

Nominee's Name: Mitchell Wolfson Jr.

Nomination Submitted By: Beth Dunlop

HALL of FAME	City of Miami Beach - Hall of Fame - Hall of Fame 2020 Beth Dunlop Application #HOF0007	
	Primary Contact: Phone: Email:	Ms. Beth E Dunlop (305) 509-1843 beth.dunlop@gmail.com

Applicant Profile

Applicant Type Legal Name Address

Telephone Primary Contact Individual Beth Dunlop 5851 N Bay Road N Bay Road Miami Beach, Florida 33140 UNITED STATES (305) 509-1843 Ms. Beth E Dunlop

Phone: (305) 509-1843 Email: beth.dunlop@gmail.com

#HOF0007

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HALL of FAME	Beth Dunlop		
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	Primary Contact:	Ms. Beth E Dunlop	
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	Email:	beth.dunlop@gmail.com	

Nominee's Information

1. Nominee's Name:

Mitchell Wolfson Jr.

2. Nominee's Category of Expertise:

Civic Leader

3. Date of Death:

(if a posthumous nomination) 1900-1-1

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Nomination Package

1. Please provide a brief biography highlighting the nominee's personal history and connection to Miami Beach. Please put the nominee's accomplishments in context and show how they are relevant and valuable to Miami Beach.

Micky Wolfson could have been nominated in almost any category He is a son of Miami Beach whose father was a prominent businessman, philanthropist and mayor. In his own right he created, endowed, and made public one of the city's foremost cultural institutions, The Wolfsonian Museum. He hasalso been a leader in the city's historic preservation movement and as a world traveler, an unofficial (but maybe the world's best) ambassador for Miami Beach across the globe. Please see the nomination letter attached below. It is from longtime Mlami Beach resident and writer Beth Dunlop, world-renowned artist and Miami Beach born and bred Michele Oka Doner, and former longtime Wolfsonian director Cathy Leff. There are three letters of support (overkill perhaps, but many people wanted to write on his behalf, which is another testament to his importance.

2. Provide a letter explaining the nominee's accomplishments in context, provide a reason and state eligibility for the nomination; and show how they are relevant and valuable to Miami Beach.

NOVEMBER 28 NOMINATION OF MITCHELL WOLFSON JR. TO THE MIAMI BEACH HALL OF FAME .docx

Letter of Recomendation 1

MW Hall of Fame --final edit (1).docx

Letter of Recommendation 2 Micky.docx

MIAMIBEACH HALL of FAME	City of Miami Beach - Hall of Fame - Hall of Fame 2020 Beth Dunlop	
	Application #HOF0007	
	Primary Contact:	Ms. Beth E Dunlop
	Phone:	(305) 509-1843
	Email:	beth.dunlop@gmail.com

Submitter's Information

1. Nomination Submitted By:

Beth Dunlop (along with Michele Oka Doner and Cathy Leff)

2. Submitter's Address:

5851 N Bay Road Miami Beach Florida 33140

3. Submitter's Email Address:

beth.dunlop@gmail.com

4. Submitter's Telephone Number:

3055091843

5. Relationship to Nominee: (Example: friend, colleague, student, employee, relative, etc.)

longtime writer, editor, architecture cultural critic; artist, museum director

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Nomination Package Checklist

Before submitting the City of Miami Beach Nomination Form via Go Smart, make sure you have done all the following:

Completed the nomination form. Please refrain from sending petitions, photographs, books, resumes,

Curriculum Vitaes (CV), etc. in lieu of completing the nomination form.

Included two (2) letters of recommendation. The letters of recommendation must be submitted in conjunction with the nomination form.

Two additional letters of support

Micky Wolfson

To Whom it May Concern,

In recent years, much the been made of the term "privilege." In these conversations, privilege often has connotation of undeserved special advantage. But life is always more complicated.

Micky Wolfson is, by any reasonable definition, a privileged person. Born to wealth, superbly educated, and blessed with good health and energy, Micky has used those privileges primarily to benefit his own cultural community, Miami Beach.

The Wolfsonian-FIU, a museum dedicated to the presentation of "North American and European art, propaganda, architecture, and industrial and graphic design dating from 1850 to 1950," would simply not exist without the donation of Micky's life-long work of collection. His public-spirited generosity also supplied the venue for the exhibition of these unique objects. This one-of-kind museum fits superbly into the modernist architectural heritage of Miami Beach. The presence of the Wolfsonian-FIU on Miami Beach marks the city as a one-of-kind place. Micky could have put the museum anywhere, but he chose Miami Beach.

One final note. When I told a prominent member of the Miami Beach cultural community that I was writing this letter, she responded: "Why wasn't Micky in the first group selected for the (Miami Beach Hall of Fame)?

Jeff Donnelly Public Historian Miami Design Preservation League

To whom it may concern,

I am a Miami Beach resident for more than 30 years and a friend and neighbor of Mickey for about the same period of time. I am previous board member of the Wolfsonian Museum for many years. I also am currently a trustee of the Smithsonian Cooper Hewitt National Design museum, serving on its board for 8 years and have a passion for architecture and design.

Mickey Wolfson is an icon in my world. His passion for Miami Beach, cultural improvement of the city, and positive public relations for our city of Miami Beach is second to no other citizen in my opinion. He is the the epitome of a positive citizen who has a deep love for our city. There is no citizen of Miami Beach that deserves this honor more than Mickey, even though that has never been his motivation.

I sincerely hope that you consider him got this honor.

Sincerely,

Alberto Eiber M.D.

A nomination of Mitchell Wolfson Jr. for the Miami Beach Hall of Fame

This nomination is being submitted by Michele Oka Doner, Beth Dunlop, and Cathy Leff (DID THE NAMES ALPHABETICALLY)

Mitchell Wolfson Jr., known to most of us as Micky, has been a key figure in the cultural transformation of Miami Beach, most significantly with the founding of the world-renowned Wolfsonian, a museum and research center uniquely devoted to the roles of architecture, design and the decorative arts in creating the modern world. Micky endowed the museum with his remarkable 91,000-object collection and an unparalleled rare book library of more than 200,000 items. Prior to the public launching The Wolfsonian, he created what is now among the most acclaimed scholarly and internationally disseminated publications on the Wolfsonian period, the prestigious scholarly *Journal of Decorative and Propaganda Arts*, which is published in Miami. New and can be found in the in-most important libraries and museums worldwide-and the prestigious JSTOR digital database, the *Journal* proudly announces it is published in Miami Beach.

<u>The</u> <u>and the</u> museum's opening in 19956 attracted international attention, bringing art and design lovers, along with prominent scholars from around the world to Miami Beach. The importance of Micky's (and thus the Wolfsonian's) collection cannot be understated—and objects from it are often essential <u>prartsparts</u> of travelling exhibitions shown in museums around the world <u>as well advanced</u> research in the humanities.²

Micky's architectural transformation of the former Washington Storage Building into a museum also led the way for the sensitive adaptation of other buildings within the Art Deco Historic District. <u>He was</u> among the early proponents and activists who advocated for the designation of the Art Deco Historic District. He also was responsible for the preservation of the <u>landmark Mediterranean-revival</u> former Southern Bell <u>Building (c. 1926)</u>???? <u>building</u> with its unique-for-Miami-Beach glazed terra cotta tile ornament and the <u>Sterling Building on Lincoln Road</u>, which also involved required his active engagement in the revitalization of that then-blighted pedestrian mall.former

The Wolfson family had arrived in Miami in 1925 where his father led family businesses largely focused on the newly emerging entertainment industry including the Wometco Movie Theater chain and the city's first television station, WTVJ, the Miami Seaquarium, and several other enterprises. Micky grew up in the family house on North Bay Road in a home that was built and sold to the Wolfson family by Carl Fisher.

Hiand his father was a two-term Miami Beach city commissioned before becoming the city's first Jewish mayor in 1943, and the family has been among the founders and supporters of Mount Sinai Hospital. Continuing his father's legacy and commitment to education (Mitchell Sr founded and endowed what is now Miami Dade College), Micky donated his singular (and priceless) collection and Miami Beach real estate holdings on Washington Avenue to Florida International University (FIU), with the assurance and commitment it would remain on Miami Beach. In doing so he has contributed also to

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the economic and creative economies, as the Wolfsonian employs close to 50 staff members and offers a wide range of programming that both enriches the community and attracts tourists as well as exhibitions that engage international attention in the media.staff...

Micky remained in the family house for many years, until 1997, 5, SAY HOW LONG OR NOT NECESSARY, enhancing it and caring for it (a major feature is the giant ficus tree in the front yard, known to many as one of the most formidable and beautiful in the city). His world travels (and second home in Genoa, Italy) meant that numerous worldwide figures in the arts and letters were drawn to Miami Beach, as he always carried information on Miami Beach and promoted it globally.- His affection for the city was and continues to be infectious. For several years he led early-morning treks through Miami Beach, popping in to visit friends for impromptu discussions of a wide array of subjects and quick tours of local art collections.

In 2007, Micky and Michele Oka Doner (a co-nominator here) published the book, Miami Beach: Portrait of an Eden, which was highly reviewed for offering a unique perspective of that was at once personal and universal with material drawn from family archives, historical sources, and personal memory. The book (beautifully designed and illustrated) offered a view of Miami Beach that was at once intimate and universal and is an important addition to our understanding of the city. Add about the Book with Michele, no?

We all believe Micky has be an important figures, positively enhancing Miami Beach's image not only as a destination of escape and fantasy but as a center for the study and appreciation of decorative arts, design, and architecture.

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November 25, 2020

To Whom It May Concern....

We write this letter in support of Mitchell Wolfson Jr.'s (Micky) nomination to the Miami Beach Hall of Fame. There is no one more deserving.

The Hall of Fame "salutes those who have had a significant and positive impact on the City of Miami Beach." Micky Wolfson has championed those things that contribute to the fabric of the community for decades. Through his cultural, educational and preservation endeavors, Micky has helped establish Miami Beach's uniqueness not only locally but nationally and internationally.

Active in founding the Miami Beach Architectural District aka the South Beach Art Deco District, Micky served as president of the first board of the Miami Design Preservation League in 1978. As owner of the historic Sterling Building on Lincoln Road, he was one of the first property owners to invest in the renaissance of the Road and established the seminal Foundlings Club. By the 1990's, Micky purchased and renovated the Washington Storage Building and the Wolfsonian Annex (the former Southern Bell building). Both are marvelous examples of sensitive and successful adaptive reuse of commercial buildings.

After a lifetime of collecting objects from around the globe, in 1995 Micky opened The Wolfsonian, a museum and research center in his native city in the Washington Storage Company building on Miami Beach. This well-known collection draws not only residents, but visitors and scholars from around the world to our city. In 1997, Mitchell Wolfson Jr. made the largest single gift ever to the State of Florida with his donation of the Washington Storage and Annex buildings and vast museum collections to Florida International University.

A global ambassador for Miami Beach since the 1960's, Micky established a satellite museum, the Wolfsoniana, in Genoa-Nervi Italy. The Wolfsonian Alliance was established in 2008 to support the exchange of scholarship and exhibitions between Miami's Wolfsonian–FIU and Genoa's Wolfsoniana and promotes cultural tourism to each respective city.

The Wolfson family arrived in Miami in 1916. Mitchell Wolfson Sr. was elected mayor of Miami Beach in 1943, endowed what is now Miami Dade College, and was among the founders of Mt. Sinai Hospital. As a trustee of the Mitchell Wolfson Senior Foundation, Mitchell Wolfson Jr. has continued to support educational and health issues.

Mitchell Wolfson Jr. sits on The Wolfsonian–FIU Advisory Board and is a director emeritus of the Florida International University Foundation, Miami; the International Council of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the International Council of Les Arts Decoratifs, Paris, France; the advisory council of the Department of Comparative Literature, Princeton University; and the advisory council of the Paul N. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University.

Most important of all, Mitchell Wolfson Jr. is a global ambassador for Miami Beach. His devotion and investment in the City throughout the decades have been inspirational and extraordinary. Wherever he travels, Miami Beach is always at the heart of who he is. He should be in the Hall of Fame.

Very truly yours,

Dr. David F. and Linda Frankel

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