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Wednesday, November 11, 2009, 2:29pm EST | Modified: Wednesday, November 11, 2009, 3:24pm

Mayor Regalado promises revitalization of Miami

South Florida Business Journal - by [Oscar Pedro Musibay](#)

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During his swearing in speech on Wednesday, new Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado declared that the city's treasures needed to be safeguarded, referring specifically to the long-embattled Miami Marine Stadium.



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He also said that Watson Island, where a massive two-hotel project was planned and stalled, would be revitalized under his

watch.

"We will rebuild the Marine Stadium," he said. "We will revitalize Watson Island. Our city is full of opportunities and the time has come to recognize its treasures and have faith in their potential."

Regalado replaces outgoing Mayor Manny Diaz, who recently won approval of Miami 21, his signature rezoning of the city, and who has championed both the new **Florida Marlins** ballpark and the Port of Miami tunnel for downtown Miami.

Miami Marine Stadium, built in 1964, sits on the water on Virginia Key. In addition to a grandstand, the stadium had a separate platform on the water where artists such as Jimmy Buffet and Ray Charles performed, and where religious services were sometimes held.

The structure has been closed since 1992, when Hurricane Andrew damaged it. Some estimates to fix broken concrete and repair other problems have been as high as \$30 million.

Heralded as a signature design of Miami Modern architecture, the stadium in April was named to the **National Trust for Historic Preservation's** list of most endangered buildings, a designation that garnered national attention.

Regalado is not the only one interested in Watson Island. City officials saw it during the real estate boom as an economic engine for the city. Parrot Jungle – now called Jungle Island – relocated there from south Miami-Dade County in the hopes it would appeal to Miami tourists.

The island, which also is home to the Miami Children's Museum, was slated to have a pair of high-end hotels, as well as shops and boat slips for yachts. But, the hotel project never got off the ground and Jungle Island has struggled to attract visitors.

Regalado also said he would work to attract new funding and business to the city of Miami.

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