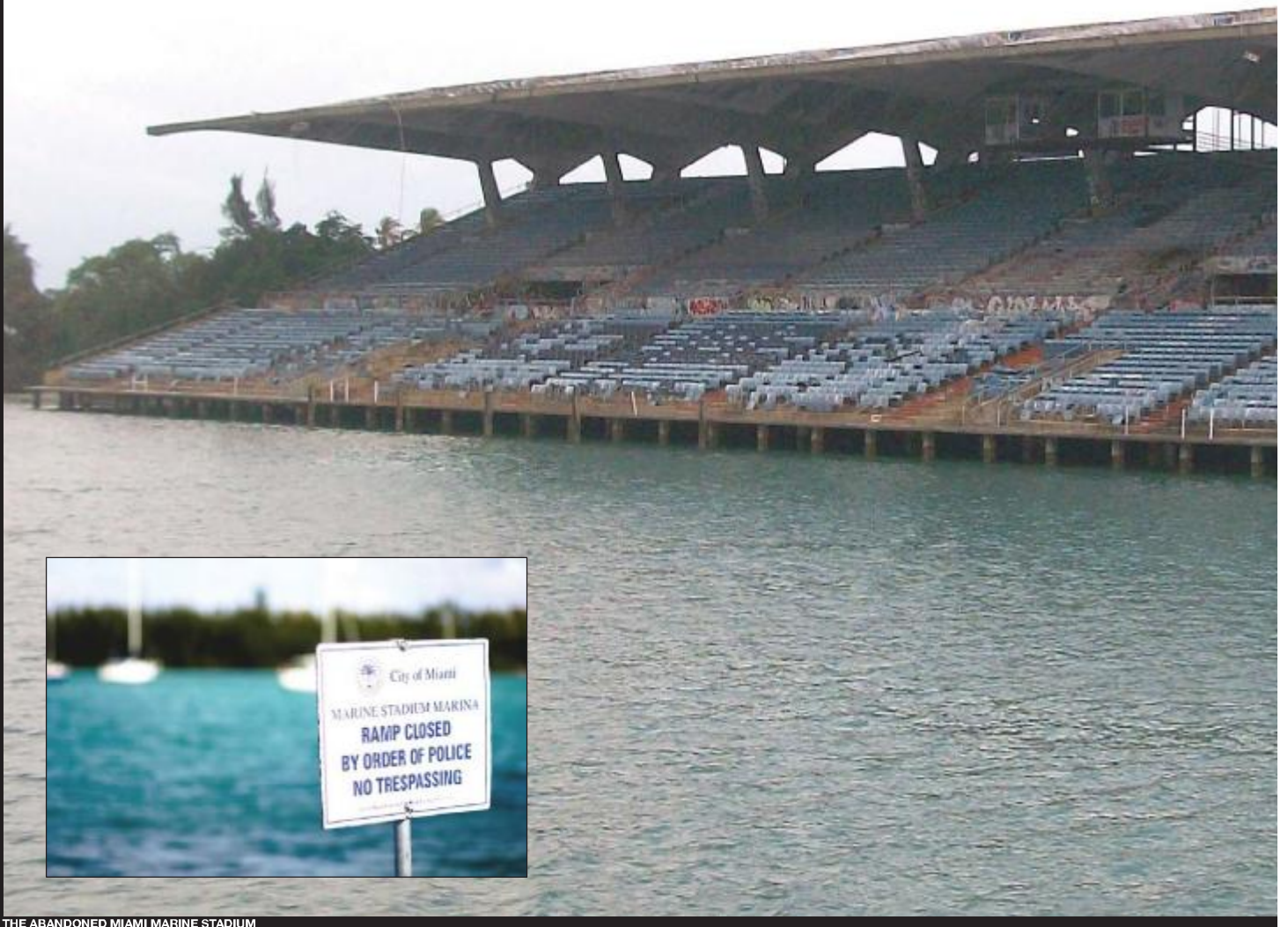


SAVE THE

Preservation Efforts for Miami Marine Stadium Making Progress

Written by Michael W. Sasser



THE ABANDONED MIAMI MARINE STADIUM

STADIUM



Native Miamian Chris Gilbert remembers well his most vivid experience at historic Miami Marine Stadium.

“It has to be a Jimmy Buffett concert,” Gilbert says. “It is just such a perfect setting for that kind of laid-back, tropical-themed kinda performer. Audience on the shore and on boats. Stage right on the water. Open, sea air. I remember a lot of boat races there, which were great. But there was something about Buffett and Miami Marine Stadium that went like cake and ice cream or peanut butter and jelly.”

Of course, Gilbert adds, Buffett and the stadium at the entry point to scenic Virginia Key is a lot like Woodstock.

“Sure there were a lot of people who were there,” he says, and laughs. “But 10 times as many people say that they were there years afterward.”

Whichever of those groups Gilbert really falls into might be unclear. But what isn’t is that countless longtime South Floridians have powerful, fond memories of the heyday of the unique stadium.

Increasingly clear is that this Miami Modern architectural jewel and beloved community icon just might be back on track to once again light up the Virginia Key basin with culture and memory-making.

“That’s one of the things that makes Miami Marine Stadium not just worth restoring, but also what makes it so very special — so many people have

such strong memories of it and such love for it,” said Miami Beach preservation activist Don Worth, one of the co-founders of Friends of Marine Stadium. “This is a magical place, a special place. Invariably when we make a presentation on it, there are people who light up because they have such memories of it. This is where Sammy Davis Jr. hugged Richard Nixon. It’s where Pete Townsend of The Who lit his guitar on fire, threw it in the water and a dozen

Please see Stadium on page 20