

our Miami

soul of the city



Miami is a community that attracts people with **big ideas and aspirations**. Thousands of people each year **choose the Magic City** as their place to live, learn, work and play.

We at The Miami Foundation asked: What is it that makes this place **so special**? And, what can we do to **capitalize on those things**?



By **continuing to invest** in our aesthetic, the many things to do and our large welcome mat, we can **position Miami to compete** with great global cities.

Read on **to discover** what we learned, why it is important and **how you can help** make Miami greater.

YOUNG TALENT – Inside, read about young, urban professionals who are choosing Miami to live, work and play after graduation. Their reasons vary from professional opportunities to quality of life. All agree Miami is the place to be.

DEEPER DIVE – Scan the blue QR codes with your mobile phone to instantly visit our website and discover more about that program, idea or person. It's easy to do and fun too.

HIDDEN GEMS – Miami has great, exciting things that you may have not seen or visited: places, neighborhoods, attractions that are off the beaten path. Don't miss these gems in the following pages...and experience them in real life.



Louis-Albert H. Jolivert and Javier Alberto Soto



The Miami Foundation provides civic leadership, bringing people together to tackle issues of concern in our community. Working together with our **donors who established their private foundations with us** and many community partners, we **leverage collective knowledge**, creativity and resources for a **greater impact** than any one of us could make alone.

By connecting philanthropy with community needs and opportunities, we **work to build a Greater Miami**.

Make Miami greater

People often ask us to define The Miami Foundation's focus. Our answer is that we share a desire with you, our neighbors, to make Miami greater. As stewards to a \$150 million permanent endowment designed to improve our community, we are uniquely positioned to take the long view on its growth and progress.

Our society is increasingly mobile and our community increasingly global, often giving people the opportunity to live anywhere. You, along with more than 2.5 million people from more than 70 countries, choose to call Greater Miami home. Yes, we have world-class sports teams, renowned beaches and nightlife, lush farmlands and a vibrant urban core. Beyond these instantly recognizable assets, however, we wanted to understand the bonds between Miami and you.

It is from this vantage that The Miami Foundation has embarked on *Our Miami: soul of the city*.

Our Miami will foster a stronger sense of community, advance quality of life initiatives and lead to a more vibrant economic and social environment.

As part of *Our Miami*, we have collected and analyzed county-wide data that provided insight on an important three-year study called Soul of the Community funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. This study explored what residents like most about where they live and which factors play the biggest roles in connecting people to their place. Perhaps more importantly, how those factors contribute to our economy.

We discovered that we have a lot in common. Whether you are a second generation Cuban-American college student at the University of Miami, or a retired Jewish woman living in North Miami Beach, we all appreciate the Miami aesthetic, how welcome we feel, what there is to do and what we can learn while doing it.

Our Miami highlights the assets that abound around us and sheds light on areas in which we still have work to do.

Some of these will be easier to address than others. This is where The Miami Foundation will begin. From the basis of the data, we will support community initiatives, advance policies and nurture solutions that promote college degree attainment, attract the best and brightest young talent to Miami, develop a stronger sense of community and raise the quality of life for all area residents.

We believe intuitively – and our research confirms – that younger Miamians hold the key to our future success. The leaders of tomorrow are today's recent graduates, young professionals and emerging creative class. But the question is: What can Miami do to develop, attract and retain the best and the brightest people? How do we ensure that these leaders of tomorrow make their homes and their livelihoods here today?

It is important to note *Our Miami* is made possible because over our 45-year history more than 700 Miamians have chosen to start their private foundations with us. We are fortunate to work with such a generous and thoughtful group.

We invite you to explore this publication, learn more about our spectacular city and then determine for yourself what Miami is to you – and more importantly, what you'd like Miami to become. In the coming weeks we'll be announcing a number of ways that you can get involved, including public art displays, grant contests and an exciting challenge to give back to Miami. Thank you for your interest in making *Our Miami* a better place to live, learn, work and play.

Javier Alberto Soto
President and CEO
The Miami Foundation

Louis-Albert H. Jolivert
Chairman, Board of Trustees
The Miami Foundation

How do you **want to change Miami,** or the world?

Know a problem that needs solving?

Have a creative spark and the drive to do more?

The Miami Foundation

exists to **help you** find

innovative and effective ways to

make an impact

with your philanthropy.



We can help you

achieve anything you want

even if you thought it was never possible.

Six reasons to choose us when thinking about your private foundation

Approach. Our team of philanthropic advisors will help you develop an approach to your philanthropy that reflects your personal values and interests.

Context. Together with you, we plan a gift that makes the most sense in the context of your financial situation, your legacy plan, your lifestyle, your family and your philanthropic goals.

Expertise. Our professional staff is nationally respected for leadership in philanthropy, grantmaking, financial management and exceptional customer service.

Fun. When you partner with us we take care of the increasingly complex laws, accounting, tax and compliance issues – freeing you up to enjoy making gifts to the causes that you care about.

Accountability. We believe that charitable investments should be expected to produce positive returns, just as it is expected from financial investments.

Empowered. Our donors are informed and strategic because we share our knowledge and findings with you through regular reports, educational forums, donor briefings and site visits.

Young Talent

Jason Atlass grew up in South Florida and left for Tallahassee to study accounting and finance at Florida State University. "When I graduated, it was the downward spiral of the economy," says the 26-year-old. "It was nearly impossible to land a job."

He eventually secured a job in Tampa, and later New York, but always had his heart set on Miami.

"I was used to boating, the beach, living near my friends and family."

In May 2012, he finally came home, and now does consulting work for Grant Thornton International. Since arriving, he's been promoted, and sees plenty of potential for growth.

He compares Miami to New York for its convenience and accessibility. As a Brickell resident, he can walk

to the grocery store and gym, and is looking forward to Brickell CityCentre – a development featuring shops, condos, a hotel, apartments and office space.

There's also the food. "New York has the best restaurants in the world," he says. "You move down to Miami, and you're not missing anything; the food is just as good and diverse."



Expanding investment in Miami's creative communities

BY MATT HAGGMAN

We are uniquely diverse in Miami. More than three-fourths of us are from somewhere else and more than half foreign-born. Our institutions, like the city itself, are young in years. And it's a place often marked by dramatic change.

In the last decade Miami's greater downtown population has nearly doubled. Groundbreaking arts venues like the New World Center in Miami Beach opened amid a wider cultural awakening. Our universities have grown exponentially: a metropolitan area that didn't have a public research university four decades ago now ranks 7th per capita in the U.S. in college students.

Which is what makes Miami so exciting: it's an increasingly urban, cosmopolitan city that is literally coming to be before our eyes.

Yet, finding a broader, shared sense of community remains elusive. We are still developing the community anchors and institutions that both knit us together and root us here.

In 2008, Knight Foundation launched a three-year study to get a handle on what attaches people to place. Soul of the Community surveyed 26 cities, including Miami. Some of the revealing findings about Miami: three out of four respondents said the metropolitan area is not a place where people care about each other. And two-thirds said Miami, even as it now has a large college population, is not a good place for talented college graduates looking for work.

What roots people here, on the other hand, are strong cultural offerings, physical beauty including parks and green spaces, educational offerings, and how welcoming a community is to different people, the study found. These were cited even more often than jobs and safety as producing loyalty to a place.

The study found that attachment impacts the bottom line: places where residents were more attached showed higher rates of local economic development.

The Our Miami project by The Miami Foundation builds on Soul of the Community by taking a closer look into the state of our community. It is a timely assessment, giving us all a chance to take stock of our rapidly changing community.

Knight Foundation's mission is to support informed and engaged communities. In Miami we've looked for ways to bring different parts of our community together, through arts and public education. In particular, we've invested heavily in making the arts a way to bind and inspire the many constituencies that comprise our region.

Through our grants, we have bolstered the cultural institutions that serve as public gathering points, including the emerging downtown cluster that, once completed, will comprise the Perez Art Museum Miami, Frost Museum of Science and Arsht Center for the Performing Arts.

AVAILABILITY OF ARTS AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES



The Little Haiti Cultural Center is a place where people come together to meet, learn and share ideas.

At the same time, we have seeded emerging artists through the annual Knight Arts Challenge, fueling the creativity that contributes to a sense of place and communal identity.

Today, we are widening our lens on Miami's creative community by not only focusing on artists and ideas but entrepreneurs. The aim is to strengthen Miami's start-up and entrepreneurial ecosystem and better connect it to the broader community.

The goal is to deepen engagement – particularly among recent college graduates – by providing the tools and forge the connections that empower our innovators and change

makers, helping foster a greater sense that Miami is a place where ideas are built.

It's a compelling time for our young, dynamic city.

Not long ago, poet P. Scott Cunningham – who leads the O, Miami Poetry Festival – called Miami “a work in progress.” However, he added, the prospect of being part of the city's ongoing emergence is precisely what has kept him rooted here.

To him, unlike long established cities, the rewards of making gains here are greater. In Miami, he wrote, every new building, business, festival, reading series, author and reader, “matters.”

Matt Haggman is the Miami Program Director for the Knight Foundation.

A conversation with C.J. Ortuno on ‘openness’

C.J. Ortuno is the executive director of SAVE Dade, an organization that promotes, protects and defends equality for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) population of Miami-Dade. He works with both philanthropists who understand the need to help others and those people that need a helping hand. “Community is defined as welcoming our neighbors and celebrating what makes us unique and different.”

He is working to enable a more welcoming, world city: Miami.

“Generosity of spirit and the sharing of scarce resources define ‘openness’. Miami is a work in progress on this front, but we are on our way,” says Ortuno.

A husband and father from a multi-cultural family, CJ lives what “openness” means. Not being LGBT himself, he works every day to create equality in employment, housing, public accommodations and domestic partnership recognition. He is working for the greater good, while understanding that success will have no personal direct benefit.

Openness, he believes, has the potential for enhanced opportunity for all. “It can be a tide that lifts all boats. I see a day where we transcend from the fortunate few to the fortunate many.”

C.J. would also like to see a community where young people who grow up here have opportunities to stay here



C.J. Ortuno is the executive director of SAVE Dade.

and build their careers. “Some of our homegrown stars leave Miami in search of opportunity. It is such a pity. We need a Miami where the next generation decides to stay right here to build family and community.”

Long-term, Ortuno sees a Miami where “openness” and opportunities abound for everyone. “There's no finish line, but I can see that we're getting closer,” he said. “We're on track.”

TOP COMPANIES' HUMAN RIGHTS EQUITY INDEX SCORES

American Airlines	100/100
Greenberg Traurig	100/100
Ryder System	93/100
Royal Caribbean	90/100
University of Miami	80/100
Burger King	73/100

Source: Human Rights Campaign Equity Index



Sweet on Ice Cream

Head to Little Havana for a scoop of culture and a cool treat at Azucar, an artisanal ice cream and sorbet boutique. Inspired by abuela, flavors are as colorful as they are tasty. Tropical fruit varieties

include mango, guava, mamey and avocado, all natural and made from locally bought produce. Their signature flavors give frozen dessert a fun twist with names like café con leche (Cuban coffee and

Oreo), el mani loco (crazy peanut), Willy Cherrino (double cherry), and mulatica (cinnamon oatmeal cookie). Seasonal choices will get you in a festive spirit with options such as pumpkin flan, noche

buena (spiced sugar plum), mi bon bon (chocolate cherry), red hot lover (banana and red hots), and Zapaticos de Rosa (rose petal). 1503 SW 8th Street; Miami; 33135. azucaricecream.com

our Miami: soul of the city

ourMiami.org
#ourMiami
@MiamiFoundation

What:

Our Miami is a project of The Miami Foundation developed in association with a three-year study called Soul of the Community. A project of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the Gallup organization, Soul of the Community surveyed residents of metropolitan Miami (and 25 other cities nationwide) to explore and understand what residents like most about where they live and which factors play the biggest roles in connecting people to their place.

To evaluate these qualities in greater depth, The Miami Foundation partnered with the Metropolitan Center at Florida International University. FIU gathered data in each category to better understand the degree of alignment and/or variance between Miamians' perceptions and reality.

Why:

The Miami Foundation asked, "What can we do to make our place, our city more attractive to an increasingly mobile and global society?"

Armed with powerful new data, The Miami Foundation and its partners will use Our Miami to explore how Miami can make improvements that will nurture a stronger sense of community and advance the quality of life for all area residents.

Approach:

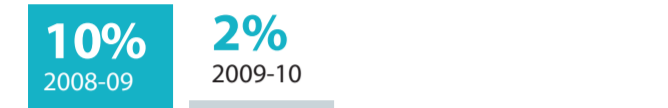
Our Miami, coupled with the Beacon Council's One Community | One Goal report, augments years of national research that clearly shows attracting young, talented and creative people to your place will grow the economy faster than other more traditional measures of economic development and at the same time it fosters a deeper sense of community.

For the full report, visit ourmiami.org/report

Economy

Why it matters: A strong economy provides opportunities to advance careers, prosperity and social advancement.

GROWTH IN PER CAPITA INCOME



GROWTH IN MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



Key fact: Miami-Dade has a relatively small concentration at 28% of young professionals with a bachelor's degree or higher – which can deter high-growth companies from setting up here.

Things we can do:

1. Develop creative-class occupations that will attract young professionals and provide long-term advancement opportunities.
2. Take advantage of our gateway, oceanfront location and encourage international commerce and world-class tourism, which brings opportunities for all levels of workers.

Openness

Why it matters: Open communities create opportunities for newcomers, while promoting civic participation among all citizens. They foster a feeling of hope and belonging.

Key fact: Miami offers a higher than national average share of employment in 4 out of 5 leading creative occupations.

Things we can do:

1. Develop offerings that would make Miami a more welcoming place to young college graduates and families with young children.
2. Support vocational and educational opportunities for residents to increase work options and ability to qualify for higher-paying jobs.

A GOOD PLACE FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN



Social Life

Why it matters: When residents have opportunities for positive social interaction, they become more motivated to connect with others and become more invested in their community. This increases civic health.

Key fact: The County has invested more than \$450 million in cultural facilities since 2005. Each dollar yields an additional \$27 of funding.

Things we can do:

1. Create new cultural venues and social assets in more neighborhoods, such as the South Dade Cultural Center.
2. Raise awareness about free and low-cost cultural programs.

Leadership

Why it matters: Leadership creates a shared vision for a community, and motivates and inspires people to live up to and beyond their potential.

Key fact: In 2008, the most recent survey conducted by the County, 37% of residents felt that Miami-Dade County was delivering excellent public service.

Things we can do:

1. Vote.
2. Continue to develop new leaders for Miami through programs such as Miami Fellows and Leadership Miami.

Community Involvement

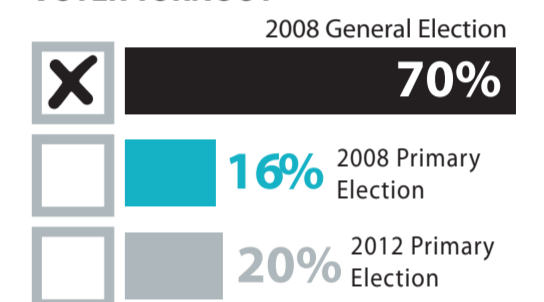
Why it matters: Community involvement reflects residents' commitment to their community and their ability to work together toward common goals.

Key fact: Miami has the lowest level of civic engagement of any major metropolitan area in the nation.

Things we can do:

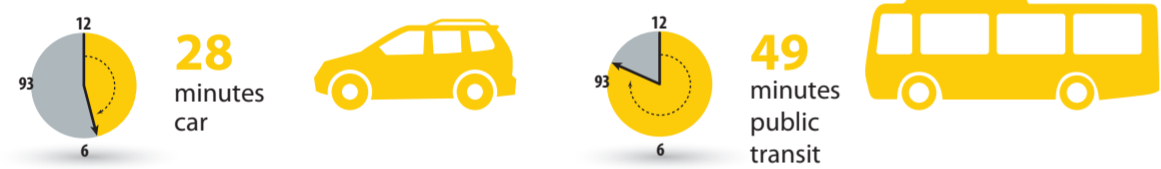
1. Develop a stronger infrastructure for civic engagement, including a collective belief that all citizens can work together with a shared vision to build a more united community.
2. Enlist and empower citizens to participate in shaping the community.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY VOTER TURNOUT



HIGHWAYS AND FREEWAY SYSTEMS

AVERAGE WEEKDAY COMMUTE TIMES



Basic Services

Why it matters: A community's basic services create the major infrastructure on which residents depend for their quality of life.

Key fact: Of all households, 55.2% of them are considered "cost burdened" because they spend more than 30% of their income on housing.

Things we can do:

1. Expand and make improvements in public transit.
2. Encourage mixed-income developments in the urban core.

Aesthetics

Why it matters: Aesthetics helps create a sense of pride in and enjoyment of the community, which makes us feel closer to our home.

Key fact: More than 42% of Miamians live within a quarter mile of a park or beach.

Things we can do:

1. Integrate parks, bike routes and walkways in all neighborhoods.
2. Follow through on tree canopy plan of 30% to meet minimum U.S. average.

Social Capital

Why it matters: A high level of social capital affects a community's ability to unite for the common good.

Key fact: Miami is home to more than 1,400 religious congregations; largest membership is Catholic, followed closely by Evangelical Protestant.

Things we can do:

1. Promote civility. Employers, faith-based organizations, nonprofits, and parks and recreation have a role to play.
2. Expand social opportunities that reduce social isolation and build the fabric of community.

INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA

USE OF FACEBOOK

10.2 million Facebook users in Florida

1.5 million Facebook users in Miami

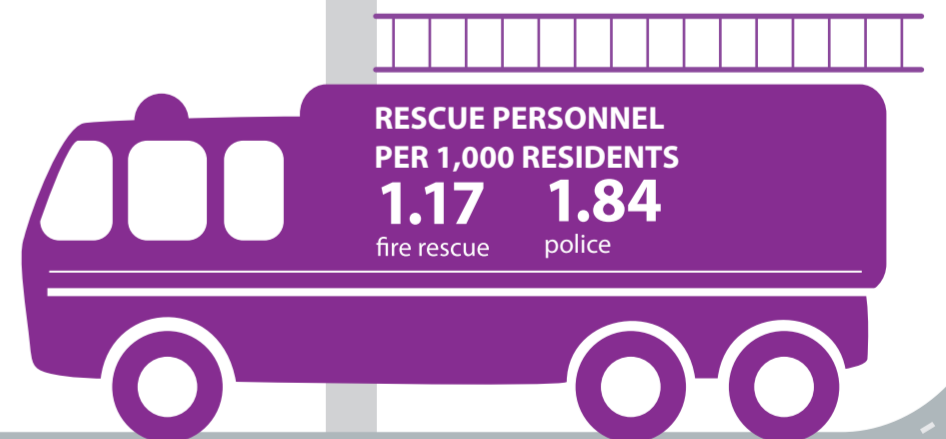
Safety

Why it matters: Safety affects all aspects of daily life and safe communities with low crime are more vibrant and economically stable.

Key fact: From 2008 to 2010, the total number of crimes dropped 13% including violent crime categories, which decreased between 15-30%.

Things we can do:

1. Expand walking and cycling paths and lighting.
2. Maintain a high level of police and emergency services and focus attention on the root socioeconomic causes of unsafe neighborhoods.



AVERAGE PUBLIC SPENDING PER STUDENT



Education

Why it matters: Educational opportunity creates economic and career options and helps our community attract and keep talented younger and working-age people.

Key fact: Miami-Dade Public Schools is a five-time finalist for the coveted Broad Prize that recognizes performance, improvement and closing gaps in urban districts.

Things we can do:

1. Continue to improve efforts at preparing students for college and careers.
2. Increase resident perception of public education to enhance our ability to draw families with young children and retain talent in our community.

What you can do

Impress your friends.

Read and share this publication. Discover what is important. Visit and connect your friends with ourmiami.org.

Give your time, talent, and treasure.

Volunteer to make a difference. Get your friends together and do something bigger. Make a contribution to your favorite charity.

Pay it forward.

Establish your foundation at The Miami Foundation and learn what hundreds of individuals, families and businesses already know – working with us is fun and easy. Visit miamifoundation.org/myfoundation and learn more.



car2go.com

Car2go, a vehicle sharing program, is a new green transit option in Miami joining Deco Bike and the Miami Trolley.

Affordable Miami

BY MILLIE ACEBAL ROUSSEAU

Living in Miami is an attractive proposition. Beautiful weather, arts and culture, affordable housing and transportation make areas like Downtown Miami and Brickell desirable to people who want to live in the urban core.



"Miami-Dade County is now what the rest of the country is going to look like in the future," said Frank R. Nero, president & CEO of The Beacon Council. "It's a multicultural, multilingual, cosmopolitan city. As areas expand in demographics, governments must be mindful of socio-economic disparity, and continue to improve infrastructure and mass transit."

However, as downtown Miami continues to gentrify, leaders should pay attention to potential economic isolation as this exacerbates the problems associated with poverty. Segregation by income has harmful effects on low-income people including worse economic outcomes and academic achievement. Additionally, new research by the Organization for Economic and Cooperation Development (OECD) shows that when students of mixed incomes attend school together, achievement for all increases.

Managing growth and keeping Miami affordable for all is a challenge. Miami-based Carlisle Development Group is answering the need for affordable housing in the urban core. The company relies on tax credits to build high-rise developments and offer them as rentals.

"Over the past decade, we have focused on building sustainable, transit-oriented developments. These urban communities include green building features that provide significant savings and an enhanced quality of life for residents," explains Carlisle's CEO, Matthew Greer. "Families save money on gas, water and electric bills each month." High-density, transit-oriented developments also spur economic growth. Access to public transit and an increasing number of daily services within walking distance help keep costs of living in the urban core down."

Miami is quickly becoming an international marketplace. As the area expands, government planning must be mindful of socio-economic missing infrastructure and mass transit. It's an important lesson to note as more Latin American and European corporations look to do business here.

Take Stock in Children invests in future talent

BY ELLEN SCHULMAN

Caroline Betances grew up in a low-income neighborhood in Miami's Cutler Ridge community.



Her mom, a home-based cosmetologist, supports three children alone. Adrian Lima moved from Cuba at

age five to live in Little Havana. When his parents divorced, his mom had to rely on a disability check to support three kids and was forced to move nearly every year.

Both of these bright, ambitious young people are finding their way out of poverty with good educations, thanks to support from the nonprofit organization Take Stock in Children. Established in 1995, the statewide initiative provides low-income students mentors and scholarships that allow them to pursue higher educations.

"Historically, we've focused on getting our students through high school, and then we award them a scholarship," explained the Executive Director of Take Stock in Children, Miami Dade College Tom Albano.

"Studies show that a college degree is a key factor in ending the cycle of poverty. Our goals now include college retention and completion."

Albano said that the average grade point average of a Take Stock student when they start the program is a 2.0, yet by the time they graduate that average often skyrockets. In the 2012 class, 75 percent of the students had GPAs of 3.5 or higher. Two students graduated with 6.8 GPAs.

Take Stock in Children graduate Betances excelled in school her



Brenda Pacouloute is a 2001 Take Stockin Children Scholarship Recipient. After completing law school in Missouri she brought her talents back to South Florida.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY	NATIONAL
73% graduation rate 2009-10	70%



Source: National Center for Educational Statistics

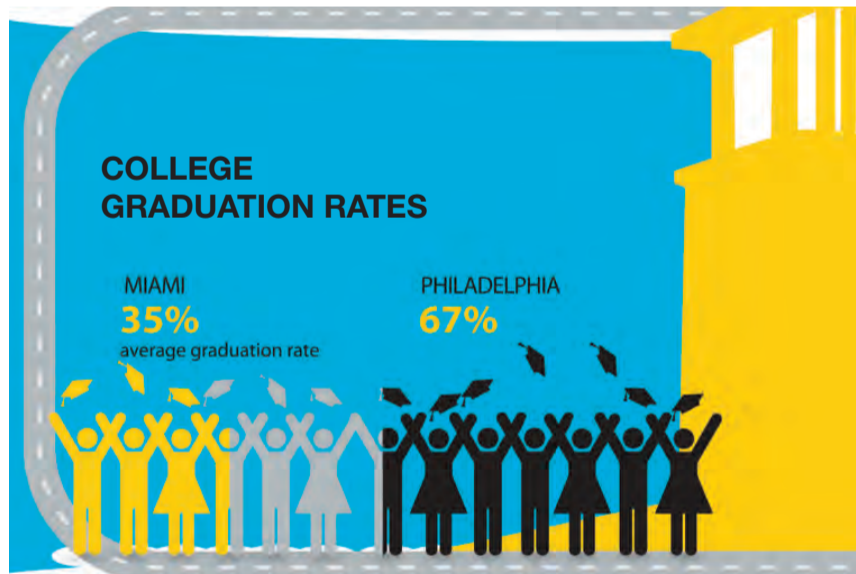
she realized her real passion was working with her hands. Today, Betances is studying biomedical engineering at Florida International University. Her dream is to pursue a doctorate degree and work to create more realistic and anatomically accurate prostheses for people who have lost their limbs. She knows a Ph.D. will offer more earning power and career opportunities.

Take Stock helped her learn to study more effectively, handle stress and develop other critical life skills. "Everything they did helped us," adding that she never viewed her low-income status as a handicap.

Lima hasn't let his economic status stand in his way either. Although living on food stamps and disability checks was normal for his family, he was always able to maintain good grades. Remembering when he was "selected" to apply for Take Stock in sixth grade, he said the program offered him the motivation and inspiration to make college a reality.

Strong in both math and science, Lima said he loved creating things from a young age. In 2011, he was the Take Stock in Children valedictorian. Currently, he is attending Miami Dade College's Honor College on a full scholarship and completed his freshman year with a 4.0 GPA. He hopes to pursue a civil engineering degree. This summer he finished an internship working on the plans for the new Miami Herald building in Doral.

Lima offers, "Take Stock was invaluable to me, my family and my future career."



Source: National Center for Educational Statistics



Culinary Indulgences

It's a spot where you can take in breathtaking views of Downtown Miami and Biscayne Bay while you feast. Welcome to Tuyo, sitting atop Miami Dade College's impressive new Culinary Institute, headed by award-winning executive chef Norman Van Aken. You can expect mouthwatering dishes to accompany the spectacular views. 415 NE Second Ave., Miami; 33132. tuyomiami.com

Young Talent

Rebecca Batterman, 26, is originally from the Philadelphia suburbs. She attended the University of Arizona, and returned home after graduating, to work in the family business.

"I realized I wanted to be on my own; I didn't want to be a boomerang child." Rebecca decided on Miami, packed her bags and drove down in 2009, with no job or apartment lined up. She landed an internship with rbb Public Relations, and was promptly promoted to account coordinator. Now 26, she runs her own firm, Say What Communications, and also just got her real estate license.

Weather factored into her decision, as did quality of life. "I came for the lifestyle here – fun, sunshine – and from that, I had success in the business world," she explains.

Rebecca works from her Brickell home, and enjoys the area's walkability, safety and cleanliness. "This city, as much as it's a tourist city, really caters to residents." She cites Miami Spice, and free cultural events such as art walks in the Design District. For entertainment, options range from concerts and comedians at the Arsht Center and The Fillmore to sporting events.





Miami's Brickell Avenue

Doing more for Miami

BY ELLEN SCHULMAN

Former Miami Mayor Manny Diaz has long been an advocate for improving and elevating Miami's natural beauty. "There's nothing more important to me that government can do than to enhance a city aesthetically," Diaz once said. With his philosophy that a beautiful and clean city attracts people, promotes safety and creates pride, he led the effort to create Miami 21, a long-term urban plan.

"Great cities, large and small, are those that over time have embraced the opportunity to enhance the beautiful and generous public realm," he said in his Mayor's Message during the launch of Miami 21.

During his tenure as mayor, from 2001 to 2009, Diaz made aesthetics and the environment a central part of his agenda. He launched Clean Up Miami – now known as Clean and Green Miami – and announced a bold goal "to make Miami the cleanest large city in the United States." Trees were planted. Codes were enforced. Streets were

cleaned. Recycling efforts were promoted. And in 2008, Forbes magazine dubbed Miami "America's Cleanest City," specifically citing its clean drinking water, good air quality year round, abundant green spaces and recycling programs.

"Everybody participated in the effort," said Diaz. "And the dividends are enormous – from making neighborhoods safer to making property values higher."

He added that aesthetics create a profound and positive sense of community. "If people understand that their government cares," he said, "then people are more prone to become involved and to take care of their own property."

Despite the "clean" recognition, Miami has many challenges to overcome in order to provide beautiful public spaces for residents throughout our diverse neighborhoods. Our aesthetic

CODE ENFORCEMENT

2,881 citations for general blight (junk, trash or overgrowth on private property)



Source: Miami-Dade County, Building and Neighborhood Compliance, 2011

assets cannot serve the community if they are inadequate or inaccessible to residents. Distance and cost prevent over half of Miamians from enjoying our beaches and parks, and many outdoor areas remain under-utilized. In 2010, only about 42% of Miamians lived within a quarter-mile of a free park or beach. Community leaders have an important task ahead of them to support efforts that improve Miami's appearance and outdoor offerings for all residents in all neighborhoods.

With the exception of a few, pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods like Coconut Grove, South Beach and Brickell, most areas of Miami-Dade County give residents plenty of reasons to prefer wheels over walking. Some say long distances between work, shops and other daily stops keep them in their cars. Others point to streets built for speed and cars, not walkers and bicyclists.

Miami has been ranked the fourth most dangerous area for pedestrians, according to the national "Dangerous by Design" report from Transportation for America, a coalition campaigning for safer and cleaner transportation systems around the country.

Contradicting that ranking is Walk Score. By this measure, Miami ranks as the 8th most walkable city in the nation. Criteria used to determine the score include: connectivity, average block size, mixed use, proximity of transit, pedestrian safety, sidewalks, residential density, parks and applicant-initiated walkability features.

Walkability is not the only measure that matters, when it comes to judging the livability of a city. Keith Ward, the founder and president of Quality Management North America, Inc., a real estate investment and management firm specializing



Manny Diaz, former Miami Mayor

in rehabilitating multifamily properties, worries about the safety of "troubled" Miami neighborhoods.

"There are a high percentage of areas in Miami that are not comfortable to live in," says Ward. "If we can do something about cleaning up our troubled neighborhoods, businesses would come in and there would be more jobs for everyone."

Diaz says much of the long-term solution rests with attitude. "We focus so much on the negative and not enough on the positive," he said. "You have to make people feel good about things, inspire them to be proud of what they have and challenge them to do even greater things."

SAFE TO WALK WITHIN ONE MILE OF HOME SCORE

Score out of 100

73 County

MOST WALKABLE CITIES



Source: WalkScore, 2011, <http://www.walkscore.com>

About our Partners



Knight Foundation supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities and foster the arts. The foundation believes that democracy thrives when people and communities are informed and engaged.



The Florida International University Metropolitan Center is an applied social science research and training institute focusing on economic development, planning, performance improvement and policy solutions to public, private and nonprofit organizations in Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade Counties. The Center staff has over 60 years of combined experience in providing policy guidance to decision-makers in the public and nonprofit sectors.



Soul of the Community is a three-year study conducted by Gallup of the 26 John S. and James L. Knight Foundation communities across the United States employing a fresh approach to determine the factors that attach residents to their communities and the role of community attachment in an area's economic growth and well-being.



WPBT is South Florida's premier public broadcaster, WPBT2 is a community-licensed, not-for-profit media enterprise serving communities from the Treasure Coast to the Florida Keys. WPBT2 provides high quality content from PBS, independent acquisitions and its own original productions.

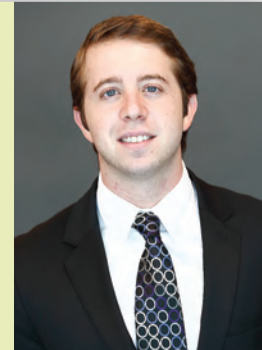


Pay Flamingos a Visit

There's more than horse racing to see at Hialeah Park. Some of the areas most exotic and vibrant residents live there – flamingos. They're also among the most famous, starring in television shows and feature films throughout the years. Remember them in the opener of Miami Vice? They first came to the track in 1933, and ever since have been hatching and growing up on-site, making it the only place the species has successfully reproduced outside of the wild. Their home – the infield of the racetrack – is a National Audubon Sanctuary. 2200 E 4th Ave.; Hialeah; 33010. hialeahparkracing.com

Young Talent

Pinecrest native **Alexander Cahlin** studied finance at the University of Florida. His first job was in Chicago, and then the 24-year-old moved back home last year to work as an associate for Blanca Commercial Real Estate.



"I knew I wanted to work in real estate and Miami is such a great place to be for real estate as opposed to New York and Chicago." He's referring to Miami's economic recovery thanks to the influx of foreign capital, and also that here you're not just trading existing buildings.

The Coconut Grove resident also likes that Miami is very entrepreneurial, and that culturally, the city is exploding at the seams, particularly Midtown and the Design District.

"I'm watching it grow right before my eyes." He says the possibilities in Miami are endless, and best for those with a sense of adventure and willingness to explore. "There's also boating, swimming and beautiful weather; you can't beat that."

Two Miami artists and one developer discuss the hot hood's overnight gentrification

BY REBECCA KLEINMAN



It wasn't too long ago that Wynwood was a warehouse wasteland. Then Art Basel blessed Miami with an elite fair, a group of gallerists designated the arts district, and developers began

taking the derelict neighborhood more seriously. Its artists' careers and real estate values have ballooned in tandem thanks to a deep symbiotic relationship.

Developer Tony Goldman understood this bond from the get-go. His Wynwood Walls, an outdoor art installation inspired by Miami-based Primary Flight, a collective that curates graffiti and contemporary art murals worldwide, invites artists to express their vision on warehouse exteriors.

"It's become so well-received that we're running out of blank canvases," he says.

Brandon Opalka serves as the unofficial poster boy for the murals. The South Florida-born graffiti-writer-turned-contemporary-artist walks the fine line between the street and the art gallery as ivory tower. He painted works for Primary Flight and Wynwood Walls depicting a majestic redwood tree being chopped down and transformed into lumber, respectively.



Brandon Opalka, graffiti-writer-turned-contemporary-artist, and his creations

"Not only did this platform teach me to think beyond the traditional canvas, but it's basically the best billboard an artist could ever ask for," he says. He has received similar commissions for private residences and exhibits beyond his Wynwood home base of Dorsch Gallery.

Typeoe, a self-taught graffiti and mixed-media artist who co-founded Primary Flight and its sister gallery Primary Projects, as well as being among Miami art dealer Anthony Spinello's roster, agrees Wynwood is at a cross roads. After watching the full wall mural cycle from illegal graffiti tagging to fighting the city for rights in the declaration of art to saturation and a wave of restaurants and shops that will eventually demand clean façades as the area becomes more commercial, he respects the movement's impermanence.

"The thing I love most about street art, whether it's legal or not, is it can't be contained. Come Basel, a whole new set of artists will show up and paint over what's there if they can," he says.

"So, on one hand, do I miss the days of having a 3,000-square-foot studio for \$700 a month there? Of course, but its gentrification has brought new gains."



'Fountain' by Typoe, a self-taught graffiti and mixed-media artist. (Image courtesy of Spinello Projects)

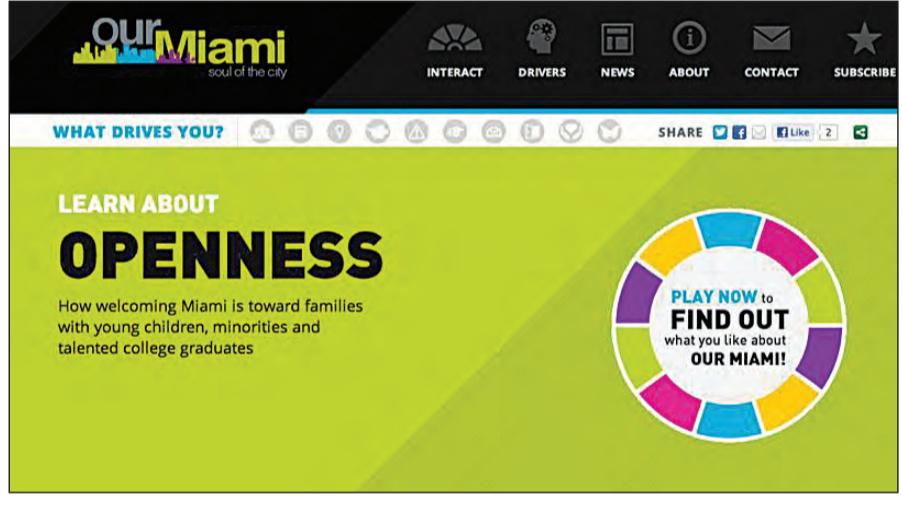
ourMiami.org

These pages serve to highlight the assets of Miami and what makes our community a unique place to live, learn, work and play.

We hope this publication affirms and celebrates our vibrant, thriving community and the many opportunities here. We also hope it has shed some light on the challenges we face together with potential solutions.

This is the beginning of a dialogue.

We invite you to visit ourMiami.org. This interactive site is designed to further connect you to



Miami and how you can play your part in making our community better. From current information about the happenings in our community,

opportunities to give your time and stories of Miamians like you, ourMiami.org will serve as your connection to all things Miami.



hidden gem

Paddle Don't Waddle

For the adventurous types looking for a good workout, there's paddleboarding on Biscayne Bay. Using a canoe paddle, paddlers stand on a modified surfboard to move through the water. Don't be surprised if you spot a gentle manatee or curious dolphins on your journey. Various companies offer lessons, equipment rentals and tours, such as Paddleboard Miami, which also markets paddle parties and yoga paddleboarding. If you prefer being on your own, try Matheson Hammock Park, where you'll enjoy the open bay and breathtaking views of Miami's skyline. Matheson Hammock Park is located at 9610 Old Cutler Road; Coral Gables; 33156. paddleboardmiami.com

Young Talent

Andrew Velo-Arias returned to his Hialeah roots after graduating from Harvard because he saw opportunity in Miami to work in finance for a large bank. "Throughout college, I realized more and more that getting back to Miami was a goal," he said. "My family is here and the cultural connection to Cuba and Latin America is strong."

Andrew feels comfortable with Miami's diversity, a quality he attributes to growing up and attending public school in the diverse Hialeah-Miami Lakes community. He sees a Miami that is becoming a more open place even though some cultural and socioeconomic groups still tend to stick together.

The entrepreneurial opportunities in a "fresher" city like Miami abound, he adds, emphasizing that becoming involved in public service is one of his priorities.

"I'd like to take advantage of the opportunities that are here and to give back in some way to a place that has welcomed my family and hundreds of other families like mine," he said. "It's exciting to me that Miami has a lot of potential and it still has a way to go to get to the level of a world-class city like New York."



Nicole Brisbane, who grew up in a Caribbean family, left her childhood neighborhood in the southwest Miami suburbs to attend college and experience a different part of America. "I wanted to experience what I thought was real America," she said. "I felt like Miami wasn't real America - it was more of a Caribbean and Latin America offshoot."

After graduating from Florida State University and earning her law degree from Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., Nicole returned to Miami with Teach for America. Today, she works for the nonprofit education organization on a national site development team and lives in the Omni district to be close to her job and social life.

She sees a new global, enriched Miami that can be segregated yet welcoming. "Miami attracts so many different kinds of people," she observed.

"Having an opportunity to give back to my community is important to me," she added, remarking that she connects to a small group of like-minded young people. "I think Miami has the potential of being an intellectual space for young professionals."