

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # **318-2015**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

To: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

From: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

Date: August 10, 2015

Subject: Florida International University Impact Report

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.

The Impact Report and letter from FIU President Rosenberg were delivered to each of you as well.

The three anchors of this collaboration – Arts, Culture, and History; Florida Coastal Resilience and Adaptation; and Youth and Education Development – 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/LDF

C: Kathie G. Brooks, Assistant City Manager  
Mark Taxis, Assistant City Manager  
Max Sklar, Tourism Culture and Economic Development Director  
Betsy Wheaton, Assistant Building Director Environmental Division  
Jose Gonzalez, Transportation Director  
Dr. Leslie Rosenfeld, Chief Learning and Development Officer



2014-15



FIU and  
City of Miami Beach

# Solutions for Cities

Florida International University (FIU) and the City of Miami Beach have forged a dynamic partnership leveraging our unique assets—geography, history, demographics and intellectual capital—to address the city’s most pressing challenges.

FIU has a long-term investment in the City of Miami Beach, with three cultural and creative anchors:

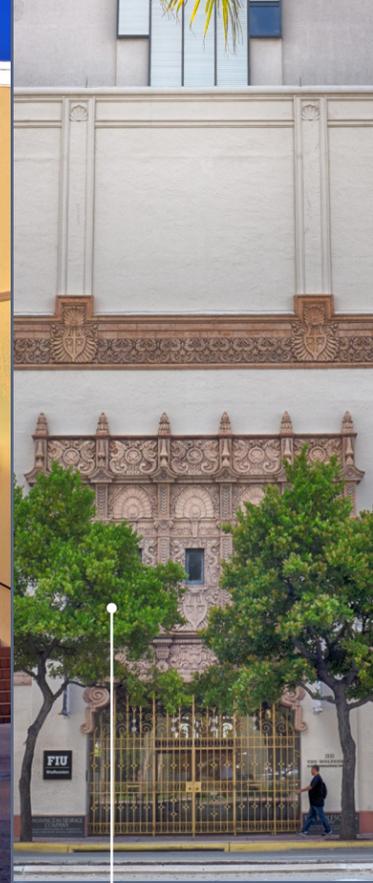
- **FIU College of Architecture + The Arts (CARTA) Miami Beach Urban Studios (MBUS)** - Lincoln Road
- **Wolfsonian-FIU Museum** - Washington Avenue
- **Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU** - Washington Avenue

The partnership is driven by workgroups focused on:

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



Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU



Wolfsonian-FIU Museum



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



## 2014-15 Successes

### Arts, Culture & History

- Wolfsonian-FIU, MBUS, Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU and Holocaust Memorial of Miami Beach celebrated the city’s centennial with various exhibitions including events that explored 100 Years of Jewish Miami Beach and Miami Beach during WWII.
- An exhibition, *Lincoln Road Follies* by Morris Lapidus, at MBUS will run through August 14, 2015.
- A panel discussion, *Learning from Lapidus*, was held in April 2015.
- FIU faculty are collaborating in the revitalization study of Lincoln Road.
- A partnership with the FIU School of Music and St. Patrick’s Cathedral was kickstarted with the FIU Symphony and Concert Choir performance at St. Patrick’s during the centennial.
- More than 13,000 photographs, postcards and other material has been digitized and catalogued through a digital archive project involving the city, FIU students, the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) Department of History and the Wolfsonian-FIU Museum. A website launched at [digitalmiami-beacharchives.com](http://digitalmiami-beacharchives.com) to make the images publicly available.
- FIU’s CARTA artist-in-residence Xavier Cortada unveiled a digital painting, “Just below the surface: 1915 (The Founding of Miami Beach),” at Miami Beach City Hall.



CARTA artist-in-residence Xavier Cortada created artwork for the Miami Beach Centennial.

### Youth & Education Development

- 24 internships per year will be offered to FIU undergraduate and graduate students, with positions in arts, history and culture, transportation, engineering, education/organization development, public administration and the environment.
- World Ocean Watch, an environmental and educational marine science program for Miami Beach Senior High School, is being developed.
- The number of Dual Enrollment classes increased at Miami Beach Senior High School in partnership with the City, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), and FIU.
- Work is underway to enhance student achievement at Nautilus Middle School through the ACCESS partnership with the City, FIU and M-DCPS.

# Other Areas of Collaboration

## Transportation

- City Manager Jimmy Morales and the city's newly formed transportation team visited FIU's Lehman Center for Transportation Research to discuss possible partnerships. Potential areas of collaboration include evaluation and planning for traffic and safety for special events; study and planning for land use; dynamic toll entry solutions; pedestrian safety recommendations; and emergency evacuation planning.

## FIU Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Disaster Preparedness Workshop

- The City of Miami Beach and SBDC at FIU have teamed up to help local businesses be prepared in the event of a natural disaster. In June, SBDC at FIU, with representatives from the Small Business Administration (SBA) and The Beacon Council, presented a workshop on business continuity and disaster preparedness. Miami Beach business owners learned about the steps they can take to increase the chances of their business surviving a natural disaster, as well as learn about SBA disaster loans and State of Florida Emergency Bridge Loans.

# 2014-15 Successes (cont.)

## Florida Coastal Resilience & Adaptation

- With support from FIU faculty, Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine and the City Commission hosted a Sea Level Rise Summit in March 2015.
- FIU Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences Mike Heithaus was joined by several FIU experts to discuss initiatives to mitigate the impact of sea level rise.
- FIU awarded a full scholarship to Rebecca Rauch-Thane from Miami Beach Senior High School for her commitment to scientific solutions for our world's problems.
- Two National Science Foundation Urban Sustainability Research Network grants will help local municipalities, including Miami Beach, work with other climate-vulnerable cities on mitigation of sea level rise.
- The City of Miami Beach and FIU presented "The Rising Sea: A Sea Level Rise Teach-In" in April 2015, educating the city's residents on the challenges of climate change and sea level rise.
- FIU faculty visited the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to discuss local plans as a model for the nation. The City of Miami Beach and FIU team also met with President Barack Obama during his visit to the Everglades to encourage sea level adaptation collaboration.
- FIU architecture students created models demonstrating the effects of sea-level rise in Florida, which were exhibited at the Coral Gables Museum.
- FIU's School of Journalism & Mass Communication launched the Sea Level Rise Toolbox application, which allows users to search a specific location and see how an increase in sea level rise would affect it.



FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg and students participate in the Miami Beach Gay Pride Parade.



MIAMI BEACH POLICE DEPT  
1921

Miami Beach police officers in front of City Hall, 1921. Courtesy of Miami Beach Digital Archives.



Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine and FIU's Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Mike Heithaus speak at the Sea Level Rise Summit in March 2015.



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