

Executive Summary: FIU Proposal to Advise, Structure and Organize Miami Beach's Long-term Inspirational Vision Process

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On March 18, 2020, Miami Beach's Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to develop an inspirational resiliency vision ('Vision'). This proposal aims to address the City's primary nature-based challenges: sea level rise, hurricanes and epidemics. It is not a policy vision, but an inspirational 'Day in the Life of Miami Beach in 2070'; a future sustainable and thriving community where people enjoy living, working, investing, visiting and relaxing/entertaining.

A shared Vision can become a launch pad for the City to commit the resources, time and effort needed to create a 'living with water' future Miami Beach. It can provide messages and visuals for the City's communications with residents, businesses, investors, other governmental and interested parties around the world.

FIU recommends organizing an international competition that will engage multiple stakeholders and include voices from members of the community at various stages. As an international city, most of Miami Beach's future investors, residents and visitors are not here today; they're all around the world. By casting a wide net to attract the best thought leadership and expertise, the City can bring together the best of global and local.

Community participation will be assured at three levels: 1) An initial local community input phase that will help form the basis for the invitation and screening of applicants; 2) Community feedback to competing teams on their draft visualizations during workshops and other outreach efforts; and 3) A 'People's Choice' option in the final team recognition process.

The proposed process will be funded by donors and sponsors with an interest in SE Florida. In addition to recognition and publicity, the competition could offer monetary awards to 'winning teams'.

Submittals should be highly visual and include the ongoing resiliency efforts by the City. Images, virtual videos, 3D products and physical models can be used to stimulate public interest, brainstorming, dialogue and feedback. The end objective is not one single 'winning vision', but perhaps 3-5 finalists. The process thus produces several inspirational alternatives that stakeholders can continue to discuss and evaluate, gradually forming the 'connecting glue' for the City's policies and projects. It can also provide a useful blueprint for 'building back better' following a hurricane, something more calmly discussed before, rather than in the post-event recovery.

The attached co-production proposal outlines the roles of FIU and the City. It does not require financial a commitment by the City, other than internal resources. Assuming Commission approval, the balance of 2020 will involve planning and organizing the program for an official kick-off in 2021.