

**NATIONAL
TRUST
FOR
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION®**

Stephanie K. Meeks
PRESIDENT

March 7, 2012

The Honorable Mayor Tomas Regalado
3500 Pan American Drive
Miami, FL 33133

Dear Mayor Regalado and City of Miami Commissioners:

I urge you to approve legislation establishing a partnership between the City, the Miami Sports and Exhibition Authority and Friends of Miami Marine Stadium (Friends) to restore and operate Miami Marine Stadium. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has been working with the Friends since 2008 and can attest to their high degree of professionalism and commitment. The proposed partnership would preserve an asset that is important to all of us, and serves as a fine example of a public-private partnership.

The National Trust recently recognized the national significance of Miami Marine Stadium by naming it one of our initial National Treasures, a portfolio of historic places that are irreplaceable and critically threatened. (A fact sheet on National Treasures is attached.)

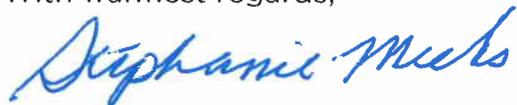
For each National Treasure, a National Trust team will work with local partners to save the place and find a sustainable use. The work on Miami Marine Stadium will be a continuation of a collaboration with Friends of Miami Marine Stadium and the Dade Heritage Trust. Since 2008, The National Trust has assisted, with the World Monuments Fund and others, in funding an engineering study, contributed grant funds for the Floating Stage Design Contest, and written letters of support for grants and for local historic designation. We also supplied communications expertise in publicizing the threat to Miami Marine Stadium. In 2009 the Stadium was named one of the National Trust's Eleven Most Endangered Historic Places. In 2010, our Board of Trustees met in Miami to visit the site and in 2011 we were pleased to have you join the National Trust Council when they visited the Stadium.

Our commitment to the Stadium continues, and as funding is a critical need, this week John Leith-Tetrault, President of the National Trust Community Investment Corporation, will be in Miami to work with Friends of Miami Marine Stadium in planning a \$6 million tax credit program for the Stadium.

I appreciate all the work the City of Miami has already undertaken to save the Stadium and, again, I urge you to approve this legislation so we can continue to work together to save and reuse Miami Marine Stadium as an important part of our heritage, and as an economic engine for the City of Miami.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact our Vice President for Eastern Field Services, John Hildreth, at john_hildreth@nthp.org or 843-722-8552.

With warmest regards,



Stephanie K. Meeks

cc: Commissioner Frank Carollo
Commissioner Wilfredo Gort
Commissioner Marc Sarnoff, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones
Commissioner Francis Suarez, Chairman