

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 15-033 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE CORAL GABLES MUSEUM

**COMMITTEE:** ACADEMICS, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

**LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:** STUDENT, PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In the mid 1990s, Coral Gables Commissioner Wayne "Chip" Withers began conversations regarding the possibility of integrating a new museum into the City of Coral Gables. From initial living room chats with a group of artists, architects and cultural insiders, a dream began to take shape. Eventually, the city government as a whole became involved and a plan was formulated to house the museum in the historic 1939 police and fire station.

In 2003, the non-profit Coral Gables Museum Corp. was formed to direct and operate the museum in partnership with the City of Coral Gables. The City's Historical Resources Department applied for and received over \$1.5 million in state and county grants to rehabilitate the building. After a few years of fundraising and construction for additional gallery space, the museum opened to the public in October 2011. Its diverse exhibit and program offerings strive to engage the community in architecture design, planning and preservation, and the museum has recently received local and state recognition for its successful educational programs.

The museum, under the helm of former Commissioner and now Museum Chairman Withers, received the Diamond Award for Outstanding Non-Profit Organization from the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, recognizing the museum's business excellence, stability, growth and community outreach.

The museum recently received a \$200,000 grant from the Florida Department of Education to expand its Green City Program, which will be offered to all K-12 students in Miami-Dade County. A major component of the museum's educational programs is empowering students to understand and embrace their ability to bring about necessary change to the way people live in the built environment, which will result in considerable benefit to both local and global communities.

Students take field trips to the museum to learn about designing communities with the principles of environmental sustainability. They are introduced to architecture, design, urban planning, as well as historic and environmental preservation.

The School Board commends the Coral Gables Museum for its outstanding contributions to the community and to the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. RAQUEL REGALADO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-033 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Coral Gables Museum.

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-033  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING THE CORAL GABLES MUSEUM**

**WHEREAS**, in the mid 1990s, Coral Gables Commissioner Wayne "Chip" Withers began conversations regarding the possibility of integrating a new museum into the City of Coral Gables. From initial living room chats with a group of artists, architects and cultural insiders, a dream began to take shape; and

**WHEREAS**, after a few years of fundraising and construction for additional gallery space, the museum opened to the public in October 2011. Its diverse exhibit and program offerings strive to engage the community in architecture design, planning and preservation, and the museum has recently received local and state recognition for its successful educational programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the museum, under the helm of Museum Chairman Withers, received the Diamond Award for Outstanding Non-Profit Organization from the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, recognizing the museum's business excellence, stability, growth and community outreach; and

**WHEREAS**, the museum recently received a \$200,000 grant from the Florida Department of Education to expand its Green City Program, which will be offered to all K-12 students in Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, a major component of the museum's educational programs is empowering students to understand and embrace their ability to bring about necessary change to the way people live in the built environment, which will result in considerable benefit to both local and global communities; and

**WHEREAS**, students take field trips to the museum to learn about designing communities with the principles of environmental sustainability. They are introduced to architecture, design, urban planning, as well as historic and environmental preservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board commends the Coral Gables Museum for its outstanding contributions to the community and to the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-033 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The Coral Gables Museum.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

**Presented this fifteenth day of April, A.D. 2015**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary