

# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # **491-2016**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

To: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

From: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

Date: November 15, 2016

Subject: Florida International University Partnership Report 2016

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide you with the Florida International University (FIU) Impact Report created to highlight the accomplishments of the partnership between the City of Miami Beach and FIU established in 2014.

The four anchors of this collaboration – Arts, Culture, and History; Florida Coastal Resilience and Adaptation; Youth and Education Development and Transportation – are featured, along with the successes and accomplishments of this past year.

We look forward to continuing and growing this exciting partnership.

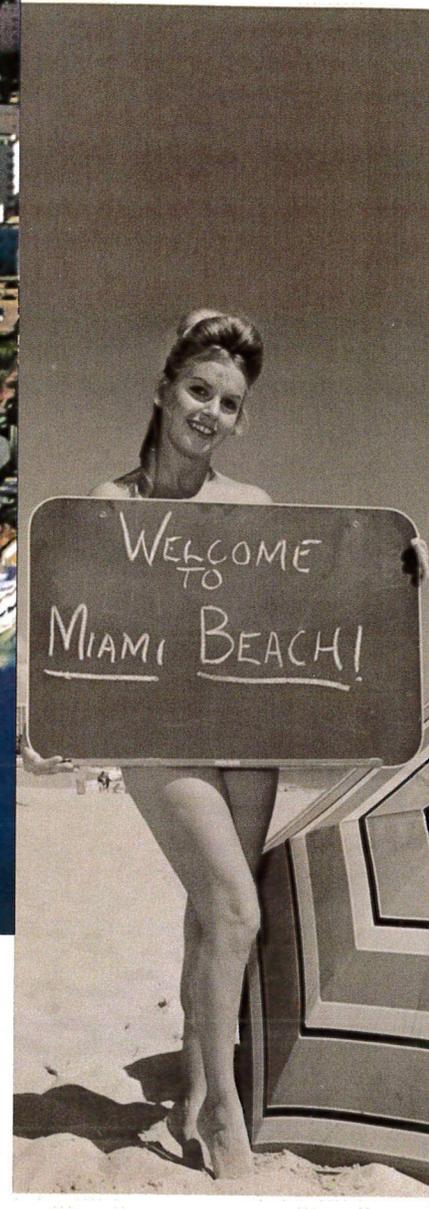
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Attachment

JLM/KGB/LDR

C: Kathie G. Brooks, Assistant City Manager  
Susanne Torriente, Assistant City Manager  
Betsy Wheaton, Environment and Sustainability Director  
Jose Gonzalez, Transportation Director  
Vanessa Williams, Tourism Culture and Economic Development Assistant Director  
Dr. Leslie Rosenfeld, Chief Learning and Development Officer

2015-16



FIU and  
City of Miami Beach



# University → Civic Partnerships

Jewish Museum  
of Florida-FIU

FIU and the City of Miami Beach have forged a dynamic partnership leveraging our unique assets – geography, history, demographics and intellectual capital – to address both of our most pressing challenges.

A long-term investment in the City of Miami Beach, FIU has three cultural and creative anchors located in the municipality:

- **FIU College of Architecture + The Arts (CARTA) Miami Beach Urban Studios (MBUS)** - Lincoln Road
- **Wolfsonian-FIU Museum** - Washington Avenue
- **Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU** - Washington Avenue

The partnership is driven by workgroups focused on:

- Arts, Culture & History
- Florida Coastal Resilience & Adaptation
- Transportation
- Youth & Education Development



# 2015-16 Snapshot of Achievements

## Arts, Culture & History

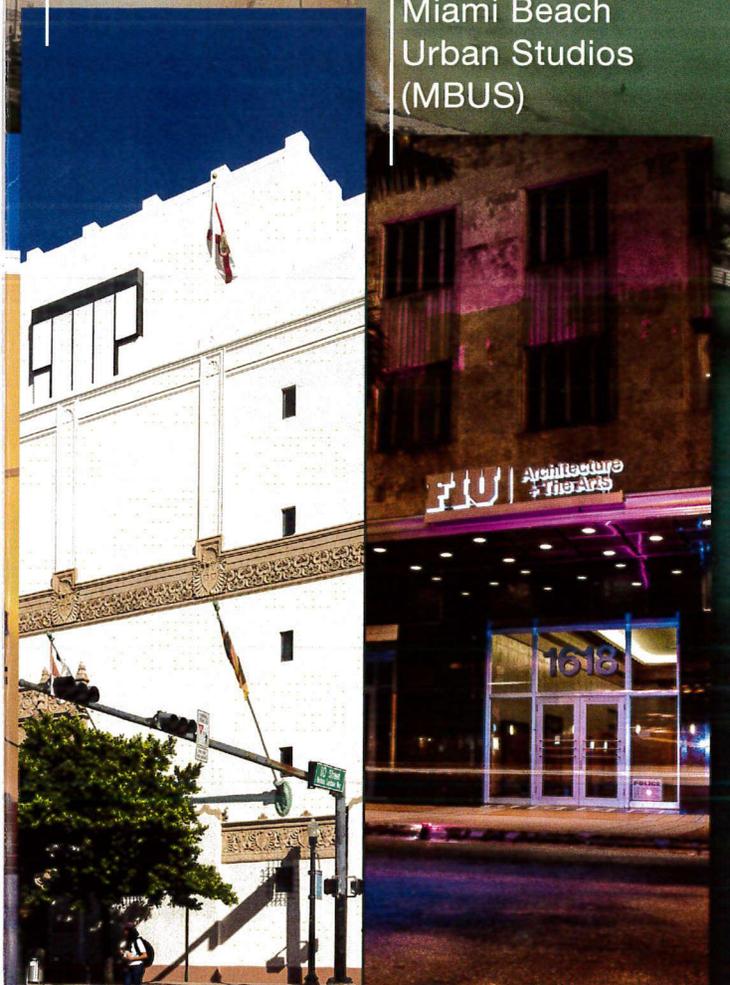
- More than 1,200 FIU students participated and volunteered at the Food Network & Cooking Channel South Beach Wine & Food Festival 2016 (SOBEWFF). They supported 85 different events in various capacities including serving in key roles as leads and coordinators. The FIU Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management awarded over \$200,000 in scholarships to student volunteers in 2016.
- Through the City of Miami Beach Cultural Arts and Citywide Grants Programs, the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU used funds towards hosting a full array of cultural opportunities for city residents and visitors throughout the 2015-16 year. This included two stellar exhibits and their related programming:
  - Discovery and Recovery: Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage from the National Archives and Records Administration, which drew scholars, students, local residents and tourists from all over the state, nation and from 55 different countries in its three-month run.
  - All This Has Come Upon Us, by famed New York Times op-ed artist Mark Podwal, including a collaborative program with the Amernet string quartet playing chamber music of Mieczyslaw Weinberg and Florida Grand Opera presenting a prelude of "The Passenger."
- The Wolfsonian-FIU brought global attention to FIU's cultural institutions during Miami Art Week 2015 with an Art Basel bash thrown by Vanity Fair. This attracted nearly 1,500 art enthusiasts to 1001 Washington Avenue on December 4, 2015.
- The Wolfsonian-FIU opened three major exhibitions with the support of the City of Miami Beach—Philodendron: From Pan-Latin Exotic to American Modern, Margin of Error, and Promising Paradise: Cuban Allure, American Seduction.
- Miami Beach Urban Studios hosted thirty 10th graders from the Knight-sponsored Growlight Breakthrough Miami program during summer 2016. They will explore the City of Miami Beach as a laboratory for design, arts, the environment, technology, and city government through one or more field trips to the Miami Beach City Hall.
- In the last twenty-two months, FIU's History Department students and faculty have digitized and archived more than 39,000 images from the City of Miami Beach Historical Archives. The Miami Beach Digital Archives is now an extensive database of historical photographs, brochures, ordinances and other official documents that are essential to understanding over 100 years of development of our city. After digitization, the collection of the City of Miami Beach Historical Archives is now properly archived and stored at Miami Beach City Hall. A crucial resource, this allows researchers and the public better access to the history of South Florida.



Wolfsonian-FIU  
Museum



FIU College of  
Architecture +  
The Arts (CARTA)  
Miami Beach  
Urban Studios  
(MBUS)



## Transportation

- Meetings between the City of Miami Beach and FIU researchers continue. Potential projects for collaboration have been discussed, including a pedestrian and bicycle safety plan.

## Florida Coastal Resilience & Adaptation

- In July 2015, FIU launched the Sea Level Solutions Center (SLSC), which is dedicated to designing and implementing short- and long-term adaptation strategies for a prosperous South Florida. SLSC advances the understanding of sea level rise and its impacts, and converting this into actions that benefit society on a global scale. The City of Miami Beach is a key practitioner partner.
- In September 2015, the City of Miami Beach and FIU hosted Vice President Al Gore and the Climate Reality Project at the 30th Climate Reality Leadership Corps training. The former Vice President was engaged in a 90-minute private meeting to discuss the challenges and successes of adaptation planning in the City of Miami Beach.



FIU and City of Miami Beach researchers host former Vice President Al Gore to discuss the challenges and successes of sea level adaptation planning in the City of Miami Beach.

- The French Consulate, the City of Miami Beach, the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science and FIU hosted the French Ameri-Can Climate Talks (FACTS) conference. Held in twelve cities in the United States and Canada involving renowned scientists, civil society representatives, NGOs, political figures, journalists and entrepreneurs, FACTS aims to mobilize public opinion on the issues of sea level rise and its impact on local communities.
- In November 2015, FIU and the City of Miami Beach co-lead a sea level rise panel discussion at the American Institute of Architects conference.
- In February 2016, FIU researchers participated in a public design charrette for the future of North Beach.
- In March 2016, FIU conducted a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) training for over 20 City of Miami Beach employees in preparation of the City's new green building ordinance.
- In May 2016, the City of Miami Beach, together with Miami-Dade County and the City of Miami, were selected to participate in the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Network.
- The Eyes on the Rise app, developed through FIU's School of Journalism and Mass Communication and GIS Center, allows users to view how floodwater might inundate locations at varying heights of sea level rise.
- The upcoming fall 2016 session of the Mayors' Institute on City Design, which will be jointly hosted by Miami Beach Mayor Levine and FIU | CARTA, will bring mayors of 8 coastal US cities, along with a team of subject matter experts, to MBUS to address issues of urban resilience.
- FIU Professor Nancy Scanlon presented at the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan using the Miami Beach Coastal Resilience model with data provided by the City of Miami Beach. Her presentation discussed solutions, highlighting the efforts of Miami Beach around resilience and adaptation- citing the City's water pumping stations, which pump flood waters out of the streets.

## Youth & Education Development

- In the 2015-2016 school year, 17 paid graduate and undergraduate FIU interns were placed in multiple City of Miami Beach departments, including: Engineering, Transportation, Education/Organizational Development, Environmental & Sustainability, Communications, The City Manager's Office and The City Clerk's Office
- For fall 2016, FIU recruited two graduate students to begin research with partners at the City of Miami Beach on urban resilience extremes.
- Dual enrollment classes at Miami Beach Senior High School have increased by 70% with 17 classes available to students in the 2016-17 school year, a clear success of the partnership between the City of Miami Beach, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and FIU.
- Student achievement at Nautilus Middle School improved with ACCESS partnership involvement. A partnership between FIU and Miami-Dade County Public Schools, ACCESS seeks to align combined instructional, research and creative talents to improve the academic success of K-12 students. Because of the work of ACCESS and the City of Miami Beach, increases in student performance in end-of-course exams, decrease in referrals for student behavior, and increased professional development for teachers occurred.



US Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and JMOF-FIU Director Jo Ann Arnowitz examine an installation.



FIU intern Carlos Tamayo turned a successful internship with the City of Miami Beach into a fulltime position as a civil engineer with the City.



Miami Beach City Manager Jimmy Morales presents FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg with an official proclamation that September 29, 2015 is CARTA Innovation Lab Day in the City of Miami Beach.

# MIAMIBEACH

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**FIU** Engagement

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