

# WORLD MONUMENTS FUND

September 18, 2008

Mr. Timothy Barber  
Chairman  
Historic and Environmental Preservation Board  
City of Miami Planning Department  
444 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Miami, FL 33130

Dear Mr. Barber:

I am writing in support of the Historic and Environmental Preservation Board designation of the Miami Marine Stadium as a local historic landmark.

Founded in 1965, the World Monuments Fund is recognized as a leader in the field of international heritage conservation. This year, as part of our bi-annual designation of the 100 most endangered sites in the world, the World Monuments Watch, World Monuments Fund recognized "Main Street Modern," as a category of iconic American civic structures, like the Miami Marine Stadium, that define a critical shift in American architectural style that are threatened with demolition or obsolescence and are under recognized for their bold use of materials and masterful design because they are too recently constructed to be understood as significant monuments adding to the character of a community. By listing "Main Street Modern" structures, World Monuments Fund sought to raise awareness of the threat of demolition due to the special conservation challenges they present or the public's lack of understanding of their value in our catalogue of great American architectural works. It is for this reason that I am urging your careful consideration of this landmark structure.

The Miami Marine Stadium is an iconic and important symbol of Miami and American modernism. Designed by Cuban-American Hilario Candela, this building speaks to the bold, modern image of the growing city and the international cultural influences that have helped shaped Miami's image. As the first purpose-built facility to host popular water sports that activated Miami in the mid-century and the site of numerous cultural events, the Marine Stadium looms large in the public's image of the city. As a highly visible, recognizable landmark in the Miami skyline, it is an essential part of the city fabric for generations of Miami residents and visitors.

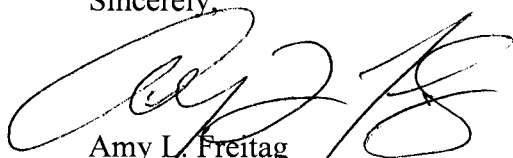
By recognizing the importance of the Marine Stadium, you and your fellow board members will be in good company with colleague agencies nation wide that have made

the decision to preserve America's mid-century civic landmarks. Recently, Grosse Pointe, Michigan recognized the importance of its modernist library and they are finding ways to expand and restore this internationally recognized structure. Similar preservation efforts are taking place from New York to California.

Miami, with its especially rich mid-century modern civic architecture is poised to be a leader in the recognition and preservation of America's mid-century identity. The Marine Stadium presents a prime opportunity to preserve and adaptively use a site that is seen as iconic and valuable by the citizens you serve. To demonstrate its viability, World Monuments Fund is willing to provide technical assistance to the Friends of Marine Stadium, Dade Heritage Trust, and the City of Miami."

World Monuments Fund applauds your decision to hear the arguments for designation and we strongly encourage your action to support the preservation of the Marine Stadium.

Sincerely,



Amy L. Freitag  
Program Director, United States

CC: Hon. Manuel A. Diaz, Mayor, City of Miami  
Becky Roper Matkov, Dade Heritage Trust  
Enrique Madia, DOCOMOMO/US Florida  
Richard Moe, National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Frank Sanchis, Municipal Art Society  
Don Worth, Friends of the Miami Marine Stadium