

# MIAMIBEACH

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NO. LTC # **147-2017**

## LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: March 17, 2017

SUBJECT: Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, Office for Urbanization Partnership

I am pleased to provide an update on the City's partnership with the Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, Office for Urbanization (GSD) and the milestones this collaboration has achieved to date.

In May 2015, the City of Miami Beach entered into a two-year partnership with the Harvard GSD for a series of sponsored design studios to study the impacts of and potential responses to sea level rise in coastal communities like Miami Beach. The multi-year research project, aims to examine the implications of rising sea levels and increased storm events on our city's economy, ecology, infrastructure, and community identity. The studios have engaged Harvard faculty members and researchers, as well as other leading academics and professionals in architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, planning, engineering, ecology, law and other related disciplines toward developing planning strategies that anticipate potential future scenarios and mitigate present threats.



Above: Harvard faculty members and researchers with City staff during a studio presentation.

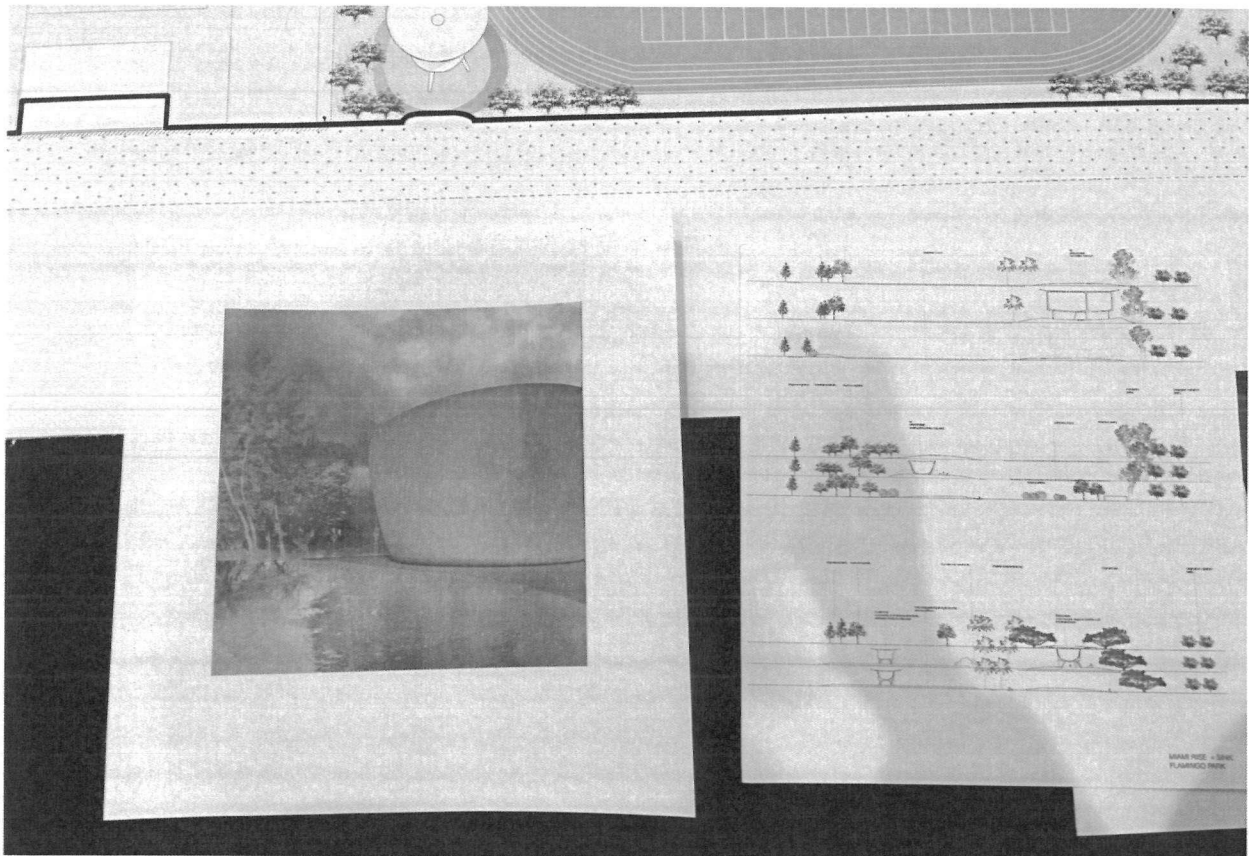
Key highlights to date include:

2015-2016 Academic Year

- A research seminar on resource interconnections and a graduate design studio focusing on innovative solutions for adaptation options within the next 30 years.
- A day-long conference hosted by Harvard GSD at the Wolfsonian attended by academics from Harvard, the University of Miami, Florida Atlantic University and Florida International University.

2015-2017 Academic Year

- Design and research course work focused on three related sub-themes:
  - The legal and policy framework for adaptation (Harvard Law School);
  - The context of real estate development in relation to adaptation (Harvard Real Estate Field Study); and,
  - The role of architectural preservation in the context of adaptation (Harvard GSD Critical Conservation Program).
  - Architectural and urban innovations design



Above: Draft recommendations during a studio presentation included above-ground water storage.

All the coursework and research materials developed as part of this research project will be synthesized in the summer of 2017 into a set of recommendations. The larger research findings, and associated research products will be combined in a research report that will be published by

Harvard GSD in the fall of 2017 and presented in a public event in Miami Beach before the end of October 2017.

JLM/SMT/MKW/FCT