



LeadershipMIAMISM

Powered by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

LEADERSHIP MIAMI[®] 47 SPRING

LEAD TODAY. INSPIRE TOMORROW.



2026 YEARBOOK

LEADERSHIP MIAMI[®]
CLASS 47 SPRING



LeadershipMIAMISM

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Florida



**UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI**

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?

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A MESSAGE FROM

The Chair

AS I SIT DOWN TO WRITE THIS NOTE, I FIND MYSELF STRUGGLING TO FIND THE RIGHT WORDS.

How do you adequately thank 38 leaders who trusted you with their time, their stories, their vulnerability, and their hearts?

How do you say goodbye to a group of people who walked into a room as strangers and leave as a community?

What I know for certain is this: serving as your Chair has been one of the greatest honors of my professional and personal journey. I am sure that rings true to Raymond as well who I could not thank enough for being my partner in this journey.

When I stepped into this role, I carried the responsibility of a 47-year legacy with immense pride and humility. I knew I was becoming part of something much larger than myself, a program built by leaders who believed in the power of connection, courageous conversations, and civic responsibility. I hoped to honor that legacy. What I did not anticipate was just how much this cohort would impact me.

Over the past months, I have had the privilege of watching each of you show up with curiosity, authenticity, and a genuine desire to make our community stronger. I watched strangers become collaborators. I watched conversations become friendships. I watched leaders challenge one another, support one another, and lean into difficult conversations with grace and respect.

And perhaps what filled my heart most was watching you fall in love with Miami in new ways.

Through every session, every site visit, every conversation, and every project, I saw your understanding of this community deepen. I saw you celebrate its strengths, wrestle with its challenges, and embrace your role in shaping its future. You all understood that Leadership Miami is not simply about learning how our city works, it's about understanding our responsibility to it.

PLEASE KNOW HOW INCREDIBLY PROUD I AM OF EACH OF YOU.

Proud of the way you showed up.

Proud of the vulnerability you shared.

Proud of the relationships you built.

Proud of the leaders you are today and the leaders you will continue to become.



Miami is better because you care about it. And Miami's future is brighter because each of you has chosen to invest your time, talents, and heart into this community.

My hope is that while the sessions may be over, your Leadership Miami journey is only beginning.
Continue making the call.
Continue sending the text.
Continue showing up for one another.
Continue asking the hard questions.
Continue opening doors for one another.
Continue building bridges where others see barriers.

But most importantly, continue leading with love, courage, compassion, and conviction.

As you leave this program, I hope you carry with you not only the knowledge gained, but the relationships built. The true gift of Leadership Miami has never been the curriculum. It has always been the people sitting beside you.

Thank you for allowing me to walk alongside you during this journey.
Thank you for trusting me to serve as your Chair.
Thank you for making me laugh, think, and grow.

Most importantly, thank you for choosing Miami. I could not be more grateful, and I could not be prouder. Wherever your leadership journey takes you next, I hope you never forget that you will always have a community cheering you on.

This is not goodbye. It is simply, see you around Miami ❤️

With immense gratitude and so much love,

Julissa Rivera

Chair, Leadership Miami Fall Cohort 47

EXECUTIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE



LEADERSHIP MIAMI® COMMITTEE CHAIRS



CHAIR

Julissa Rivera

Community Engagement Manager
The Miami Foundation
Leadership Miami® Class 41



VICE CHAIR

Raymond Dueñas

Director of Community Affairs
Miami Herald & el Nuevo Herald
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Founder and Principal
2 Sixteen Consulting and Teaching
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Creative Director/Founder
Red Tornado Communications
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Cristine Love Hernandez

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EXECUTIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE



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EXECUTIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE



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The Salvation Army Miami

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Lead at Bank of America

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TEAM 1: DA1E MIAMI



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Jorge Valens
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Miami-Dade County IT
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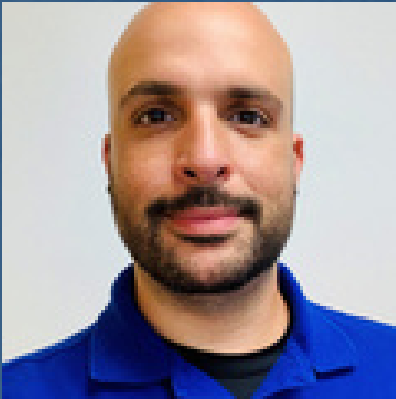
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TEAM FACILITATORS

TEAM 2: ILLUMINATE MIAMI



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TEAM 3: MOV3 MIAMI



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OUR TEAMS



TEAM 1:
DA1E MIAMI

Benefiting
Voices for Children
Foundation



TEAM 2:
ILLUMINATE MIAMI

Benefiting
The Salvation Army
Miami Area Command



TEAM 3:
MOV3 MIAMI

Benefiting
Kristi House



TEAM 4:
ACTION 4 MIAMI

Benefiting
Jessie Trice Community
Health System

TEAM I: DAIE MIAMI



Every child deserved a voice. Our passionate and motivated team, Da1eMiami, worked with the Voices for Children Foundation to ensure that youth in the foster care system had the resources to thrive, both in the present and for their futures. The project established a professional development closet for individuals ages 15 to 24, offering attire appropriate for formal events and job interviews. It also involved the expansion and relocation of Voices for Children's comfort closet, creating additional space for donations and enhancing the overall experience for the youth served.

Strong partnerships were formed with community organizations and local businesses, including Topsy Flamingo, which provided space for fundraising efforts, and Lala's Burgers, which contributed proceeds to support the initiative. Additional collaborations were developed with The Salvation Army, which provided hygiene supplies, and Etiquette, Inc., whose founder donated time to lead etiquette workshops that fostered confidence and life skills. A partnership with the Peri app was also created to streamline donation needs and increase community engagement.

Tangible outcomes included a bright, organized Professional Development Suite stocked with new or gently used clothing for all sizes and genders, along with an expanded comfort closet to house a wider range of items. Intangible outcomes included a sense of pride, compassion, and purpose among participants, along with stronger leadership skills and a lasting commitment to supporting foster youth with dignity, opportunity, and care.



TEAM 1: DA1E MIAMI



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TEAM 2: ILLUMINATE MIAMI



Team 2illuminate Miami, in partnership with The Salvation Army Miami Area Command, built a healing-centered playground at the Center of Hope for children experiencing homelessness in Miami-Dade County. The initiative focused on providing a safe, supportive play space where children could reduce toxic stress, improve emotional regulation, build confidence and self-esteem, strengthen social connections, and restore a sense of autonomy and resilience during a difficult period in their lives.

The project addressed a clear community need at The Salvation Army Center of Hope emergency shelter in Allapattah, which served more than 300 residents nightly and provided over 63,000 nights of shelter annually. Children living at the shelter previously lacked a dedicated outdoor environment where they could play, decompress, and simply experience childhood. In response, the team partnered with The Salvation Army to design and develop a secure, gated recreational area that supported both physical activity and emotional well-being.

The goal extended beyond installing playground equipment; it aimed to create a healing-centered environment that encouraged stress relief, confidence building, and family interaction. Expected outcomes included enhancing quality of life for children and guardians, fostering community engagement through volunteerism, and establishing a sustainable resource that would serve families long after the project ended.

Originally budgeted at \$25,000 for Phase 1, the team successfully negotiated costs with the playground vendor down to \$22,500. They continued fundraising beyond the initial goal to ensure project completion, address additional needs, and maximize long-term impact for the families served.



TEAM 2: ILLUMINATE MIAMI



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TEAM 3: MOV3 MIAMI



1/10

Team 3 of Move Miami was a group of dedicated leaders committed to creating meaningful and lasting impact across the community. The team partnered with Kristi House, a nationally recognized nonprofit focused on healing and empowering children, adolescents, and families affected by abuse, human trafficking, and exploitation. The project aimed to transform an outdoor space at Kristi House's second Project GOLD home into a healing-centered environment for adolescents and young adults who had experienced or were at risk of exploitation.

Located between Wynwood and Little Haiti, the new site represented an expansion of services and a deeper commitment to supporting survivors. The team sought to create a peaceful, safe, and welcoming outdoor space that encouraged reflection, connection, and personal growth. The goal extended beyond physical improvements, focusing on fostering recovery, empowerment, and community among participants.

The project also aimed to raise awareness about human trafficking by engaging community members, corporate partners, and civic leaders. As the initiative evolved, its impact grew beyond expectations. The team contributed \$7,500 to support Project GOLD, assembled and distributed 150 care kits in partnership with Quest2Freedom, and donated furniture to support additional community organizations.

Beyond tangible outcomes, the project fostered hope, dignity, and compassion. It reinforced the importance of empathy and collective responsibility while inspiring both participants and team members. Ultimately, the initiative created meaningful change, demonstrating how collaboration could support healing and empower vulnerable individuals.



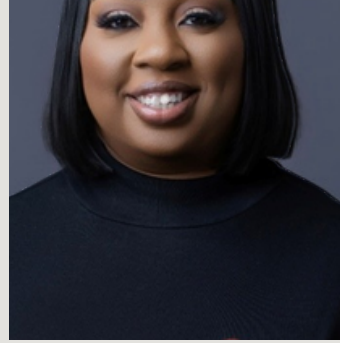
TEAM 3: MOV3 MIAMI



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TEAM 4: ACTION 4 MIAMI



Team Action4Miami partnered with Jessie Trice Community Health System to implement the Serenity Project, which aimed to transform an outdoor parking lot at the Jefferson Reaves House into a healing and restorative space for women recovering from addiction and their children. The vision centered on creating a sanctuary that fostered dignity, connection, and emotional well-being. The team initially sought to raise over \$15,000 to support the installation of a safe playground with rubber flooring, the construction of a gazebo and deck for therapy and milestone celebrations, and the development of a Serenity Garden to encourage horticultural therapy and community engagement.

The project achieved significant tangible outcomes by converting the space into a functional and welcoming environment. Raised garden beds filled with edible plants were installed to promote healthier lifestyles, and the surrounding green space was enhanced. A safe turf playground was created, along with shaded seating areas featuring picnic tables to support family interaction and relaxation. Privacy screens were added along the perimeter fencing to ensure safety and protection, while a culturally representative mural and restored memorial bricks honored individuals who had lost their lives to addiction.

Intangibly, the project created a peaceful sanctuary where residents could reflect, heal, and reconnect with their children. The space supported reduced stress, increased self-esteem, and improved mental well-being, while offering a dignified setting for remembrance, growth, and hope.



TEAM 4: ACTION 4 MIAMI



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OUR TEAMS BY THE NUMBERS

TEAM 1

Da1e Miami

Volunteer hours: 1,582

\$57,672.52

Total Funds Raised

\$14,307.63

Total Cashed Raised

\$43,364.89

Total in-kind

TEAM 2

Illuminate Miami

Volunteer hours: 2,500

\$72,789.51

Total Funds Raised

\$41,247.13

Total Cashed Raised

\$31,542.38

Total in-kind



OUR TEAMS BY THE NUMBERS

TEAM 3

Mov3 Miami

Volunteer hours: 1,963

\$23,312.79

Total Funds Raised

\$17,722.79

Total Cashed Raised

\$5,590

Total in-kind

TEAM 4

Action 4 Miami

Volunteer hours: 1,635

\$17,002.71

Total Funds Raised

\$13,002.71

Total Cashed Raised

\$4,000

Total in-kind



LEADERSHIP CREDENTIALS



Upon completion of the Leadership Miami® program, participants earn the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's **Leadership Credential** representing **100+ hours** of leadership skills education, development, and practice.

Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Miami® program Leadership Credential represents 100+ hours of leadership skills teaching, development and practice:

12

classroom teaching hours with top experts from South Florida leading educational institutions teaching advanced leadership Curriculum (*Barry University, Florida International University, Florida Memorial University, Miami Dade College, St. Thomas University, and the University of Miami*)

18

classroom hours with community leadership, government officials and prominent business executives presenting and facilitating discussion and activities around our critical community issues: resilience, transportation, housing, workforce development, technology, financial literacy, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

55+

hours devoted to executing and delivering defined Team Community Service Project

8

hours of Fieldwork assignments to broaden awareness of community, to experience diverse cultures and needs, and learn the importance of philanthropy

7

hours in program delivery, presentations, graduation, and integrating with business leaders in Chamber's Goals conference

