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## Advocate for Residents of Miami Beach

We are a community based non-profit organization providing Miami Beach residents a cohesive voice for city-wide issues that impact our quality of life. [Join us!](#)

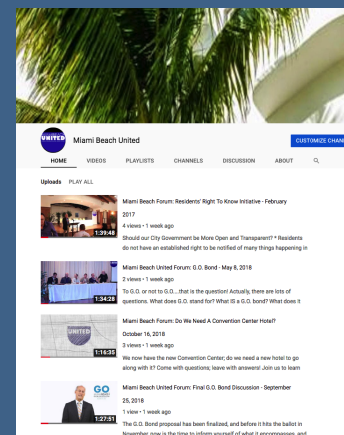


## HOT OFF THE PRESS - the NEW Miami Beach United [website](#) !

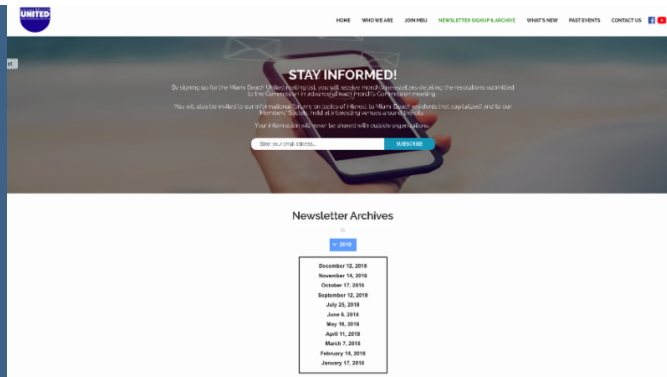
Thanks to outstanding marketer and indefatigable MBU founding member Herb Sosa, MBU was launched in 2012 with a strong visual brand and web presence. But, as anyone who works with websites knows, the one drawback to websites is that the moment they go live, they have been surpassed by newer technology! So, after eight extremely good years, we say goodbye to our old site and welcome our new site!



Still located at [www.miamibeachunited.org](http://www.miamibeachunited.org), the new site is packed with new features. One is our YouTube channel - [click on the red YouTube logo icon in the top right corner](#) to connect directly, or go to YouTube and search for "[Miami Beach United](#)" - where you can view videos of the Forums held over the past few years. These are still being uploaded, so if one you're looking for isn't up yet, check back in a few days!

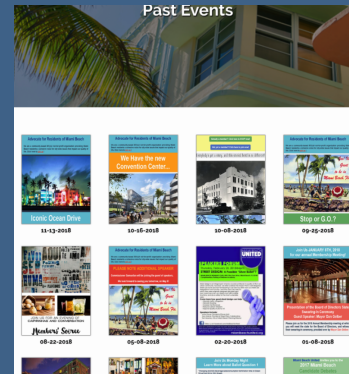


Want to see a past newsletter, including live links to resolutions and the City Commission agenda items to which they refer? We've got an app for that...ok, not an app, but a page where you can

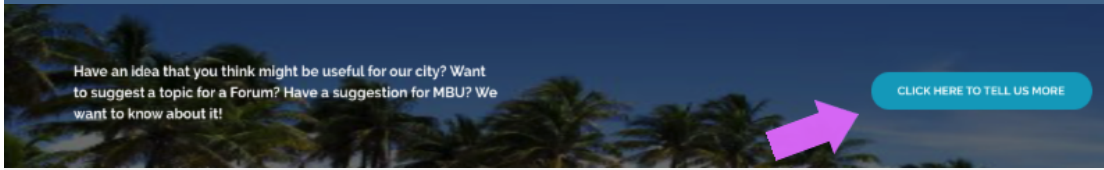


click on the date of the newsletter, and it will open in its entirety in a new page - [click on the "newsletter sign up and archive" tab in the navigation bar.](#)

Curious about any past events you may have missed, or want to know if we hosted a forum on a particular topic? [Click on the "past events" tab in the navigation bar.](#) Additional functionality will be added over the next few months, so check back!



Another feature is our "suggestion box", located in the footer of each page, where visitors can connect with Miami Beach United directly. Have an idea that you want to get floated up to the folks at City Hall? Want to suggest a topic for a Forum? Have a question about Miami Beach United? We want to hear about it! Just click on the blue link and let us know what's on your mind!



## WE WANT YOU - TO GET INVOLVED!

As we look to our new year ahead, we remain committed to our core mission of improving the quality of life for Miami Beach residents, and providing a conduit to connect residents with City staff and elected officials . We are the only 501c4 organization run entirely by volunteers, and we have big plans for 2019.

### Forums and Events

This year we will host Forums on topics ranging from Seal Level Rise and Resiliency, to Candidate Debates in advance of the November elections - our plan is to host a Forum every month. We will also continue our Members' Socials, on a quarterly basis, and will reintroduce a community clean-up volunteer day this spring. Hortense De Castro is heading up that committee, and we would love you to get involved...if you are a member\* and love event planning, connecting people, being the host with the most, [email us at info@miamibeachunited.org](mailto:info@miamibeachunited.org) for more information.

### Government Affairs

This committee, led by Ron Starkman, is vital to our core mission of advocating for residents. Each month we review the upcoming agendas for Commission Meetings and discuss items that seem to fit within our purview of advocating for quality of life issues. Once the board meets and votes on actions to be taken, the resolutions are written and shared with the elected officials and staff at City Hall. Miami Beach United board directors then attend commission meetings to speak on behalf of the resolutions passed. Ultimately, the year's (November 2018-October 2019) resolutions and legislation will be captured in the annual Commission Scorecard. We would love to have you participate in this process, from tracking legislative items through to representing our positions at City Hall. If you're a member\* who is engaged with or curious about how our City makes laws that affect our daily lives, we'd love to hear from you. [Email us at info@miamibeachunited.org](mailto:info@miamibeachunited.org) for more information.

### Membership and Marketing

At the end of the day, there is no MBU without you. The more involved residents are with the organization, the better the organization can serve residents. We have a number of ideas about outreach to different community groups and neighborhoods, and are eager to get community-builders on board to help us raise awareness. If you're a member\* who is interested in working with a number of our directors, led by Rhea D'Souza, and have experience in marketing, communications, and/or outreach, we want to hear from you! [Email us at info@miamibeachunited.org](mailto:info@miamibeachunited.org) for more information.

**\*Committee participation is limited to paid members only.**

**Not a member? Not a problem - click [here](#) to join today!**

Our board of directors and many committed members volunteer their time to ensure that your voice is heard in the Commission chamber as well as directly, meeting with the Commissioners and the Mayor to ensure the views, concerns, and positions taken by the community are understood and taken into account when policy is made.

We believe that a strong MIAMI BEACH UNITED translates into an effective MIAMI BEACH UNITED; the more diverse and engaged voices, the better! That is why we ask that you consider joining and participating in MBU – membership is only \$25 per year.

Want to learn more? Click [here](#) .

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On January 7, 2019, the membership of Miami Beach United voted in the new board of directors for 2019. We had a terrific evening, including a presentation honoring founder Nancy Liebman's contributions to the organization ( [watch here](#) ) and a visit with Miami-Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins, discussing her journey to becoming our Commissioner, and what she's found since taking on the job. Check out event photos on our [Facebook page](#) .



(Left to right:) Margaret Pulles Machado Pulles, Ryan Barras, Sarah Leddick, Rhea D'Souza, Herb Frank, Ron Starkman, Saul Gross, Hortense De Castro, Adam Kravitz, Tanya Bhatt, Scott Needelman, Jorge Gonzelez, Jack Johnson.

Not pictured: Kirk Paskal, Jonathan Parker, Silvia Winitzky

## 2019 Miami Beach United Board of Directors

### Officers

Tanya K. Bhatt, President; Marketing  
Saul Gross, Treasurer  
Rhea D'Souza, V.P. Membership, Recording Secretary  
Ron Starkman, VP, Government Affairs

### Directors

Ryan Barras  
Hortense De Castro  
Herb Frank  
Jorge Gonzalez  
Jack Johnson  
Adam Kravitz  
Sarah Leddick  
Margaret Pulles Machado  
Scott Needelman  
Jonathan Parker  
Kirk Paskal  
Silvia Winitzky  
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Nancy Liebman, Chair Emerita





## Our Mission

Dedicated to improving the quality of life for Miami Beach residents, managed and measured growth of our city, and ethical leadership of government – for a vibrant city rooted in history, its people, resources and neighborhoods, with focus on the future – by providing educational and analytical focus on the organization, structure, policies and performance of Miami Beach government.

Thanks to Diane and Alan Lieberman, our hosts at the Miami Beach Woman's Club, and to Alison Colberg for facilitating our events at this historic and lovely space in the heart of Miami Beach. [Click here to learn more about this unique venue and its history.](#)

