of the public Riverwalk, Miami-Dade County for providing \$60,000, the City of Miami for providing \$50,000, and the private sector donations towards the various services provided by the Miami River Commission.



**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 7,500 new residential units (additional 4,300 approved units), major hotels (additional 3 planned hotels with 750 new rooms), 21 operating restaurants (additional 20 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 multicultural 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, 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 2017 funding providers: Miami-Dade County (\$60,000), City of Miami (\$50,000), and private sector advertisers in the MRC's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Miami River Map and Guide, 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Miami River Calendar, and 21<sup>st</sup> 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. The MRC thanks the City of Miami, Florida Inland Navigation District, and State of Florida for providing full funding for the fully permitted, long awaited and widely supported Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project, which will benefit the natural environment and local economy. The City of Miami advertised the project's RFP in 2016, and dredging commences in Spring 2017. In addition, the MRC thanks long standing board members Jay Carmichael, Sandy Batchelor, Barry Johnson, Captain Austin Gould and Senator Anitere Flores, for their years of volunteer service. The MRC welcomes our newest volunteer board members Rep. Jose Felix Diaz, Luis Garcia, Alfred Sanchez and U.S. Coast Guard Captain Megan Dean.

**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 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



*Miami Circle Park, a designated national historic landmark.*



*Mint, Brickell City Centre, Neo Vertika, Latitude on the River and River Yacht Club (left to right).*

© 2016 Andrea Máté Photography for River Yacht Club



*Public Riverwalk in Lummus Park, with Seaspice, Casablanca, Garcias and the Scottish Rite Temple in the distance.*

## TESTIMONIALS

“In 2016 new seawalls commenced construction for the approved Riverside Wharf, which will feature 4 riverfront restaurants with the public Riverwalk and a commercial fishing component. We sincerely appreciate the Miami River Commission’s strong support for the project, which was approved at referendum with a landslide 72% of the public in favor. I applaud the MRC’s successful efforts to help create and maintain the public Riverwalk. Riverside Wharf looks forward to becoming part of the exciting Miami River District.”

- Alex Mantecon, MV Real Estate

“When I was conducting due diligence before purchasing a couple major marine industrial properties on the Miami River, my realtor and I took an informative Miami River boat tour with the always helpful Miami River Commission. A few years later we have commenced construction of all new seawalls, dock master office and marine retail at Hurricane Cove, the largest marina on the Miami River. We attend all of the Miami River Commission’s public meetings to keep up to speed with the tremendous ongoing improvements to the Miami River District.”

- Terryl Zerby, Hurricane Cove

“Around a decade ago I became a strong proponent for the Miami River when I took an informational boat tour hosted by the Miami River Commission (MRC). Now as Chairman of the Florida Legislature’s Dade Delegation I serve as a volunteer MRC Board Member, where in 2016 I was honored to be elected the MRC’s Vice-Chairman. The Dade-Delegation supports the MRC’s continued excellent work to improve the economy and natural environment in the mixed-use Miami River District.”

- Representative Jose Felix Diaz, Chairman of the Dade Delegation

“River Yacht Club opened in 2016, and is a unique waterfront destination for a diverse community of food connoisseurs, tastemakers & boating enthusiasts who seek an environment that’s ideal for dining, entertaining and converging. RYC is pioneering a new culinary ideology with its chef-in-residence program. We are also home of the first ever VanDutch Yachts Lounge in the world. I’m grateful for the Miami River Commission’s long term support of the Miami River District, with such beautification initiatives as landscaping and maintenance of the Miami River Greenway and ongoing efforts to increase awareness of this magnificent neighborhood”

- Stefan Dupoux, River Yacht Club

# Subcommittee Reports

## MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY *Dr. Ernest Martin, Chair*

**IN 2016 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. The MRC thanks the City of Miami for constructing 4 new sections of public riverwalk in Lummus Park, Fern Isle Park, Curtis Park and along SE 5<sup>th</sup> ST from Miami Circle Park to the Miami Avenue Bridge. In addition, the MRC thanks the Federal Government and Florida Department of Transportation for granting \$1 million for the City of Miami to design and construct a future section of the public riverwalk. In 2017, another 6 funded and designed sections of the public Riverwalk will be built by the public and private 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.

## 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 Stormwater subcommittee's highest priority is the City of Miami's fully funded and permitted Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project. The MRC thanks the City of Miami, FIND and the State of Florida for appropriating \$20 million for the project. This long-awaited and widely supported project, will start construction in 2017 and significantly

improve the environment and economy.

The MRC appreciates all the agencies which in 2016 worked towards implementing the list of action items generated when all environmental agencies inspected the Miami River for three days searching for sources of contamination.

## URBAN INFILL *James Murley, Chair*

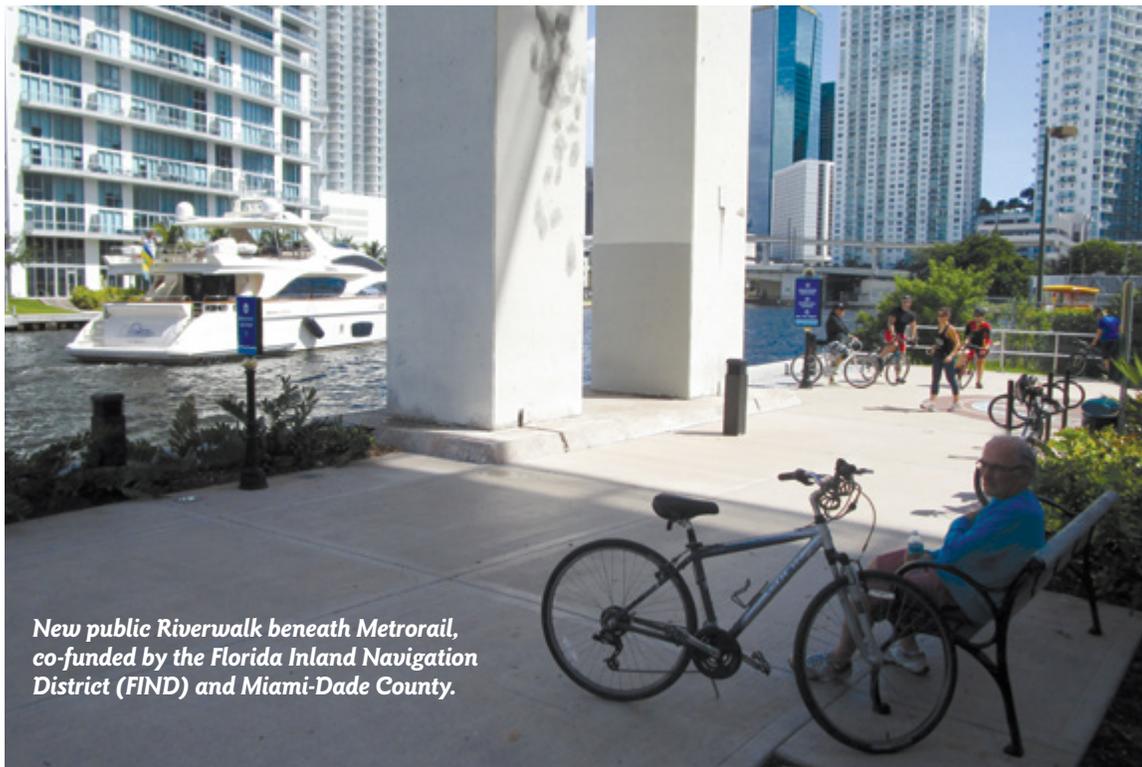
**THE MRC'S URBAN INFILL SUBCOMMITTEE** continued efforts to assist implementing various adopted and award-winning plans, including the *Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan*, *Miami River Corridor Multi-Modal Transportation Plan*, *Miami River Greenway Action Plan* and others, all available for downloading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

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCE

*Philip Everingham, Chair*

### THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCE SUBCOMMITTEE

supported the Miami-Dade School Board's creation of a Marine Industrial Vocational School, and assisted in drafting the curriculum. In 2016, one new riverfront restaurant opened and two more commenced construction, the historic River Inn Miami completed renovations, 1,100 new residential units, and Naheem Khan designer clothing manufacturer were approved featuring additional sections of the public riverwalk. Therefore the Miami River District is ripe with mixed-use economic development and commerce.



*New public Riverwalk beneath Metrorail, co-funded by the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) and Miami-Dade County.*

One of River Inn Miami's recently restored historic cottages.



Photo by: Andrew Ittsch

**VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**  
 Representative Jose Felix Diaz, C

**THE MIAMI RIVER VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN** identifies and encourages private owners of riverfront parcels to address environmental issues which are potentially detrimental to the Miami River, the environmental quality of the River, the environmental quality of the River's attraction as a destination for recreation and businesses. In 2016 alone, the plan resulted in 12 major Miami River cleanup volunteer events featuring plastic cleanup, illegal dumping, invasive species removal, and other sections of the Miami River, including unblocking stormwater drains, which is a hazard to navigation and oil spill prevention sources of contamination etc. The plan is supported by Dade County, City of Miami, Miami River sector, and the fantastic volunteers who are bringing these River improvements.

**UPPER RIVER**

**MIDDLE 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.

**Residential/ Mixed Use Zone**  
 marine-industrial



**MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY'S TIMELINE**

**1897**  
 Henry Flagler opens six-story Royal Palm Hotel, including first greenway

**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

**1910**  
 Lummus Park created on Miami River

**1980s**  
 Miami River Greenway section constructed along north shore from Biscayne Bay to NW 2 Avenue

**2003**  
 Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

AN  
hair

### IMPROVEMENT PLAN (VIP)

public and private sector  
various riverfront issues  
mental to operations on the  
quality of the River, and the  
ation for residents, tourists  
ne, the Miami River "VIP"  
er Greenway Beautification  
plantings, removal of illegal  
and graffiti along several  
repairing Riverwalk lights,  
ns, removing a floating  
neen, found and corrected  
The MRC thanks Miami-  
ni, FIND, FDOT, private  
nters for their hard work  
ments to fruition.



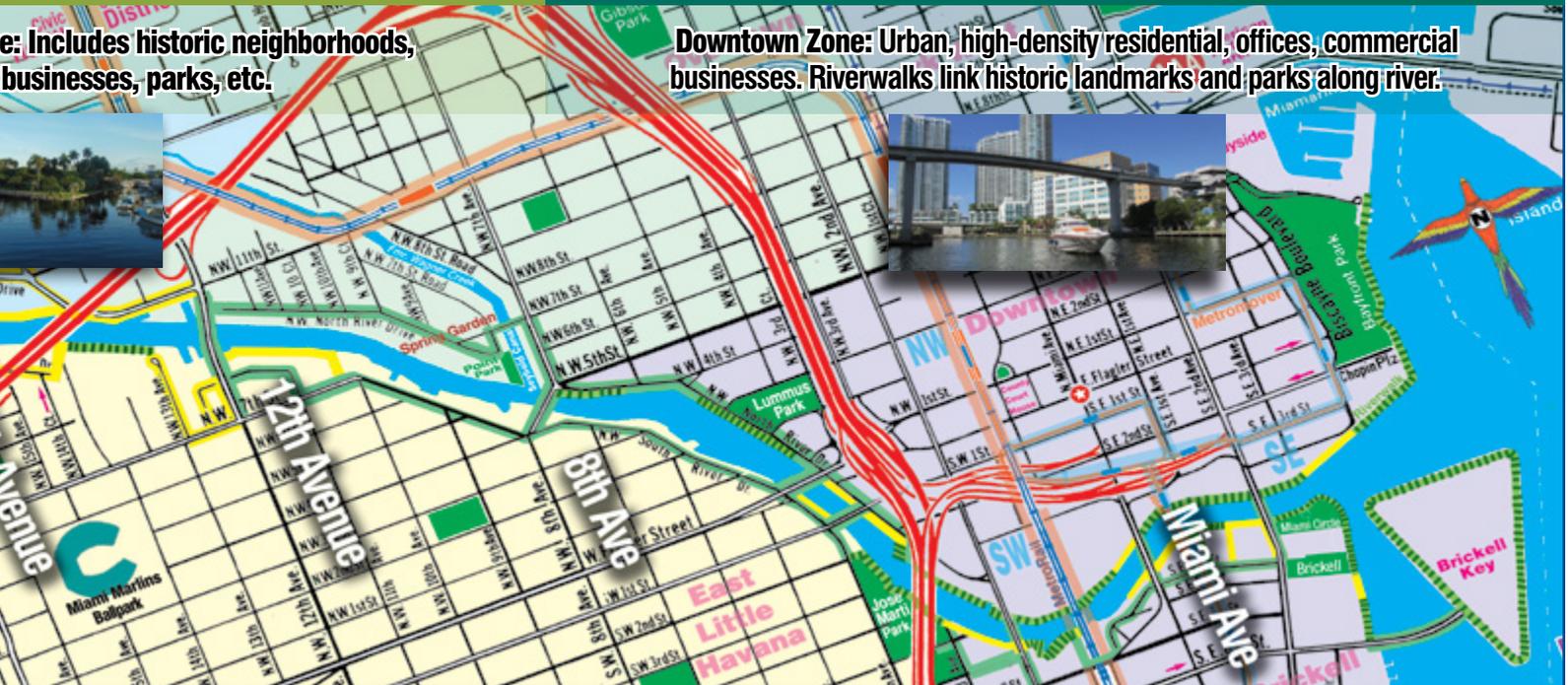
Yachts docked along the public riverwalk at Epic Marina.

### UPPER 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.



Map © 2001 Richard Troutner. All rights reserved.

2002  
2003

Sections of the Miami  
River Greenway  
constructed  
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

2010-2016

Sections of the Miami  
River Greenway  
constructed



*MIRA USA, UM and FIU volunteers beautifying the Miami River Greenway.*

# 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 planted, painted murals, picked up litter, removed invasive plants and spread recycled mulch along the riverwalk through 12 major volunteer beautification events in 2016. 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.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Miami Riverday Festival is scheduled April 1, 2017, in Lummus Park, 250 NW North River Drive. Just like the 20<sup>th</sup> annual festival, held April 2, 2016, 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 to the right of the MRC office.

## MRC thanks volunteers and sponsors:

- [State of Florida](#)
- [Miami-Dade County](#)
- [City of Miami](#)
- [Downtown Development Authority](#)
- [One River Point](#)
- [Miami Marlins](#)
- [University of Miami](#)
- [Hands On Miami](#)
- [Florida International University](#)
- [Miami Dade College](#)
- [Florida Wood Recycling](#)
- [Florida Drawbridge](#)



*Hurricane Cove Marina & Boatyard (below) commenced renovations in 2016, Marlins Ballpark, Sewell Park, Terrazas, River Oaks, Apex Marine and Durham Park neighborhood (left to right).*



**Hurricane Cove**  
MARINA & BOATYARD  
New Docks & Office Building Under Construction

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)



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

## Miami River Commission Members

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

**Vice Chair: REP. JOSE FELIX DIAZ**  
Chair, Miami-Dade Delegation  
Designee: Rep. DAVID RICHARDSON

**Florida Governor RICK SCOTT**  
Designee: Ms. Patricia "Patty" Harris

**Mr. LUIS GARCIA**  
Member-at-Large Appointed by the Governor

**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. DANIEL O'KEEFE**  
South Florida Water Management

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

**Ms. ALYCE ROBERTSON**  
Downtown Development Authority  
Designee: Mr. ERIC RIEL

**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: ED SWAKON, Chair of Marine Council

**Ms. SARA C. BABUN**  
Member-at-Large appointed by the Miami-Dade County Commission  
Designee: Mr. DUBER LAZARDO

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

## Ex-Officio Members:

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

**CAPTAIN MEGAN DEAN**  
United States Coast Guard  
Captain of the Port of Miami

Managing Director: **Mr. BRETT BIBEAU**

Designed by: **Toni Kirkland Graphics**

## MIAMI RIVER COMMISSION

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