

FRIENDS OF  
Miami **Marine Stadium**

Friends of Miami Marine Stadium  
Newsletter #48      October 9, 2011

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Dade Heritage Trust is the foremost organization devoted to Historic Preservation in Miami-Dade County. DHT was the former "parent" organization of Friends of Miami Marine Stadium. For more information on Dade Heritage Trust, click [here](#)

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**To: Miami Marines**

We continue to work diligently on all fronts in our efforts to restore the Miami Marine Stadium.

**Reinvigorated Planning Efforts**

In our September newsletter, we mentioned taking a "summer pause" on our planning efforts to restore the Marine Stadium. We are pleased to share with you that work continues with the Miami City Administration to create a development plan which addresses both the City's concerns as well as our community's concerns. Planning work has been positive though time consuming due to the complexity of our project and the numerous issues involved. Our target is to unveil plans within the next several months. We are pleased with the cooperation that we are now receiving.

**Press**



The Marine Stadium continues to attract great press effortlessly. Fast Company is a high profile business magazine with an entrepreneurial bent. Their October issue featured an article on the upcoming Annual Meeting of the National Trust For Historic Preservation. The article included photographs of four major historic preservation projects in the United States. Guess which [image](#) was larger than the other three photos-

combined?

Often, awareness of the Marine Stadium is generated in unexpected ways. Nany's Closet is a widely read blog by

list...1921

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### Lynrd Skynrd at the Miami Marine Stadium

Attending a rock concert at the Marine Stadium was truly a unique experience. The combination of people in the stands-and boats (and people) in the water, sometimes created an almost surreal environment. Neil Harden writes a terrific [story](#) describing what it felt like to attend one of those concerts.

We continue to work on our book of memories of the Marine Stadium, IF SEATS COULD TALK. If you have a story about your experiences at the Stadium, let us know-we can interview you by phone and write it up. Just hit the "return" button to this email and we'll get in touch with you.

# of stories submitted to IF SEATS COULD TALK .....124

### Virginia Key Master Plan

On September 21, the

Often, awareness of the Marine Stadium is generated in unexpected ways. [Nany's Closet](#) is a widely read blog by young fashionista Daniela Ramirez. Daniela recently photographed a fashion spread at the Marine Stadium. Click [here](#) to see the dazzling results.

HGTV Design Star (and Miami resident) Mark Diaz was asked to identify his favorite building in Miami. Mark articulated his love and admiration for the Miami Marine Stadium in a [video](#) depicting why this building is so important to Miami.

### Board of Directors

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Friends of Miami Marine Stadium formed in February, 2008 and operated under the administrative umbrella of Dade Heritage Trust, Miami-Dade County's foremost organization devoted to historic preservation.

In August, 2011, Friends of Miami Marine Stadium received its 501(c)(3) certification as an independent, tax-exempt organization and began to operate independently. The following individuals are the first appointees to the Board of Directors. The tasks for the Board are formidable: to represent community concerns, guide both the restoration and the operation of the Marine Stadium, and most importantly raise the necessary funds. Over the next several months, the Board will be carefully expanded to reach these goals. Current Board members are listed below:

Hilario Candela: The original architect of the Miami Marine Stadium, Hilario designed it in 1962 while at the architectural firm Pancoast, Ferendino, Skeels, Gratton and Burnham. He became President of this firm which evolved into Spillis Candela - at one time the largest Hispanic owned architectural firm in the United States. Spillis Candela designed many buildings throughout the United States and South Florida, including all three campuses of Miami Dade Community College. He is also a Co-Founder of Friends of Miami Marine Stadium and has been involved in the organization since inception.

Jorge Hernandez: A Co-Founder of Friends of Miami Marine Stadium, Jorge is a Professor of Architecture at the School of Architecture of the University of Miami. Active in historic preservation issues on the local, State and National levels, Jorge is currently Vice Chair of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the most important organization dedicated to historic preservation in the United States. His firm, Jorge L. Hernandez Architect, was established in 1987.

Jose Mendana, Jr: The power boat racing community is an important national constituency for the Marine Stadium, and Jose is an excellent link to this community. A fourth generation boat racer, Jose has won several World and National titles in

Urban Environment League sponsored a morning event which provided an update on the Virginia Key Master Plan. The event brought together the coalition of organizations-including Friends of Miami Marine Stadium-that worked on the original Master Plan which was approved by the City of Miami Commission in July, 2010. It is very important that the four year effort to create the Master Plan not be lost. Going forward, the plan is to continue to bring the stakeholders together to periodically bring everyone up to date and to discuss issues that may be coming up, such as deep dredging in the Port of Miami and the Biscayne Bay National Park Management Plan. As the Marine Stadium is an important part of the Virginia Key Planning effort, we will keep you informed of future meetings.

**Jose Mendana, Jr:** The power boat racing community is an important national constituency for the Marine Stadium, and Jose is an excellent link to this community. A fourth generation boat racer, Jose has won several World and National titles in the SST-45 (Formula Lights) class and currently races Formula 1 with Formula One Prop Tour, the most powerful and fastest turning class of racing outboards. He was inducted into the prestigious Hall of Champions of the American Power Boat Association in 2006, 2008 and 2010. A Certified Public Accountant, Jose is also Treasurer of Friends of Miami Marine Stadium.

**Charles Urstadt:** Charlie brings a wealth of historic preservation and private real estate experience to the Board. He is the current Chair of the Miami Design Preservation League and a past board member of the New York State Board for Historic Preservation. Charlie is also a seasoned real estate investor and broker with 30 years of experience and is currently a Director of Urstadt Biddle Properties, one of the oldest real estate investment trusts on the New York Stock Exchange.

**Donald Worth:** Don is a Co-Founder of Friends of Miami Marine Stadium and has been involved in a wide variety of preservation issues over the last 15 years. Along with his wife Nina, he produced in 2008 the photography exhibit and book "Art Deco in Shanghai and Miami Beach" featuring photographs by Deke Erh, China's first freelance photographer. He also served as Vice Chairman of the Urban Arts Committee of Miami Beach, which created the first photography exhibit of Miami Modern (MiMo) architecture which travelled to the Municipal Art Society in New York City in 2002.

## Conclusion

After our planning phase is complete, the next step is to go before the Miami City Commission and the Miami Sports and Exhibition Authority (MSEA) for approval of our approach to the restoration of the Marine Stadium. At that time, we will enlist your help in demonstrating to the Commission that this initiative has widespread support.

Jorge Hernandez  
Becky Roper Matkov  
Violette Sproul  
Don Worth

Friends of Miami Marine Stadium  
[www.marinestadium.org](http://www.marinestadium.org)

P.S. Below is a vintage photograph-boxing at the Marine Stadium on the floating stage. What types of events would you like to see at the Stadium?



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