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SESSION GUIDE

*"IT'S ALL
ABOUT OUR CITIES"*

Thursday, October 13, 2022
Hilton Miami Downtown

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2022-2023**

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Hon. Anna Hochkammer
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Hon. Claudia Mariaca
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Hon. Jaime Mendal
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Hon. Orlando Lopez
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Hon. Bryan Calvo
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Mayor, Village of Miami Shores

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Hon. Yioest De La Cruz
Mayor, City of Hialeah Gardens

Hon. Walter Fajet
Vice Mayor, City of Miami Springs

Hon. Eric Diaz-Padron
Mayor, City of West Miami

9:00 a.m.- 10:15 a.m.: Concerto Ballroom A

Building a Better Transportation System Together

The panel will cover best practices and opportunities for building a better transportation system, from planning to implementation. Topics will include collaboration on transportation master planning, reducing traffic fatalities and severe injuries through Vision Zero, and connecting communities across Miami-Dade to transit through the Better Bus Network, SMART Program and other important initiatives.



Grace Perdomo is the Executive Director of Transit Alliance and is currently based in Coral Gables. As an urban designer and planner, Grace is passionate about the need to plan with environmental responsibility and social equity in mind, with a focus on connecting communities and people through engaging outreach and decision-making in design. She believes in sustainable and resilient city-building whereby the impacts on our urban city, our communities and its end users amplify the need for every design solution to look forward 30 years, and design for that reality today. As a city-walking enthusiast, Grace loves projects that explore creative ways in which to repurpose, reclaim or reimagine our city's urban fabric in order to improve and promote better mobility, physical activity, health and well-being for all Miamians.



Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice Chairman, Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners is a graduate of Florida A&M University and the University of Miami School of Law, where he graduated with honors. In 2008, Oliver was appointed to the Miami Gardens City Council. He served in this capacity until 2012 when he was elected as the second Mayor of Miami Gardens. He is a Past President of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities, a former President of the African American Mayors Association, a Board Member of the Florida League of Mayors, National League of Cities, Advisory Board Member of the United States Conference of Mayors, and the Chairman of the Miami-Dade County Transportation Planning Organization, and Chair of Southeast Florida Transportation Council (SEFTC). He is also a proud member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Vice Chairman Gilbert is also a member of Leadership Florida and a Miami Fellows, Class V.



Joseph M. Corradino was elected as Pinecrest's fourth mayor in 2016 and was re-elected, without opposition, in 2020. He served on the Village Council from 2006-2014 and previously was a member of the Village's Planning and Zoning Board for four years. He earned a B.A. from Villanova University and a Masters in Urban Planning from the University of Cincinnati. Mayor Corradino is a certified urban planner and is the president of The Corradino Group. He is a Past President of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities, and Past Chairman of the Board of several local organizations including the American Planning Association, the Doral Business Council, ChamberSouth, and the Economic Development Council of South Dade. Mayor Corradino is the longest-serving elected official in the Village's history.



Eulois Cleckley serves as the Director and CEO of the Department of Transportation and Public Works for Miami-Dade County. As Director and CEO, Cleckley oversees the 15th largest public transit system in the country and the largest transit agency in the State of Florida. With approximately 4,000 employees, DTPW is one of the largest departments in Miami-Dade County government serving a population of 2.8 million residents. He was the previous Executive Director of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI) for the City and County of Denver. He also led the creation of DOTI, and as Executive Director, he ran one of the city's largest and most dynamic departments focused on modernizing Denver's transportation system, constructing public facilities, maintaining sanitary and sewer systems and providing solid waste removal, recycling and composting services.



Aileen Bouclé is the Executive Director for the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization. She has worked in the transportation field for almost 25 years in both the private industry and with the Florida Department of Transportation. Ms. Bouclé has a Master's Degree in Environmental and Urban Systems, with a specialty in Transportation Planning, as well as a Bachelor of Business Administration from Florida International University. She is also a Certified Professional Planner with the American Planning Association Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

Collaborating to Combat Climate Change and Save Biscayne Bay

The discussion will focus on how to build resilient communities by working together to address sea level rise and flooding through neighborhood-level planning, mitigate the effects of climate change through the expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure and solar energy, and protect our communities from extreme heat through resilient infrastructure like green spaces. Panelists will also discuss opportunities to partner on lowering nutrient pollution entering waterways and Biscayne Bay through septic-to-sewer conversions, stormwater management, fertilizer bans, environmental stewardship initiatives, and more.



James Murley currently serves as Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) for Miami-Dade County. In that position he leads the 7th largest County in the United States in sustainability and resilience issues. He leads the Office of Resilience focusing on energy efficiency and conservation actions and addressing the impacts of sea level rise. He has spent over four decades working on public policy issues important to Florida. He was also the founding Executive Director of 1000 Friends of Florida, a statewide not-for-profit focused on sound community planning and protection of natural resources. He also helped author sections of the 2014 National Climate Assessment and serves on several county level Task Forces focusing on energy and climate issues.



Crystal Wagar is a Miami Shores Village Councilwoman and Partner at LSN Partners, LLC. Crystal is a well-respected attorney and advocate. She has a wide range of experience in both the public and private sectors. Crystal's public sector experience includes general counsel for the Black Economic Development Corporation, interim city manager for the Village of El Portal, and chief policy aide and chief of staff to former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jimmy Morales. In the private sector, Wagar worked at two prominent South Florida law firms prior to opening her own boutique advocacy firm, the Connor Group Miami. In late 2013, Crystal moved to Singapore where she spent nearly four years representing the United States in her role as spouse to the United States Ambassador. In April of 2019, Crystal was elected as Mayor of Miami Shores. She also made history as the first African American woman ever elected in the Village's 89-year existence. Crystal graduated from Temple University and received her law degree from William Mitchell College of Law. Wagar is a current member of the national African American Mayors Association (AAMA). Crystal was named one of South Florida's 50 most powerful and influential black business leaders of 2012, received the Thurgood Marshall Distinguished Young Leader Award, the South Florida Women Extraordinaire Award and named a Miracle Maker by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Miami. Crystal is currently on the Board of Miami Children's Museum, and on the Executive Board of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities.



Irella Bagué is Miami Dade's first Chief Bay Officer (CBO). As the Chief Bay Officer, Ms. Bagué acts as a liaison between County departments, County boards, external agencies, stakeholder groups, and local, state and federal governments to provide direction, emphasis, and coordination for all issues related to Biscayne Bay. This role focuses on water quality issues, policies and appropriations related to the health and recovery of Biscayne Bay. She is also president & CEO of Bagué Group, a full-service consulting firm with over 20 years of experience in Florida with expertise in strategic communications, water policy, sustainability, climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience. Ms. Bagué is a former Governing Board Member of the South Florida Water Management District where she held the position of Vice-Chair. She is a longtime advocate of Everglades and Biscayne Bay restoration, climate change and promotes ethnic diversity and inclusion in the environmental movement. Ms. Bagué is chair of Miami-Dade County's Biscayne Bay Task Force, Vice-Chair of the Resilience Committee of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and serves on the City of Coral Gables Sustainability Advisory Board.

Collaborating to Combat Climate Change and Save Biscayne Bay

Steve Williamson serves as the Village Manager for Key Biscayne, a barrier island off the coast of Miami facing significant water infrastructure challenges. As the Village's Chief Executive Officer, he is responsible for its safety and security, cultivating a thriving and vibrant community and marketplace, providing engaging and active programs and public spaces, creating a connected and mobile transportation network, and most pertinent, developing a resilient and sustainable environment and infrastructure. Water and other environmental changes are the main drivers as the Village plans to invest \$250 million to implement a comprehensive resilient infrastructure program. Steve is a graduate of the University of Virginia's McIntire School of Commerce, received master's degrees from Webster University, Texas A&M University, the U.S. Army War College, and earned an Executive MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.



Joel Serface is Founder and CEO (Community Empowerment Officer) of Infiniblaze, and Acceleration Platform that Creates ClimateSmart Communities. Joel a cleantech pioneer creating or funding more than 20 companies and architecting the Silicon Valley, Austin, and Colorado cleantech ecosystems. The Acceleration Platforms Joel created have developed 2 gigawatts of renewable power to date totaling more than \$3 billion in financings. From this, Joel has been rated as one of the top Energy Industry CEO's by Best Startup Magazine.



Rachel Silverstein, Ph.D., joined Miami Waterkeeper as Executive Director & Waterkeeper in June of 2014. As Waterkeeper, Rachel has grown the organization from 1 staff member to over 10 full time staff. Rachel leads team efforts to achieve "water wins", such as protecting corals from dredging, stopping major sewage leaks, passing key legislation. Rachel has been featured in hundreds of press articles, including the New York Times, CNN, National Geographic, and more. As Waterkeeper, Rachel has authored 6 Op-Eds and 6 peer-reviewed scientific articles, and speaks to thousands of community members every year. Rachel has been awarded the Miami Herald Visionary Award, the UM Reitmeister-Abess Center Environmental Stewardship Award, the Diatom Award for Environmental and Civic Activism by the City of Miami Beach, and was named top 20 environmentalists in South Florida by The New Times. Rachel received a Ph.D. in the Department of Marine Biology and Fisheries from the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School for Marine and Atmospheric Science in 2012 and graduated cum laude in 2006 from Columbia University with a B.S. degree in Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology.

Humanizing The Badge: Community Policing, Communication, and Enforcement

This session will entail an Honest and Transparent discussion regarding the current state of Law Enforcement and Community Relations. We will address the history of these relations, the issues that still persist today, and the methods and practices that can be implemented to resolve said issues. We will discuss our Law Enforcement Officers, what they feel, what they think, and how they balance Community Policing with Enforcement. Furthermore, we will discuss the importance of Communication between Law Enforcement Officers and the communities they serve...as we "Humanize the Badge."



Omarr C. Nickerson, Mayor Village of El Portal received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Miami "The U" in Liberal and Social Arts, his 1st Master's Degree in Global History and Socio-Geographic Studies from the University of Cairo, in Egypt, his 2nd Master's Degree in International Political Science and Economic Development from the University of Damascus, in Syria as well as his Doctorate Degree in International Studies and International Relations/Affairs. Mayor Nickerson is first and foremost a lecturer, who has given numerous speeches to the public throughout the Middle East and Asia. He also works as a "hands-on" educator with schools that are listed under the educational transformation status, due to their low scores on standardized tests. He has obtained Certifications in Micro and Macro Economics, World History, American Government, American History, and Geography.



Esteban Bovo, Jr., Mayor of the City of Hialeah was elected on November 2, 2021 to serve a four-year term. His commitment to Public Service is extensive. Mayor Bovo served as Hialeah Councilman in 1998, and was successfully re-elected twice, and also served as Council President. From 2008-2011 he served as State Representative for District 110; in 2011 Mayor Bovo was elected to the Miami-Dade Commission representing district 13. In 2016 he was elected by his peers to Chair the Board of County Commission. Mayor Bovo has been a proud resident of Miami-Dade County for over 47 years and holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Florida International University.



Rodney Harris, Mayor of the City of Miami Gardens took the oath of office on November 16, 2020 becoming the City's third Mayor since its inception in 2003. Harris is currently the co-chair of the Miami Gardens Community Redevelopment Area (CRA). He serves as an executive board member of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities (MDCCLC), an Advisory Board member for the Sylvester Cancer Center and he serves on the Miami Gardens Charter Review committee. He was recognized by Legacy magazine as one of Miami's fifty most powerful and influential black professionals in business and industry and was recently selected as one of the honorees of the Miami Dade Black Affairs Advisory board's 2019 black history month "Vessels and Triumphant Spirits exhibits". Prior to becoming Mayor, in November 2012, he was elected Councilman for Seat 3 in the City of Miami Gardens, in August 2016 was re-elected for a second term and in 2018 was appointed Vice Mayor of the City of Miami Gardens. Harris' love for his city and its residents motivates him to diligently pursue excellence in making the City of Miami Gardens a thriving, productive place to live, worship, work, and play.



Anthony F. DeFillipo, Mayor City of North Miami Beach is the liaison for the Planning and Zoning Board and the Management Pension Board. Prior to his position as mayor, he served as an NMB city commissioner from May 2013 to November 2018. Mayor DeFillipo is a member of the Washington Park Voter's Council. He also served as the president of the Greater NMB Chamber of Commerce for 6 years. He is a 20-year successful past NMB business owner and is currently a Real Estate Associate and Property Management Director at Decorus Realty. He serves on the Executive Board Member of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities.



Alejandro "Alex" Mendez, Chief of Police for the Village of El Portal since November of 2021. Retired from the City of Miami in 2017, with 29 years of service to include Patrol, Motors Squad, Internal Affairs/Anti-Corruption, Special Investigations and Administration.



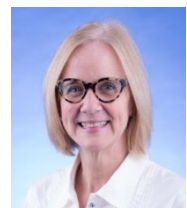
Felix Del Rosario, Miami POA (Police Officers Association) FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) Lodge 20 / City of Miami Police Department. He was born and raised in the city of Miami and is a proud Miamian. Mr. Rosario graduated from Miami Senior High School, has a BA in Political Science and an MBA from FIU. He has been a police officer since 2008 and has worked in patrol, Problem Solving Team, Robbery Detective, Beats, and now serves as the Vice President for the local police union, Miami FOP Lodge #20.

Tackling the Housing Affordability Crisis

The panel will explore both short-term and long-term solutions to the affordability crisis. The discussion will cover financing for workforce housing programs, leveraging existing programs to provide relief to residents, interlocal coordination on housing and land use, and addressing affordability more broadly as it relates to accessible transit.



Daniella Levine Cava was elected Miami-Dade County's first-ever woman Mayor in November 2020. She enters the Mayor's office following a 40-year career as a relentless advocate for South Florida families in public service and elected leadership. As Miami-Dade County's Mayor, she oversees a metropolitan government with more than 28,000 employees serving nearly 3 million residents, managing an annual budget of approximately \$9 billion. Since taking office, she has worked to protect lives and livelihoods by deploying a countywide operation to distribute coronavirus vaccines efficiently and equitably across Miami-Dade; appointing the County's first Chief Medical officer; and working closely with city leaders and the business community to spread a unified pandemic response message. In collaboration with the Board of County Commissioners, she is working to distribute millions of federal dollars in American Rescue Plan relief funds to support small businesses and residents impacted by the pandemic, invest in critical infrastructure projects, and kickstart long term recovery. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology with honors from Yale University and graduate degrees in law and social work from Columbia University. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology with honors from Yale University and graduate degrees in law and social work from Columbia University.



Eileen Higgins was elected on June 19th, 2018 to serve as the County Commissioner for District 5. A dynamic and vibrant district, she represents parts of Miami Beach, Downtown, and Brickell as well as Coral Way neighborhoods like the Roads, Silver Bluff, and Shenandoah — along with Little Havana and West Flagler to the north. Eileen believes that Miami-Dade can be the best place on Earth to live, but only if we come together to solve our most pressing problems. This is why Eileen has always fought — and continues to fight — for resiliency in the face of a changing environment, common sense gun reforms to keep us safe, and programs that afford everyone an equal shot at the American Dream. From more reliable transportation to sea level rise, from affordable housing to better paying jobs, she is a champion for the policies that help everyone in our community succeed. She is a graduate of the University of New Mexico, and got her start as an engineer in a blue jumpsuit at a heavy-duty manufacturing plant, where she learned to streamline processes and solve inefficiencies earned her MBA from Cornell University.



Marvin Wilmoth is a first-generation Honduran-American, a husband, a community builder, and civic leader. His first priority is you. Each person that calls North Bay Village home is important and having the opportunity to engage with the community is what inspired him to run for Harbor Island Commissioner. Marvin wants to change the narrative of the Village, and that means getting back to the business of a well-functioning and transparent local government. Marvin began his career in finance at JPMorgan in New York. He earned a B.S. and M.B.A. from Florida A&M University, where he graduated with honors and an M.A. from Columbia University in New York.



Jorge Damian de la Paz is the Senior Strategist for Government Innovation in the Office of Mayor-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava. Jorge has a background in affordable housing, public interest technology, and community development. Before joining the County, he oversaw affordable housing initiatives at the University of Miami's Office of Civic and Community Engagement and created online tools focused on regional housing issues. Jorge also served as a policy analyst at Miami Homes for All where he managed successful advocacy efforts at the city and county-level. As a winner of the Knight Cities Challenge, he helped create free software that tracks public meetings across various cities to increase in-person engagement.



Enrique Teran is the Co-Founder and Principal of Avanti Way Group, a real estate conglomerate of investments, property management, asset management, title services, brokerage services and prop-tech companies. Avanti Way Group's affiliate entities: Avanti Way Capital, Avanti Way Realty, Folio Title, Propfolio Property Management, and TTK Technology, are all fully integrated with award-winning, proprietary technology platforms, to provide unparalleled, tech-enabled real estate solutions for domestic and international buyers, sellers, and investors. Teran serves as the 2022 President of the Miami Board of Realtors. He earned a bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems from American Intercontinental University. He acquired his real estate license over twenty years ago.

Succeeding in Municipal Government: The Calm after The Storm

As a Mayor, as a Vice Mayor, as a Commissioner, as a Councilperson, as a Manager of a Municipality... How do you achieve success? What are the steps to become successful? What does success look like? We will look at the problems and challenges that will confront you while working in Municipal Government. Whether you inherited these challenges as you began your administration or you were faced with them during your administration. How do you find "The Calm after The Storm?" What are the steps that you need to take? Who do you need to have in place to assist you? This lively topic will be discussed by some of those in our County who have been successful in Municipal Government.



Omarr C. Nickerson, Mayor Village of El Portal received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Miami "The U" in Liberal and Social Arts, his 1st Master's Degree in Global History and Socio-Geographic Studies from the University of Cairo, in Egypt, his 2nd Master's Degree in International Political Science and Economic Development from the University of Damascus, in Syria as well as his Doctorate Degree in International Studies and International Relations/Affairs. Mayor Nickerson is first and foremost a lecturer, who has given numerous speeches to the public throughout the Middle East and Asia. He also works as a "hands-on" educator with schools that are listed under the educational transformation status, due to their low scores on standardized tests. He has obtained Certifications in Micro and Macro Economics, World History, American Government, American History, and Geography.



Juan Carlos "JC" Bermudez, is the founding Mayor of the City of Doral. He was re-elected as Mayor of Doral in 2016. Mayor Bermudez currently serves as President of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities. He is currently a member of the Advisory Board of the United States Conference of Mayors, as well as Board Member of the Miami-Dade County Transportation Planning Organization. During his tenure, Mayor Bermudez served as a Board Member of the Florida League of Cities, Miami Dade-County League of Cities, Florida League of Mayors and The United States Conference of Mayors where he also chaired the International Affairs committee. Additionally, Mayor Bermudez served on the Beacon Council Board and received the Good Government Award from the Greater Miami Chamber of commerce in 2009. Mr. Bermudez graduated from the University of Miami with a Bachelor of Arts degree and received his law degree (juris doctorate) from the University of Notre Dame Law School. He has practiced law in South Florida for over 28 years and is member of the Florida Bar and the American Bar Association amongst other legal associations. He is currently a partner at Sanchez-Medina, Gonzalez, Quesada, Lage, Gomez & Machado, LLP.



Karyn Cunningham was elected as Palmetto Bay's Mayor on November 6, 2018. A native of Miami-Dade County and a graduate of Miami Palmetto Senior High, Mayor Cunningham graduated Cum Laude from the University of South Florida in 1985 and holds certification in Elementary Education and Psychology. She received her Urban Education Certification from Florida International University in 1987. Mayor Cunningham is an accomplished teacher, community activist, and advocate for education. She began her career teaching First Grade and has been with Miami-Dade County Public Schools for 35 years. She is actively involved on the boards of many local not-for-profit organizations. She serves on the Advisory Board of Common Threads, The Yaegar Foundation, The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center Board, Community Health of South Florida Capital Fund Advisory Board, the Palmetto Bay Business Association, Friends of Chapman Field Board, The Edge Helps Foundation, and is the 2nd Vice President of the Miami Area Salvation Army Advisory Board. She also serves on the Executive Board of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities.

Succeeding in Municipal Government: The Calm after The Storm

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Crystal Wagar is a Miami Shores Village Councilwoman and Partner at LSN Partners, LLC. Crystal is a well-respected attorney and advocate. She has a wide range of experience in both the public and private sectors. Crystal's public sector experience includes general counsel for the Black Economic Development Corporation, interim city manager for the Village of El Portal, and chief policy aide and chief of staff to former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jimmy Morales. In the private sector, Wagar worked at two prominent South Florida law firms prior to opening her own boutique advocacy firm, the Connor Group Miami. In late 2013, Crystal moved to Singapore where she spent nearly four years representing the United States in her role as spouse to the United States Ambassador. In April of 2019, Crystal was elected as Mayor of Miami Shores. She also made history as the first African American woman ever elected in the Village's 89-year existence. Crystal graduated from Temple University and received her law degree from William Mitchell College of Law. Wagar is a current member of the national African American Mayors Association (AAMA). Crystal was named one of South Florida's 50 most powerful and influential black business leaders of 2012, received the Thurgood Marshall Distinguished Young Leader Award, the South Florida Women Extraordinary Award and named a Miracle Maker by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Miami. Crystal is currently on the Board of Miami Children's Museum, and on the Executive Board of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities.



Shlomo Danzinger was elected as mayor of the Town of Surfside in March of 2022. His campaign focused on condo safety, responsible development, pedestrian safety, and responsible government. As mayor, Shlomo Danzinger was determined that the memory of the 98 souls lost during the collapse of the Champlain Towers South nine months prior would not be forgotten. Days after the election, Mayor Danzinger directed the commission's focus to actions that would serve to honor the 98 souls. Mayor Danzinger continues to serve his constituents, focusing on residential safety, new capital projects, and sustainable growth for Surfside.



Christia E. Alou, Esq. is El Portal's Village Manager. Ms. Alou is a government relations professional with over 30 years of experience leading government agencies and departments, as well as legislation, public policy and public affairs for agencies and organizations such as the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission and the District of Columbia Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs. In 1991, Ms. Alou graduated from Howard University in Washington, DC, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Spanish. While working for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute on Capitol Hill, Ms. Alou attended the University of Maryland School of Law evening classes, graduating in 1996. Upon graduation, Ms. Alou worked on Capitol Hill for several years with the law firm, Verrill & Dana, LLC. She was drawn back into the public sector in 2002, when she was appointed by Mayor Anthony Williams as the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs for the District of Columbia. Ms. Alou moved to Miami, Florida in 2006 for a change of pace and to start her family. She resides in Miami Shores. Ms. Alou is a strong proponent of the Arts and STEAM programs for children. Ms. Alou served on the Board of Directors for the Adrienne Arsht Center for Performing Arts for many years and is the Arts Facet Chairperson and member of the Miami-Biscayne Bay Chapter of The Links Incorporated.

Luncheon

Welcoming Remarks:

MDCLC President
Juan Carlos "JC" Bermudez
Mayor, City of Doral



Opening Remarks:

Mayor Daniella Levine Cava
Miami-Dade County



Fireside Chat with:

Mayor Francis Suarez,
City of Miami
MDCLC Past President
President, U.S.C.M



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