In 2017 another Miami River Commission (MRC) priority commenced construction, the Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project. The MRC thanks the City of Miami, Florida Inland Navigation District, and the State of Florida for funding the project, which is significantly improving the local economy and removing toxic sediments, including dioxin, from the most polluted waterway in the State of Florida.

Additional 2017 successes in the Miami River District include construction commenced along another 3 sections of the public Miami River Greenway at River Landing featuring 420,000 square feet of retail and 506 residential units, and at Aston Martin Residences featuring 384 residential units, renovations are under construction at RMK Merrill-Stevens Boatyard, approval of a renovated 45 slip marina, approval of 1,012 new riverfront residential units featuring public Riverwalks, 2 new riverfront restaurants opened, and another restaurant was approved, all with public riverwalks, and progress on the Brickell Ave tunnel.
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.

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
RMK Merrill-Stevens commends the Miami River Commission’s successful long term efforts and support for the job generating marine industrial businesses operating along Port Miami River. We are pleased to undergo major renovations to this historic boatyard, including a new seawall, new infrastructure, new workshops/storage space, and new shiplift. In addition we have recently re-established the Merrill-Stevens Yachts sales and brokerage business and now represent Sealine Yachts as the South Florida dealer as well as Service and Warranty Center for Sealine, Fjord and Maori Yachts.

- Aaron Leatherwood, President, RMK-Merrill-Stevens

"In 2017, construction commenced at River Landing, featuring 850 feet of public Riverline, 420,000 square feet of retail and 506 residential units. River Landing looks forward to becoming part of the exciting Miami River District. We want to promote urban life on the river and develop a place so unique and uncomplicated that delivers a simple lifestyle for those who appreciate generous green spaces while shopping. We sincerely appreciate the Miami River Commission’s strong support for the project and applaud the Miami River Commission’s successful efforts to revitalize the mixed-use Miami River." – Andrew Hellinger, General Manager of the 5th Street Marina

The 5th Street Marina appreciates the Miami River Commission’s important role in guiding growth for the Miami River District. It’s been a pleasure to work with the Commission on our forthcoming restaurant project and public riverwalk, “Gramps by the Sea, on the River”. The proposed small seafood restaurant and the existing Ferrino Sports Fitness Club are the types of amenities that round out our primary maritime businesses; 5th Street Marina, Langer Krell Marine Electronics, and Norseman Shipbuilding Corp., making us more marketable and attractive as a location for boat owners, captains, and crew." - Orin Black, General Manager of the 5th Street Marina

"The City of Miami, Park & Recreation Department is thankful for the sustained collaboration with the Miami River Commission, which hires a professional company and brings volunteers to assist in the maintenance of the City’s fabulous riverfront parks. In addition, the City of Miami appreciates the MRC’s constant efforts to secure grant funding to improve the public Riverwalk and its beautiful riverfront parks. We are also looking forward to creatively addressing sea-level rise and its impact on our riverside parks and beyond. Starting this year we will work with world class engineering and creative minds to plan and develop best practices and designs to reduce the impacts of sunny-day flooding, storm surges and significant rain events – this we will do with the MRC." – Kevin M. Kirwin, City of Miami, Director, Parks and Recreation Department
**MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY  Dr. Ernest Martin, Chair**

**IN 2017 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. In 2017, another 3 sections of the public Riverwalk were under construction 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.

The MRC thanks the City of Miami and its residents for voting to include funding for the Miami River Greenway in the approved Miami Forever Bond issue and applying for grant funding from Sun Trail, FIND, Kaboom, and Neat Streets for more funding towards completing the project.

**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. In 2017 the Stormwater subcommittee’s highest priority commenced construction of the City of Miami’s 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 project is significantly improving the environment and economy.

The MRC appreciates all the agencies which in 2017 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.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCE  Philip Everingham, Chair**

**THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCE SUBCOMMITTEE** worked with FDOT on the Miami River Freight Improvement Plan. In 2017, construction commenced at River Landing featuring 420,000 square feet of retail and 506 residential units, construction commenced at Aston Martin Residences featuring 384 residential units, renovations are under construction at RMK Merrill Stevens Boatyard, approval of a renovated 45 slip marina, approval of 1,012 new riverfront residential units featuring public Riverwalks, 2 new riverfront restaurants opened, and another restaurant was approved, all with public riverwalks, and progress on the Brickell Ave tunnel. Therefore the Miami River District is ripe with mixed-use economic development, commerce and jobs.
VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN
Frank Balzebre, Chair

THE MIAMI RIVER VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN identifies and encourages public and private sector riverfront parcels to address issues which are potentially detrimental to operations on the River, the environmental quality of the River, and businesses. In 2017 alone, the Miami River VIP resulted in 29 major 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, unclogging stormwater drains, removing a floating hazard to navigation and oil sheen sources of contamination etc. The MRC thanks Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, Voluntary Improvement Plan sector, and the fantastic volunteers for their hard work bringing these River improvements to fruition.

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

1910
Lummus Park created on Miami River

1897
Shipping and Marine Industrial Zone: Center of the river’s trade and industry.

1910
The Miami Intermodal Center links rail, air, freight, transit, pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

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

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

2001
Sections of the River Greenway constructed

2002
Sections of the River Greenway constructed

2003
Sections of the River Greenway constructed
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 quality of the River, and the attraction for residents, tourists, the Miami River “VIP” River Greenway Beautification plantings, removal of illegal dumping, invasive species, and graffiti along several repairing Riverwalk lights, trash, removing a floating green, found and corrected by the MRC thanks Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, FIND, FDOT, private volunteers for their hard work to fruition.

The MIAMI RIVER VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (VIP) (VIP)

Frank Balzebre, 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 quality of the River, and the attraction for residents, tourists, the Miami River “VIP” River Greenway Beautification plantings, removal of illegal dumping, invasive species, and graffiti along several repairing Riverwalk lights, trash, removing a floating green, found and corrected by the MRC thanks Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, FIND, FDOT, private volunteers for their hard work to fruition.

The MIAMI RIVER VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (VIP) (VIP)

Frank Balzebre, 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 quality of the River, and the attraction for residents, tourists, the Miami River “VIP” River Greenway Beautification plantings, removal of illegal dumping, invasive species, and graffiti along several repairing Riverwalk lights, trash, removing a floating green, found and corrected by the MRC thanks Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, FIND, FDOT, private volunteers for their hard work to fruition.

Bicycle riding along new public riverwalk, featuring free temporary boat dockage in Lummus Park.

Downtown Zone: Urban, high-density residential, offices, commercial businesses. Riverwalks link historic landmarks and parks along river.

2002

02 Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2003

03 Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2004

2004 City of Miami adopts “A Vision for Miami’s 21st Century Parks & Public Spaces” recommending completion of the Miami River Greenway

2005

2005 Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2006

2006 Miami River Corridor Multi-Modal Transportation Plan created by Metropolitan Planning Organization and MRC recommending completion of the Miami River Greenway

2007

2007 Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2008

2008 City Bicycle Master Plan adopted recommending completion of the Miami River Greenway

2009

2009 • Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2010-2017

2010-2017 Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed
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 29 major volunteer beautification events in 2017. 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 22nd Annual Miami Riverday festival is scheduled April 7, 2018, in Lummus Park, 250 NW North River Drive. Just like the 21st annual festival, held April 1, 2017, 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.
Miami River Commission

Members

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

Vice Chair: Mr. FRANK BALZEBRE
Designee for Miami Dade Mayor: Mayor CARLOS GIMENEZ

Florida Governor RICK SCOTT
Designee: MS. PATRICIA “PATTY” HARRIS

Mr. LUIS GARCIA
Member-at-Large Appointed by the Governor
Designee: MR. JOHN MICHAEL CORNELL

Rep. KIONNE MCGHEE
Chair, Miami-Dade Delegation

Mayor FRANCIS SUAREZ
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: Mr. DAVID MAER, 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. NEAL SCHAFERS

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: MICHAEL KARCHER, Chair of Marine Council

Ms. SARA C. BABUN
Member-at-Large appointed by the Miami-Dade County Commission
Designee: Ms. ROSELVIC NOGUERA

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

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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

International shipping vessels and cargo operating in Port Miami River