2015 was a headline year for the exciting mixed-use Miami River District, which received significant positive national and local press. Highlights included approvals of 3,280 high-density residential units, 550 hotel rooms, and 6 restaurants, all featuring additional sections of the public riverwalk and waterborne transportation in Miami’s downtown “Lower River,” 11 new single family homes were approved and a new recreational boatyard opened for business in the “Middle River,” 2 new restaurants opened and 2 more commenced construction, the historic Miami River Inn is being restored, 3 new sections of the public Riverwalk were constructed, and more.

The Miami River Commission (MRC) thanks the State of Florida for renewing their $150,000 appropriation to continue providing needed services along the historic Miami River.

THE STATE OF THE HISTORIC MIXED-USE MIAMI RIVER IS STRONGER THAN EVER. The river is the birthplace of our vibrant dynamic community, evidenced from the Tequesta Indians 2,000 year old Miami Circle (designated National Historic Landmark), to Mary Brickell, Julia Tuttle and Henry Flagler. Today the Miami River remains a crucial part of our City's present and future.

THE RIVER IS ALIVE AND WELL! Environmental agencies recently inspected the Miami River, discovered and remediated a source of contamination to improve the Miami River's water quality in the recently maintenance dredged 15-foot deep navigable channel. The river is used daily by international shipping vessels, yachts, marinas, dolphins, marlins, and other marine life. The Miami River's shorelines feature public riverwalks, parks, over 7,500 new residential units (additional 3,280 approved units), major hotels (additional 3 planned hotels), 19 operating restaurants (additional 18 planned restaurants), 16 historic sites, and job-generating marine industrial businesses operating along the “Port of 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 MIAMI RIVER IS THE AORTA in the heart of the City of Miami, and its beautiful multi-cultural 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 2016 funding providers: State of Florida ($150,000), Miami-Dade County ($35,000), City of Miami ($30,000), and private sector advertisers in the MRC’s 13th Annual Miami River Map and Guide, 5th Annual Miami River Calendar, and 20th Annual Miami River Day. 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 funding 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 projects RFP in 2015, and dredging commences in Spring 2016.

I INVITE YOU TO BRING your loved ones 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
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-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 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 2016 and significantly improve the environment and economy.

The MRC appreciates all the agencies which in 2015 inspected the Miami River for 3 days searching for sources of contamination, which were then remediated. This inspection generated a list of action items which will be conducted to improve water quality.

**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.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCE**

**THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCE SUBCOMMITTEE** supported the Miami-Dade School Board’s resolution to create marine industrial vocational classes, and is assisting in the creation of a curriculum. The subcommittee commenced efforts to create a more detailed Miami River Property and Business Database, and thanks Miami-Dade County Tax Appraiser Pedro Garcia for his assistance.

In 2015 a new boatyard opened, 2 new riverfront restaurants opened and 2 more commenced construction, an office building was constructed, the historic Miami River Inn is under renovations, 3,280 new residential units, 550 hotel rooms and 6 new riverfront restaurants were approved. Therefore the Miami River District is ripe with mixed-use economic development and commerce.
**Downtown Zone:** Urban, high-density residential, offices, commercial businesses. Riverwalks link historic landmarks and parks along river.

**Residential / Mixed Use Zone:** Includes historic neighborhoods, marine-industrial businesses, parks, etc.

**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.

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**VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

*Jay Carmichael, Chair*

**THE MIAMI RIVER VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (VIP)** identifies and encourages public and private sector riverfront parcels to address various riverfront issues which are potentially detrimental to operations on the River, the environmental quality of the River, and the River’s attraction as a destination for residents, tourists and businesses. In 2015 alone, the Miami River “VIP” resulted in the removal of 5 derelict vessels, 24 Miami River Greenway Beautification volunteer events featuring plantings, removal of illegal dumping, invasive species, and graffiti along several sections of the Miami River, repairing Riverwalk lights, un-clogging stormwater drains, removing a floating hazard to navigation and oil sheen, found and corrected sources of contamination etc. The MRC thanks Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, FIND, FDOT, private sector, and the fantastic volunteers for their hard work bringing these River improvements to fruition.

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**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

1988 – 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

2003 – 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 Greenway 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

2010-2015 – Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed
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 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 24 volunteer beautification events in 2015. 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 20th Annual Miami Riverday Festival is scheduled April 2, 2016, in Lummus Park, 250 NW North River Drive. Just like the 19th annual festival, held April 11, 2015, 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
HNTB
University of Miami
Hands On Miami
Florida International University
Miami Dade College
Florida Wood Recycling
Florida Drawbridge
St. Thomas University
Touch Miami with Love

Ex-Officio Members:
CONGRESSWOMAN ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Designee: MS. DEBBIE ZIMMERMAN
CAPTAIN AUSTIN J. GOULD
United States Coast Guard
Captain of the Port of Miami
Managing Director: Mr. BRETT BIBEAU

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