

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name North Beach Bandshell

other names/site number North Shore Community Center; FMSF #DA19570

**2. Location**

street & number 7275 Collins Avenue ☐ not for publication

city or town Miami Beach ☐ vicinity

state Florida code FL county Miami-Dade code 025 zip code 33141

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register  
☐ See continuation sheet

- ☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
☐ See continuation sheet.

- ☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
☐ See continuation sheet.

- ☐ removed from the National  
Register.

- ☐ other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

North Beach Bandshell  
Name of Property

Miami-Dade County, Florida  
County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☐ buildings  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☒ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	1	buildings
0	0	sites
1	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	2	total

### Name of related multiple property listings

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

"N/A"

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/music facility

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/music facility

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
walls Concrete  
Stucco  
roof Asphalt  
other CHECK FOR MORE

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

1961-1962

### Significant Dates

1962

### Significant Person

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Giller, Norman M.

#### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of Repository

# \_\_\_\_\_

North Beach Bandshell  
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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 0.8 Acres

### UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	5	8	8	1	3	3	2	8	6	0	2	6	5
Zone			Easting			Northing									
2															

3															
Zone			Easting			Northing									
4															

☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Max Adriel Imberman

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date February 28, 2022

street & number 9149 Abbott Avenue telephone (305) 804-0653

city or town Surfside state FL zip code 33154

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

**Clear and descriptive photographs** under separate cover. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Each photograph must be numbered in the order they are referenced in the manuscript, and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log.

#### Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Miami Beach

street & number 1700 Convention Center Drive telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Miami Beach state FL zip code 33139

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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Name of Property

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N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**SUMMARY**

The North Beach Bandshell is a mid-century modernist performance space in the North Shore neighborhood of Miami Beach that opened in 1962. Located east of SR A1A/Collins Avenue, the City of Miami Beach's main northbound thoroughfare, the bandshell is an iconic example of South Florida's Tropical Modernist style now known as Miami Modern (MiMo). The North Beach Bandshell's architect, Norman M. Giller, was one of South Florida's great mid-century designers. The bandshell serves as a distinctive example of South Florida roadside architecture, with an impressive impression created by simple shapes. At the same time, it is a functional outdoor venue for performances. The bandshell's character-defining features are its circular shape, its two entrance towers, and its stage's curved proscenium. Since its initial construction, the North Beach Bandshell has been updated, with the most significant changes being the addition of a new backstage area, the expansion of the venue's stage, and the addition of a 24-foot high canopy shade structure at the center of the bandshell's central pavilion. While these alterations have had a visual impact on the overall venue, they have all avoided the character-defining features of the bandshell and still allow the North Beach Bandshell to function as an open-air performance space.

**SETTING**

The North Beach Bandshell is located just south of the National Register-listed North Shore Historic District, at the southeast corner of the intersection of SR A1A/Collins Avenue and 73<sup>rd</sup> Street. The bandshell is located approximately 50 feet east of Collins Avenue, and approximately 550 feet west of the Atlantic Ocean shoreline. The North Beach Bandshell is located within a park also containing beach volleyball courts and the present-day North Shore Community Center. Across Collins Avenue from the bandshell is a large parking lot, and to its north is a shopping district containing several hotels and restaurants. The North Beach Bandshell retains its beachside setting, as well as its association with the North Shore Historic District to its north. For these reason, the resource's integrity of setting is sufficient for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**Overall Layout and Design

The North Beach Bandshell is characterized by its circular central pavilion, the area where the attendees of events at the venue congregate. This pavilion is surrounded by a concrete wall separating the inside and outside of the bandshell. The wall (Photo 1), the contributing structure to the North Beach Bandshell resource, forms a circle extending from the front of the venue's stage. It is interrupted by three tower features, two of which are entrances, and one of which projects spotlights. The walls are topped with

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breezeblocks featuring a recurring rounded motif. This same motif is used to obscure the windows on the exterior of the bandshell's public bathroom (Photo 2). These breezeblocks are not original to the resource and were installed in a 2011 renovation.

Central Pavilion

The North Beach Bandshell's central pavilion (Photo 3) is a circular space with a terrazzo floor. The venue's stage is located northeast of the pavilion's center. The entrances to the pavilion are located at the northern and southeastern end and are marked with twin entrance towers. A lighting tower is located at the southwestern end of the pavilion. The public restrooms in the North Beach Bandshell are located between the stage and the southeastern entrance, in an unadorned concrete block outbuilding (Photo 4) with a stucco façade. At the center of the pavilion is a non-contributing 24-foot tall canopy shade structure made of curved structural steel. The canopy is held up by a central column surrounded by a ring from which the canopy has been hung.

Entrance Towers

The North Beach Bandshell's two public entrances are located at the northern and southeastern ends of the circular central pavilion. The two towers are identical in design, with the northern (Photos 5 and 6) and southeastern (Photos 7 and 8) having several key aesthetic features. The towers consist of two curved shapes connected near the top by a thin flat plane. Each of the entrances is surrounded by a low and thin cantilevered disc-shaped canopy, which are designed to provide an enclosed feel to a visitor. The underside of each of the canopies are adorned with eight circular lights.

Lighting Tower

The North Beach Bandshell's lighting tower (Photos 9 and 10) serves as the resource's main public façade from the street perspective, even though it is itself not an entrance to the venue. The lighting tower's shape is similar to that of the two entrance towers, with the same curved shapes and flat planes, but is taller and with a more substantial plane at the top. The lighting tower does not have the cantilevered disc-shaped canopy but does have a built-in ladder for accessing its roof for lighting purposes.

Stage

The North Beach Bandshell's stage (Photos 11 and 12) is located at the northeastern end of the venue's central pavilion. The stage is topped by a simple curved proscenium supported by two pairs of thin

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vertical rectangles. The stage has rounded concrete layers along its back end for amplification purposes. The stage's front end features a pre-cast concrete quarter-moon pattern on both sides.

Backstage

The North Beach Bandshell's backstage area is a non-historic non-contributing building addition to the resource. Featuring hallways and offices (Photos 13 and 14), the backstage area is purely functional and does not often come into the public view. The backstage area is accessible through an entrance at the northeastern corner of the bandshell (Photo 15).

**ALTERATIONS**

The North Beach Bandshell has had several alterations to its design in its 60 years of continuous operation. Many of these alterations were done outside of the bandshell's main area of significance, including the construction of a new backstage area and office spaces. Several alterations have occurred along the building's façade, including the addition of a breezeblock pattern along the top of the exterior wall. This pattern refers to the concrete design at the back of the bandshell's stage. The original exterior walls of the bandshell's public bathrooms have also been encased in an additional concrete layer, with the bathroom windows now covered with the same pattern used for the breezeblocks. The North Beach Bandshell's stage has been increased in size, but still fits within the same footprint as the original stage area. This was possible because the original front of the stage was set back behind the proscenium arch. The bandshell's circular pavilion originally had a ring of permanent seats along the bandshell's exterior walls, which have been removed.

The most significant alteration to the North Beach Bandshell was the 2019 addition of a 24-foot high canopy shade structure at the center of the bandshell's central pavilion. The structure provides shade and rain protection for patrons of the venue while taking up minimal floor space and doing little to impact the movement of visitors. While the canopy structure is tall and is clearly visible within and from the outside of the bandshell, it does not significantly affect the design of the overall resource and could be removed without affecting the integrity of the bandshell's historic elements. Modern lighting and sound systems have also been installed throughout the venue. The various alterations to the bandshell have avoided the significant design features of the resource.

**INTEGRITY**

The North Beach Bandshell retains a high degree of integrity. While the overall resource has been subject to several large-scale alterations, the key design features of the bandshell have been maintained. The bandshell has retained its circular shape, twin disc-shaped entrance canopy features, and the

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repeating concrete pattern on its stage. The most significant alteration to the North Beach Bandshell has been the construction of the large canopy shade structure at its center. While the canopy structure does have a visual impact on the resource, it is not touching any of the other design elements of the resource, and improves the usability of the space. It also complements the design of the bandshell by reflecting the resource's circular shape. The design of the canopy was approved by the City of Miami Beach's Design Review Board, and the canopy is also unattached to any contributing feature to the North Beach Bandshell resource.<sup>1</sup> The other alterations to the overall bandshell resource are minor and do not have a significant effect on its historic integrity. The bandshell retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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<sup>1</sup> City of Miami Beach Planning Department, *DRB18-0326, 7275 Collins Avenue – North Beach Bandshell Design Review Board Report*; May 7, 2019, 6.

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**SUMMARY**

The North Beach Bandshell is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Its period of significance is 1961-1962, the years of its design, construction, and opening. The North Beach Bandshell is an iconic mid-century performance space constructed approximately 400 feet west of the Atlantic Ocean. Designed in South Florida's Tropical Modernist style now known as Miami Modern (MiMo), by Norman M. Giller, one of the most notable South Florida architects of the mid-century period, the North Beach Bandshell is significant for the way its economical yet effective use of built structures and simple shapes complement an open and adaptable performance and event space. A key design feature of the bandshell is the way in which it was designed to visually communicate the distinction between the area inside and outside of the outdoor performance venue, allowing visitors to experience the outdoors while clearly feeling like they are not out in public. The bandshell features terrazzo flooring, as well as a circular perimeter wall with two entrances marked by distinctive disk-shaped cantilevered canopies supported by tall columns. The North Beach Bandshell's stage is marked by circular concrete layers and a repeating precast concrete pattern. Located just south of the National Register-listed North Shore Historic District, the bandshell is a character-defining feature of Northern Miami Beach, an element of the built environment embracing the tropical climate, the city's urban art and culture, and a mid-century sense of whimsy and grandeur.

**HISTORIC CONTEXT**North Shore Neighborhood of Miami Beach

The North Beach Bandshell is located just south of the National Register-listed North Shore Historic District. While not located within the district's boundaries, the bandshell's history is nonetheless associated with the district's history. The North Shore Historic District is significant for its collection of mid-century architecture, a built heritage distinct from the Art Deco trappings of the National Register-listed Miami Beach Architectural District. Containing an assortment of architectural styles including Mediterranean Revival, Moderne, Post-War Modern, and vernacular buildings constituting a "Miami Modern" (MiMo) aesthetic, the North Shore Historic District features single-family residential, multi-family residential, commercial, hotel, and public buildings.<sup>2</sup> In addition to its architecture, the district is significant for its efficient grid-based planning on the narrow Miami Beach barrier island, between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway. The development of the North Shore Historic District reflects the City of Miami Beach's balance between residential and commercial, public in private,

<sup>2</sup> Myers, Joyce; "National Register Nomination for the North Shore Historic District," September 2009, Bureau of Historic Preservation, Tallahassee, Florida; Section 8, Section 7, Page 1-7.

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containing and supporting many interests in lifestyles in a geographically constrained area.<sup>3</sup> Even though the bandshell is not physically located within the district's boundaries, it is reflective of the development interests and pressures which formed and guided the development of that district.

Norman M. Giller, Miami Modernist Architect

The North Beach Bandshell was designed in 1961 by Norman M. Giller, who was born in Jacksonville, Florida, and had his initial training as an architect in Washington, D.C., but made his career in the City of Miami Beach. Giller led an architectural firm known for its numerous innovations in design and construction, especially attuned to South Florida's tropical climate. He was known as a pioneer of mid-century motels, which he designed across the United States. By 1957, Giller's firm, which was headquartered in the City of Miami Beach in the National Register-listed Giller Building, was the tenth largest architectural firm in the United States by volume, despite having a smaller staff than many of the other firms at the top of the list. Giller and his firm were locally, nationally, and internationally known for residential, commercial, and public architecture.<sup>4</sup>

North Shore Community Center

The North Beach Bandshell, originally called the North Beach Community Center, opened on April 4, 1962. The bandshell was the City of Miami Beach's fourth community recreation center, built in an neighborhood at that time lacking in public infrastructure.<sup>5</sup> The bandshell was built within the City-owned North Shore Park, adjacent to a pre-existing lifesaving and comfort station for beachgoers.<sup>6</sup> The contract to build Norman M. Giller's design for the bandshell structure was awarded to Southeastern Construction, who submitted the low bid of \$62,339.<sup>7</sup> Miami Beach Mayor Kenneth Oka dedicated the bandshell on its opening night, and the first event held at the venue after its dedication was a vaudeville performance.<sup>8</sup> The bandshell was quickly incorporated into citywide civic events, including holiday festivities for Halloween and Hanukkah.<sup>9</sup> In the early 1960s, weekly open-air concerts were offered at

<sup>3</sup> Myers, Joyce; "National Register Nomination for the North Shore Historic District," September 2009, Bureau of Historic Preservation, Tallahassee, Florida; Section 8, Section 8, Page 1-5.

<sup>4</sup> Imberman, Max Adriel, "National Register Nomination for the Giller Building," October 23, 2017, Bureau of Historic Preservation, Tallahassee, Florida; Section 8, Pages 6-8.

<sup>5</sup> "The News Around Miami," *The Miami News*, April 1, 1962, p. 18A.

<sup>6</sup> City of Miami Beach Planning Department, *North Beach Bandshell 7275 Collins Avenue Designation Report*; September 13, 2021, 12.

<sup>7</sup> "Contract Goes to Southeastern," *The Miami Herald*, August 13, 1961, p. G11.

<sup>8</sup> "Dedication Set on New Center," *The Miami Herald*, April 1, 1962, p. C1.

<sup>9</sup> Volker, Al, "Pulse of Miami," *The Miami News*, December 19, 1962, p. 3A.

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N/A

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the bandshell.<sup>10</sup> Throughout the 1960s, many recurring civic events were held at the bandshell, including vaudeville shows (held on Wednesdays) and community dances (held on Sundays).

The most notable historic use of the North Beach Bandshell as a venue occurred in January 1974, when the *Mike Douglas Show* filmed ten episodes at the bandshell. Two years earlier, the show had filmed several episodes at the Miami Beach Auditorium, an indoor venue, leading the *Miami Herald* newspaper to remark that “it might just as well have stayed home in Philadelphia.”<sup>11</sup> The Emmy-winning daytime talk show took full advantage of the North Beach Bandshell as an outdoor venue, embracing and displaying Miami Beach’s beachside tropical climate.

## ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE

The North Beach Bandshell is a distinctive and significant example of the Miami Modern (MiMo) architectural style, designed by Norman M. Giller, one of the architects whose works defined the style. An example of a work of tropical modernism architect embracing and taking advantage of Miami’s climate to create a year-round outdoor performance venue, the North Beach Bandshell manages to be both an idiosyncratic instance of roadside architecture and an impressive and usable performance venue, with its signature features serving both of these ends. Built for the City of Miami Beach, the bandshell’s architecture efficiently and inexpensively created a strong and lasting impression for people who visited for a show, or just drove by.

MiMo, as defined by authors Eric P. Nash and Randall C. Robinson, Jr., is a “confluence” of several sets of design principles and influences, ranging from grand resort hotels to smaller-scale garden apartment buildings to commercial buildings.<sup>12</sup> MiMo incorporates high and low culture, a shorthand representation for an era of South Florida’s history in the mid-century period when the region was not only one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world, but also a vessel for a conception of a breezy modernity distinct from the modernist styles prolific in other parts of the country and world.

In the City of Miami Beach, Collins Avenue is the main north-south thoroughfare. It is a segment of State Road (SR) A1A, which runs up Florida’s East coast, often in viewing distance of the Atlantic Ocean. Collins Avenues streetscapes include several of the city’s most distinctive resources, including several National Register-listed historic districts (the Miami Beach Architectural District, the Collins Waterfront Architectural District, and the North Shore Historic District), and four individually-listed hotels (the Cadillac, Ocean Spray, Fountainebleau, and Monticello hotels). Nash and Robinson describe

<sup>10</sup> Volker, Al, “Pulse of Miami,” *The Miami News*, July 29, 1963, p. B1.

<sup>11</sup> Anderson, Jack, “Connie Stevens to Co-Host Week of Douglas Shows Here,” *The Miami Herald*, January 4, 1974, p. 9E.

<sup>12</sup> Eric P. Nash & Randall C. Robinson Jr., *MiMo: Miami Modern Revealed*, (Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 2004), 9.

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Collins Avenue as “America’s Riviera,” saying that a drive north on the roadway “traces the development of Miami Beach in almost chronological order.”<sup>13</sup> From the roadway’s southern terminus in the 1920s Art Deco wonderland of the Miami Beach Architectural District, the city expanded northward over time. The North Beach Bandshell, built just south of the North Shore Historic District, anchors its community, located among collections of mid-century commercial buildings, situated between Collins Avenue and the beach just to its east.

The North Beach Bandshell was designed to be striking to the drivers and passengers heading north on Collins Avenue, even if they were not to be attending an event there. Nash and Robinson cited the building as an example of “Monumental MiMo,” a subset of style which tended to be applied to civic buildings. The authors noted that resources of this type “followed more general trends in Modernist architecture by first using minimalist and later Brutalist styles for public buildings... modified with tropical elements.”<sup>14</sup> From the road, even with just a quick glance, a visitor can quickly note the North Beach Bandshell’s two entrance towers, the taller lighting power closest to the Collins Avenue roadway, and its impressive stage, the four anchors interrupting the resource’s round stucco wall.

In addition to the North Beach Bandshell’s significance as an example of mid-century Miami Beach roadside architecture, the bandshell is also significant for the ways in which it was consciously designed to provide clear and meaningful distinctions between the inside and outside of the venue, even though it was originally designed with no roofs or coverings. Giller wrote in a 2007 book summarizing his career that the bandshell’s central space “had to be completely free of permanent structures in order to accommodate the wide range of civic activities. Thus I focused my creative energies on the perimeter elements.”<sup>15</sup> While the 2019 canopy shade structure does interrupt the openness of the bandshell’s central pavilion, it improves the venue’s usability in the South Florida tropical monsoon climate. In addition, the structure maximizes its protective coverage while minimizing its footprint on the ground. A thin column supports the circular cantilevered canopy. While the terrazoed floor of the bandshell was intended to be a blank slate for a wide range of civic activities, the architect’s challenge was to create a meaningful space defined by its edges.

In the design of the North Beach Bandshell, Giller’s work is characterized primarily by simple shapes, mostly circles and curves. The venue space itself is roughly circular, and each of the bandshell’s two public entrances in the tower structures are covered by large cantilevered disk-shaped canopies. The towers serve to support the canopies. Giller wrote that he “placed these wide canopies rather low, so that people walking under them are aware that they are entering an enclosed space. In contrast, those leaving

<sup>13</sup> Eric P. Nash & Randall C. Robinson Jr., *MiMo: Miami Modern Revealed*, (Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 2004), 9.

<sup>14</sup> Eric P. Nash & Randall C. Robinson Jr., *MiMo: Miami Modern Revealed*, (Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 2004), 163.

<sup>15</sup> Norman M. Giller and Sarah Giller Nelson, *Designing the Good Life: Norman M. Giller and the Development of Miami Modernism*, (University Press of Florida, Gainesville, 2007), 125.

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the protection of the canopies immediately find themselves in view of the expansive sky.”<sup>16</sup> In short, a visitor entering the North Beach Bandshell momentarily has their sense of the outdoors interrupted, in order to retrigger their engagement with Miami Beach’s famous sun and tropical climate. This effect has been preserved, even though the 2019 canopy shade structure does obscure the sky to a visitor located in the center of the central pavilion. A visitor entering the North Beach Bandshell through either of its entrances retains the experience of an enclosure creating a temporary interruption to the outdoor feeling. The 24-foot tall canopy shade structure has a much less enclosed feel than the cantilevered coverings by the resource’s entrances.

The North Beach Bandshell’s stage features several distinctive design features, serving as a capstone for the space. Like the rest of the structure, the bandshell’s stage uses simple shapes and curves. The backdrop of the stage includes a set of projecting concrete layers, which add visual variety as well as amplification of sounds coming from the stage. The stage also features precast concrete quarter-moon patterns along its sides. As Giller put it, “this detail offers texture and contrast, and serves as an inexpensive, low-maintenance means of decorating the stage.”<sup>17</sup> The quarter-moon design was later used again in the 2011 renovations to the structure, when matching breezeblocks were placed atop the bandshell’s perimeter wall.

In 2021, the North Beach Bandshell was locally designated as a historic landmark by the City of Miami Beach. The designation report noted that “this open-air performing arts facility was sensitively designed to respond to its unique tropical location in Miami Beach. The highly spirited open form of its architecture integrates artfully with its coconut palm setting by the sea.”<sup>18</sup> The bandshell was unanimously accepted as a local landmark by the City of Miami Beach’s Historic Preservation Board and Commission.

The North Beach Bandshell’s design as a public space anchors its mid-century modernist surroundings. A quirky yet powerful structure, impressive from the outside yet welcoming from the inside, the bandshell as a venue represents a vision of MiMo architecture as serving the public, and also making a triumphant statement for a city known world-round as a tropical paradise.

<sup>16</sup> Norman M. Giller and Sarah Giller Nelson, *Designing the Good Life: Norman M. Giller and the Development of Miami Modernism*, (University Press of Florida, Gainesville, 2007), 125.

<sup>17</sup> Norman M. Giller and Sarah Giller Nelson, *Designing the Good Life: Norman M. Giller and the Development of Miami Modernism*, (University Press of Florida, Gainesville, 2007), 125.

<sup>18</sup> City of Miami Beach Planning Department, North Beach Bandshell 7275 Collins Avenue Designation Report; September 13, 2021, 12.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 10

North Beach Bandshell

Name of Property

Miami-Dade County, Florida

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 11

North Beach Bandshell

Name of Property

Miami-Dade County, Florida

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Verbal Boundary Description**

2 53 42 20 AC  
LOT 8 BEING A PORTION OF  
ORIG GOVT LOT 6  
& PORT LYING EAST & ADJACENT WEST  
OF EROSION LINE PER PB 105-62  
LOT SIZE 500.000 X 359

Comprising the portion of the above lot containing 7275 Collins Avenue, bounded by SR A1A/Collins Avenue to the west and 73<sup>rd</sup> Street to the north.

**Boundary Justification**

The above property description contains all of the historic resources associated with the North Beach Bandshell.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

North Beach Bandshell  
Name of Property

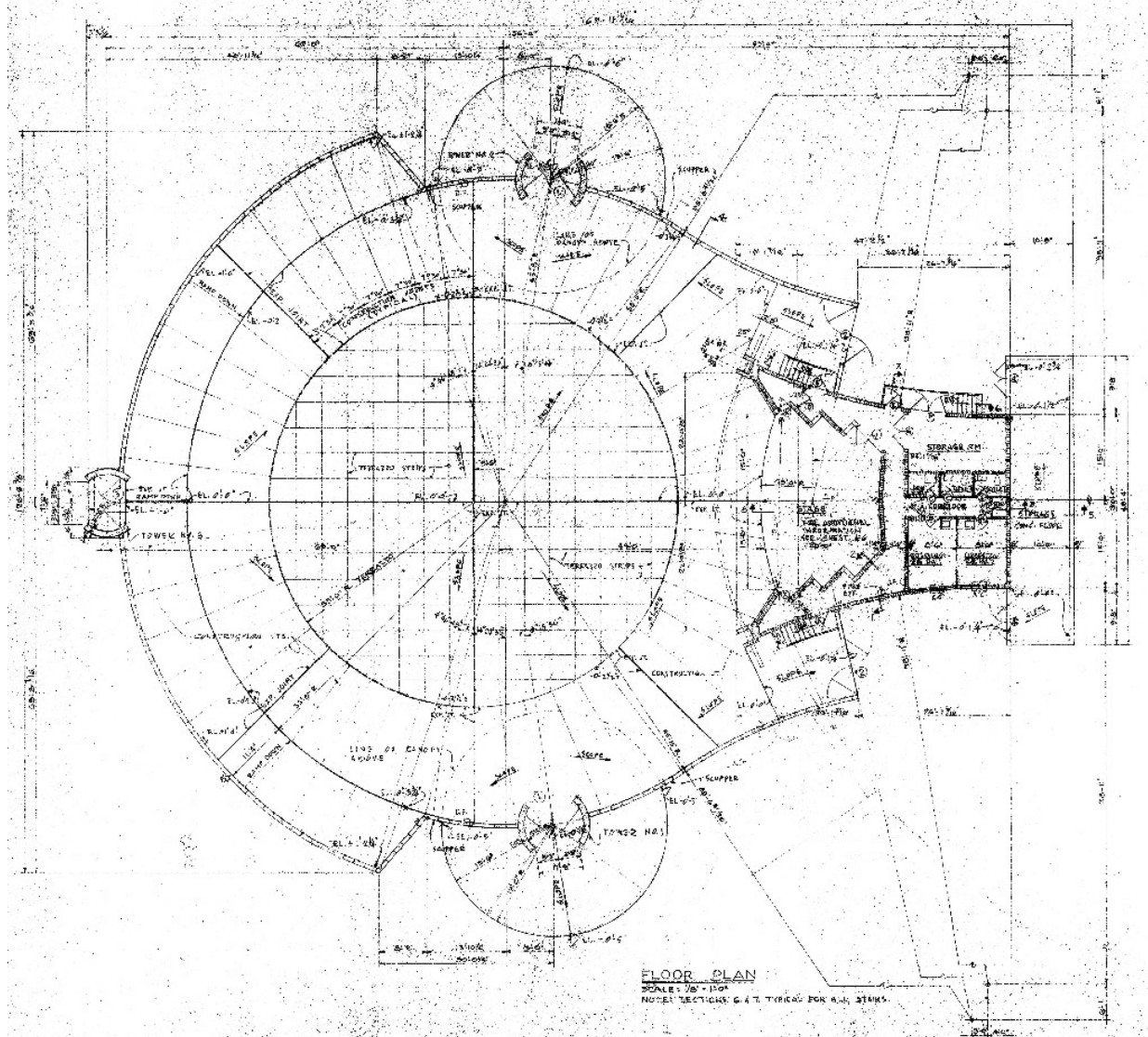
Miami-Dade County, Florida  
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Additional Documentation (Figures, plans, historic photos)



**Figure 1:** Norman M. Giller's original design for the layout of the North Beach Bandshell. Source: City of Miami Beach Planning Department

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

## North Beach Bandshell

Name of Property

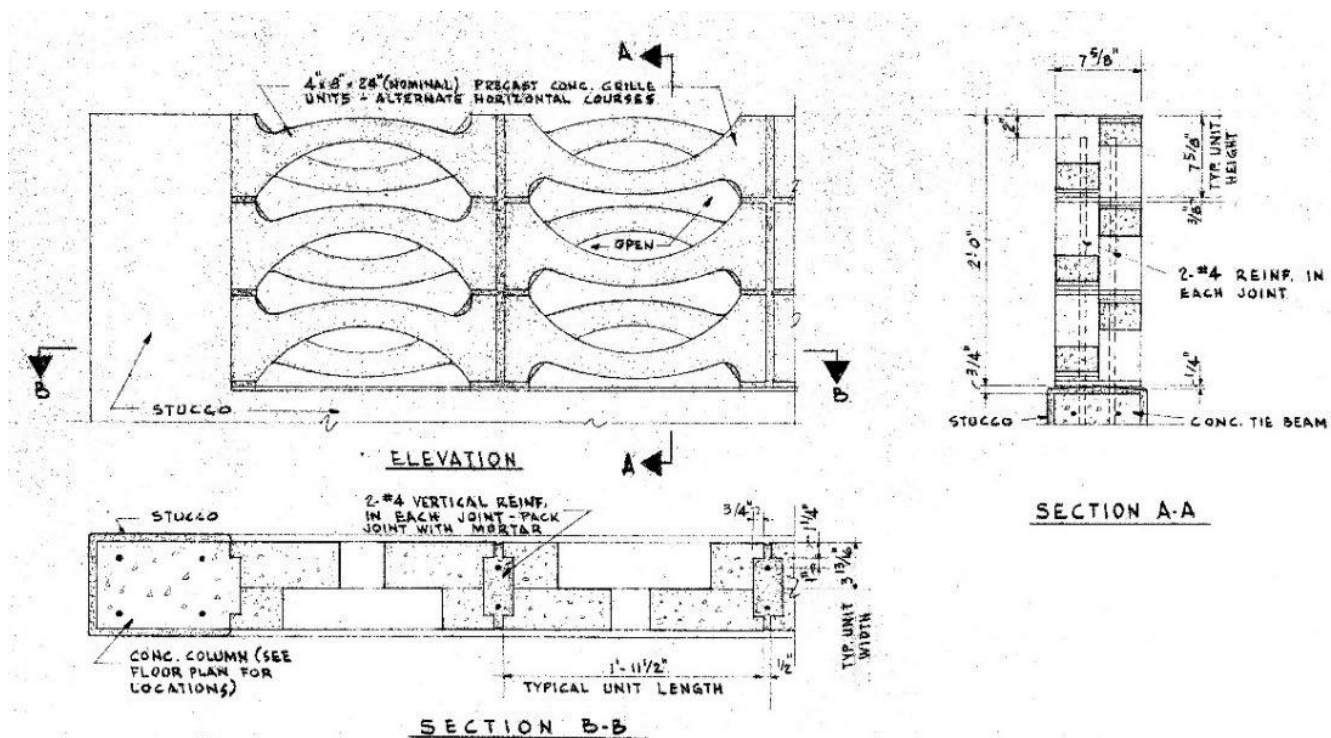
Miami-Dade County, Florida

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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**Figure 2:** Norman M. Giller’s design for the pre-cast concrete quarter-moon pattern motif used on either side of the North Beach Bandshell’s stage. Source: City of Miami Beach Planning Department

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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North Beach Bandshell

Name of Property

Miami-Dade County, Florida

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



**Figure 3:** Historic photograph of North Beach Bandshell taken between 1961 and 1974. Source: City of Miami Beach Planning Department



**Figure 4:** Historic photograph of 1974 filming of the Mike Douglas Show at the North Beach Bandshell. Source: City of Miami Beach Planning Department

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number        Photos        Page 15

North Beach Bandshell

Name of Property

Miami-Dade County, Florida

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered in the order they are referenced in the manuscript, and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log.

Property Name: North Beach Bandshell

City or Vicinity: Miami Beach

County: Miami-Dade

State: FL

Photographer: Max Adriel Imberman

Date Photographed: January 28, 2022

**Description of photograph(s) and number, including description of view indicating direction of camera:**

1. Western side of Exterior Wall, facing East
2. Eastern Wall of Bathrooms, Facing West
3. Central Pavilion with Canopy Structure, Facing Southwest
4. Bathroom Outbuilding, Facing East
5. North Entrance from Outside of Bandshell, Facing South
6. North Entrance from Central Pavilion, Facing Northeast
7. Southeast Entrance from Outside of Bandshell, Facing West
8. Southeast Entrance from Central Pavilion, Facing Southeast
9. Lighting Tower from Outside of Bandshell, Facing East
10. Lighting Tower from Central Pavilion, Facing West
11. Stage from Western End of Bandshell Central Pavilion, Facing East
12. Bandshell Stage, Facing Southeast
13. Backstage Area, Facing East
14. Backstage Area, Facing South
15. Backstage Area Entrance, Facing South

# North Beach Bandshell Boundary Map

DA19570

7275 Collins Ave.  
Miami Beach, Miami-Dade Co.  
Florida, 33141

Datum: WGS84

UTM: 17R 588133 2860265

## Legend

 North Beach Bandshell

Date: 3/18/2022

1:1,000

0 25 50 100 150 200 Feet

0 5 10 20 30 40 Meters

Drawn by: Ruben A. Acosta, BHP, DHR

Basemap Source:

Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment  
P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS,  
NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL,  
Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri  
China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap  
contributors, and the GIS User Community



# North Beach Bandshell Aerial Map

DA19570

7275 Collins Ave.  
Miami Beach, Miami-Dade Co.  
Florida, 33141

Datum: WGS84

UTM: 17R 588133 2860265

## Legend

 North Beach Bandshell

Date: 3/18/2022

1:2,000

0 50 100 200 300 400 Feet

0 12.5 25 50 75 100 Meters

Drawn by: Ruben A. Acosta, BHP, DHR

Basemap Source:  
Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar  
Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS,  
USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN,  
and the GIS User Community



# North Beach Bandshell USGS Map

DA19570

7275 Collins Ave.  
Miami Beach, Miami-Dade Co.  
Florida, 33141

Datum: WGS84

USGS Quad: Miami, FL

UTM: 17R 588133 2860265

## Legend

 North Beach Bandshell

Date: 3/18/2022

1:18,000

0 450 900 1,800 2,700 3,600 Feet

0 115 230 460 690 920 Meters

Drawn by: Ruben A. Acosta, BHP, DHR

Basemap Source:  
© 2013 National Geographic  
Society, i-cubed

