

THE  
CITY BEAUTIFUL

*Centennial*  
EDITION  
1925-2025



CORAL GABLES  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Points of Interest locations



#2 The Biltmore Hotel



#49 Coral Gables Country Club



#50 Coral Gables Library

## LEADING HOTELS

1. Aloft Coral Gables
2. The Biltmore Hotel
3. Courtyard by Marriott
4. Hotel Colonnade
5. Hyatt Regency Coral Gables
6. Hotel St. Michel
7. THesis Hotel
8. Loews Coral Gables Hotel

## ATTRACTIONS & CULTURE

9. Actors' Playhouse at Miracle Theatre
10. Books & Books
11. Coral Gables Art Cinema
12. Coral Gables Museum
13. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
14. Lowe Art Museum
15. Matheson Hammock Park & Marina
16. Merrick House
17. Venetian Pool
18. Montgomery Botanical Center
19. Sanctuary of the Arts

## LANDMARKS

20. Alhambra Water Tower
21. Alhambra Entrance
22. Coral Way Entrance
23. De Soto Fountain
24. Douglas Entrance
25. Granada Entrance
26. Country Club Prado Entrance

## HISTORIC VILLAGES

27. Chinese Village
28. Florida Pioneer Village
29. Dutch South African Village
30. French City Village
31. French Country Village
32. French Normandy Village
33. Italian Village

## SHOPPING & DINING

34. Shops at Merrick Park
35. Miracle Mile Shopping & Dining District
36. Giralda Plaza
37. The Plaza Coral Gables

## SPORTS VENUES

38. Biltmore Golf Course
39. Granada Golf Course
40. Riviera Golf Course
41. Tennis Courts at Biltmore Hotel
42. Jaycee Park
43. Phillips Park
44. Salvadore Park

## CIVIC VENUES

45. Chamber of Commerce
46. Coral Gables Welcome Center
47. Woman's Club
48. Coral Gables City Hall
49. Coral Gables Country Club
50. Coral Gables Library
51. Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center





Map by Jorge Gavilondo

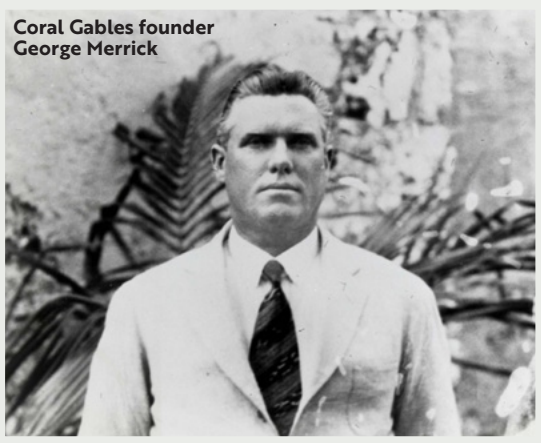
## CORAL GABLES POINTS OF INTEREST

# Coral Gables:

*A glance in the  
rearview mirror  
after 100 years*

By KAREN BUSCHBAUM

Coral Gables founder  
George Merrick



First City Commission meeting  
at the new City Hall 1928

## THE DREAM

It was sheer persistence; back-breaking, soul-stealing persistence that kept the Merrick family in place after arriving on the 160-acre “farm” they purchased sight-unseen in 1899.

Persistence through yellow fever, a six-month drought, 67 inches of rain in 40 days, hurricanes, a bank failure, infestations of roaches and frogs, and “hypnosis of will and hope” as described by George Merrick. To the religious family, it must’ve seemed like plagues of Biblical proportion.

Merrick dreamed and planned for years before making his first move to create “America’s Finest Suburb.” In the years leading up to the City of Coral Gables’ official founding, sales and work progressed at a frenetic pace. Between 1923 and 1924, Merrick spent \$5 million on advertising, hundreds of homes were built, and miles of roadways established.

By the time the city was incorporated on April 29, 1925, there was \$25 million in building permits and 50,000 trees, shrubs, and flowering plants. Homes sold from \$4,000 to \$75,000, attracting a wide variety of income levels. The Chamber of Commerce was launched the same year with Merrick as founder. Just one year later, there were 2,792 private residences among the more than 4,000 structures built. Investment value was a staggering \$150 million-plus. There were now also 100 miles of paved streets and 125 miles of sidewalks, more than 100 office and commercial buildings, nine schools, a hospital, and the iconic Biltmore Hotel as the grand dame of the six hotels in the city.

Merrick donated land to several churches and, significantly, 160 acres for the new University of Miami, the crown jewel of his plans. There was a riding club, and bridle paths wound throughout the community, along with tennis courts and golf courses. The arts season included opera, dances, and symphony performances. A day after the city was incorporated, the first new trolley ceremoniously



# A City Centennial



The Biltmore Hotel, 1926

arrived with famous orator and Coral Gables promoter Williams Jennings Bryan.

Neighborhood women banded together for the good of the community. The Coco Plum Thimble Club was the first woman's club, founded in 1912. Eunice Merrick, George's wife, was a founding member of the Coral Gables Woman's Club in 1923. Two years later, 35 women started the Coral Gables Garden Club.

City features have evolved over time. The original high school campus is now Ponce Middle School, and the land where Coral Gables High sits was once home to a tent city for the hundreds of construction workers building the city. The quarry pit used to extract oolitic limestone for some of the first homes and gravel for the early roads was transformed into Venetian Pool, a tropical paradise residents still treasure.

When the Biltmore opened, it brought in 25 authentic gondolas and gondoliers from Italy to transport guests from the hotel to Tahiti Beach on Biscayne Bay through Gables waterways. Tahiti Beach featured parking for 1,000 cars, hundreds of coconut

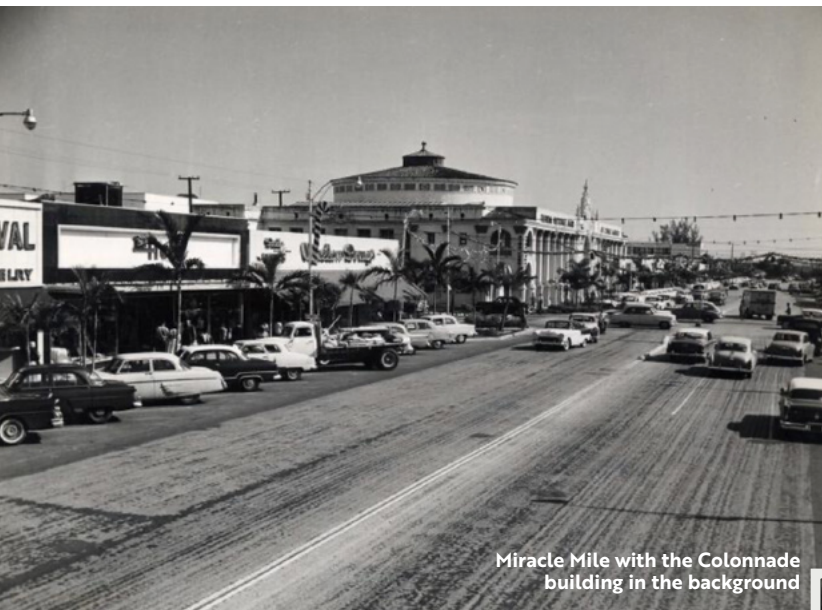
palms, a South Seas atoll, a bandshell shaped like a seashell, a dance floor, and 100 thatched bathhouses.

## THE DREAM BECOMES A NIGHTMARE

Tahiti Beach, along with plans for more waterfront development and a new hotel, were blown away by the 1926 hurricane that destroyed much of Miami. The Beach was rebuilt but closed for good in the early 1970s and is now part of the Cocoplum private residential community.

Due to strong building codes, structures and homes in Coral Gables fared well in the storm. Landscape was decimated and windows broken, but no lives were lost. After the storm, Merrick and his team kept going, advertising aggressively, replanting trees, and strengthening building codes: steps that would reap huge benefits in the decades to come.

They optimistically launched plans for 1,000 thematically inspired homes in various "village" designs, less than half of which were completed. City boundaries were expanded to include Central Miami and Schenley Park to the west of Red Road, and



Miracle Mile with the Colonnade building in the background

east to include property along the bayfront and a good portion of Key Biscayne.

But control of the city was slipping. Some residents felt the Coral Gables Corporation and City Commission were too intertwined. Residents demanded a local election. Four of the five Commissioners were replaced, with only Merrick remaining. Soon, based on his lack of attendance at meetings, he was removed.

An economic crisis was brewing. There was a run on a local bank, more than 1,000 buyers defaulted on their mortgages, and many delinquent taxpayers were adding to the city's growing financial issues. Black Thursday, the great crash of the U.S. stock market on October 24, 1929, was the final blow for development of the Gables. The Coral Gables economy ground to a halt.

### THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Though development was at a standstill, some landmark events would prove important to the City Beautiful of the future.

The Matheson family donated 85 acres of tropical hardwood hammock forest in 1930 to create and protect the land now known as Matheson Hammock Park, the Gables' only surviving public beach. Eight years later, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden was established with a gift of 83 acres, as well as funds for developing the plant collections, by Col. Robert H. Montgomery and his wife Nell.

As part of the federal government's WPA program to put people back to work and rebuild the country, 17 projects were approved for Coral Gables, including the city library, which was run by the Coral Gables Woman's Club. The WPA-built Municipal

Building housed the police and fire departments and is now the home of the Coral Gables Museum. Other efforts included a two-story gatekeepers lodge at Matheson Hammock and the overlook and amphitheater at Fairchild.

The Biltmore kept sputtering along until Henry Doherty was convinced to donate funds to keep it thriving. Doherty was head of the oil company now known as Citgo and also ran an investment company that owned three properties in South Florida. Wealthy members would travel in style between the hotel, Roney Plaza on Miami Beach, and the Anglers Club in Key Largo in the "Miss Biltmore Autogiro," a pre-helicopter contraption. With space for four passengers and a speed of 120 miles per hour, it could whisk members from the Gables to the



The Venetian Pool

Beach in less than 10 minutes.

Doherty was considered a savior of Coral Gables during the '30s. At Merrick's urging, he saved the University of Miami from bankruptcy, but his untimely death at the end of the decade dashed Merrick's hopes that he would provide the funds to recharge the city's development.

The city founder's problems multiplied. He spent much time with lawyers, attempting to unwind his legal and financial issues, all while trying to woo new investors. He was even called to testify before the Securities and Exchange Commission about the City's bond defaults. He was broken financially and spiritually, and died in 1942 having never completely realized his dream.

### THE WAR YEARS

During World War II, Dade County became a large and important training area, and Coral Gables





University of Miami under construction, 1926



Easter Sunday Service outside City Hall, 1963

played a major role. Beginning in 1940, thousands of soldiers occupied local buildings, including homes in the French Normandy Village. The University of Miami taught training classes to pilots, navigators, and aviation personnel. Merrick's original sales center, the Colonnade, had a pilot training facility and a WWII parachute factory, and the massive Miami Coliseum in Coral Gables was used for aviator training.

The U.S. government bought the Biltmore Hotel for \$895,000, converting it into a 1,200-bed Army Air Forces Regional Hospital. Eventually named Pratt General Hospital, historic décor was stripped, ceilings dropped, windows filled in, utilitarian surgical lighting replaced ornate light fixtures, and walls were painted institutional green. The grand dame was a ghost.

### POST-WAR MODERNISM

The tides of change had stunted plans for the University of Miami. Grace, Henry Doherty's widow, came to the rescue, donating 45 acres for what became known as Main Campus. Modern buildings, a far cry from the original Mediterranean designs, were constructed.

As many who had trained in the area during World War II wanted to stay, new homes were being built and stores were popping up. Architectural guidelines were debated but not resolved, so residents, shopkeepers, and companies built pretty much whatever they wanted. Eventually, the Board of Architects was established to put firm standards in place.

Post-war development included the new Miracle Theatre and Doctors Hospital. Miracle Mile became the new home of high-end shopping and garages were built to accommodate customers.

City boundaries began to shrink, as Central Mi-

ami and Schenley Park left the city and the Biscayne Bay section Merrick had such high hopes for became unincorporated. It took 30 years for the city to pay its final principal dividend on the debt incurred from the bond defaults in 1930.

By the mid-'60s, residents were beginning to notice the decline of the Mediterranean style that had attracted so many to the Gables. The late historian Arva Moore Parks identified the start of the Gables preservation movement with the successful citizen efforts to save the Alhambra Water Tower.

About the same time, plans became known to tear down the crumbling Douglas Entrance for a grocery store. A group of local architects and design professionals banded together to save the most impressive of Merrick's city gates. Many of the women became involved in raising money, even doing physical renovation work on the site. This group incorporated as The Villagers, now the county's oldest preservation organization.

### SAVING OUR HISTORY

The VA hospital closed its doors in the late '60s, eventually ceding the Biltmore to the City of Coral Gables in 1972. The hotel reopened with much fanfare in 1987, only to close again three years later. Finally, in 1992, the current management, Seaway Hotels Group, began to operate the elegant Gables hotel, undertaking a \$40 million renovation and adding a spa and fitness center.

Meanwhile, preservation efforts were surging. The Historic Monument Board of Review was the result of the first historic preservation ordinance, followed by the City of Coral Gables Preservation Board, founded in 1974. Its initial focus was to acquire Merrick House and, after methodical resto-

ration with advice from Merrick family members, it opened to the public.

The city hired its first preservation professional in the mid-'80s, eventually establishing a Historic Preservation Department, which has set a standard for other areas of the county. A new board was put together in the early '80s to study if "Merrick's original ideas were being ignored and compromised." The result was the Mediterranean Ordinance, adopted in August as a guideline for preserving elements of the Gables' original style. The Colonnade building was the first test of the new ordinance, resulting in the addition behind the historic structure with office, hotel, and parking facilities while maintaining the restored building on Miracle Mile.

Homeowners united and formed the Historic Homeowners Association, which later expanded its mission and evolved to become the Historic Preservation Association of Coral Gables, still active today. And, in 1990, Nell Montgomery left the balance of her estate to support and maintain the 120-acre Montgomery Botanical Center. Dedicated to research and education, the Center has the largest and finest private collection of palms and cycads in the world.

### THE CITY BEAUTIFUL WE KNOW TODAY

"We have done a good job of combining the past with the future," explains Mark A. Trowbridge, president and CEO of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. "It's about balanced development. When you look at our great downtown, you still see our history reflected."

Indeed, the 13-square-mile city is thriving. With about 50,000 residents and a triple-A bond rating, the city has become known worldwide and, as Merrick planned, serves as an international center for the Americas. Currently, 120 multinational corporations have offices in the city, and there are myriad foreign consulates and government offices.

"I think the past is prologue when it comes to Coral Gables," says Trowbridge. "When you look back 50 years, one of the things that was surprising

was our prowess in recruiting multinational companies. We now look beyond Latin America to Europe and Asia to attract new business. Coral Gables literally has everything to offer."

The city has also reclaimed boundaries, expanding to include coastal communities along Biscayne Bay, and now boasts more than 47 miles of waterways and coastline.

New business has been robust, if sometimes controversial, accounting for about 40 percent of the city's tax base. Today, residents enjoy two distinct business districts, Miracle Mile and the Shops at Merrick Park, along with an impressive variety of new restaurants. "From a business perspective, we have always punched above our weight," said Trowbridge. "At the end of the day, we always find a balanced approach."

More than 1,450 properties have been designated local landmarks, including 12 properties that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There are 22 historic districts, including seven thematic residential villages, as well as those representing a particular type of home like the Coral Rock Residences Thematic Group. "We have been able to preserve and yet elevate [our historic sites]," says Trowbridge. "Properties like the Biltmore are as reflective of the past as of today."

International recognition of the city's attributes has poured in over the last few years, with the Gables making it on the Top 5 Most Beautiful Small Cities in America (Rand McNally / *USA Today*), amongst the Top 10 Cities to Live Well in America (*Forbes*), the No. 3 Top Small City in the U.S. to Start a Small Business (go.verizon.com), one of the Best Places to Retire in America (NBC's "Today Show"), and one of the Top 5 Most Livable Communities in the World (United Nations-backed LivCom International).

"Coral Gables is a hometown where people really do connect with one another and know each other's stories, but we are also not afraid to embrace change," says Trowbridge. □



A Coral Gables developer's sales office



First day of streetcar service, 1925



# Smart City Resources

*The Gables sets the standard for Smart Cities*

By MAYA REGO

Within the last decade, smart cities have become a standard of living across the globe and Coral Gables' efforts to upgrade its technological ecosystem have not gone unnoticed. In March 2024, the city was named one of the smartest communities in the world for the second year in a row by the Intelligent Community Forum, and just months earlier, the Dense Networks Think Tank recognized the Gables with the Connected City Innovator of the Year award at the 2024 Smart Cities Connect conference.

From traffic lights to AI energy models, Coral Gables continues to adopt policies that bolster its smart city project and forge a path into the future for not just the City Beautiful, but other municipalities across the state. Here is a guide to the city's Smart City resources, from an updated mobile app to online AI bots. □

## BENCHMARKS OF A SMART CITY

*The City of Coral Gables has:*

- 26 free public Wi-Fi sites
  - 25 city-owned buried fiber optic corridors, with plans for another 26 underway
  - 2,900+ network devices citywide that maintain and secure effective internet connections
  - 60+ smart lighting controllers, which provide residents with energy usage information
  - 700+ traffic and environmental sensors, including CCTV cameras and upgraded traffic signals
  - 70+ AI-powered smart city poles, with free Wi-Fi, CCTV, and traffic sensors (including vehicles, pedestrians, speed, etc.), and environmental sensors (air quality, weather, noise).
  - 200+ high performance servers
- The City of Coral Gables mobile app, which allows residents to access all the services provided on the city website – including the Smart City Hub portal – from the convenience of their phone. The app is available to download for Android and iPhone.

## THE SMART CITY HUB – THIS ONLINE HUB INCLUDES:

*TRANSPARENCY PORTALS – View financial and public information in dashboards and graphs for:*

- City finances, including revenues and expenditures
- Capital improvement projects
- Property tax distribution
- Lobbyist information
- Election history demographics
- Public records requests
- Legislative calendar
- Permit inspections
- Traffic analytics
- Water quality and levels
- City smart lighting reports
- Weather and climate reports
- Electrical and water consumption reports
- Development projects



A Smart City Pole which provides traffic data

### **CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT SERVICES –**

#### **Connecting people via:**

**Aida Bot** – an AI assistant designed to help visitors navigate the City of Coral Gables' Smart City Hub

**Police to Citizen** – a website that allows residents to search for police reports, keep updated on recent arrests and incidents via the Daily Bulletin, and register their residences for security during an extended absence, amongst other tools.

**Citizen Public Input Hub** – the online home for outreach to the Coral Gables community. Visitors to the site can find upcoming events, initiatives, and opportunities to share their input on key topics.

**Citizen Request Center** – now upgraded to allow residents to report non-emergency issues such as potholes and graffiti. Also includes an AI chatbot to help users navigate the system. Available via website and app.

**Real-Time Trolley Tracker** – a website tool and mobile application that shows trolley locations in real-time. The trolley is available Monday through Saturday from 6:30 am to 10 pm for free on two routes down Ponce de Leon Blvd. and Grand Ave.

**Virtual Historic Tour** – a geo-enabled learning experience that includes digitized historical building prints, property parcels, aerial photographs, boundaries, streets, vegetation, landscape, and architectural landmarks; a virtual walking tour; 3D simulations of significant landmarks; and over 8,000 digitized historical documents, oral histories, maps, and photographs.

#### **CITY APPLICATIONS – Find the mobile app you need:**

City Mobile App

Pay by Phone – pay for parking

In-telligent and Everbridge – emergency communications

INRIX ParkMe – find and reserve parking

ETA Trolley – real-time trolley tracking

FreeBee – free Uber-style rides throughout downtown Gables

Saferwatch – incident reporting

Aira Explorer – visual interpretation app for the blind

Orchid Tracker – personal orchid observation journal

Actionbound AR – digitally interactive scavenger hunts

MagicalPark AR – digital playground for children six to 11

### **EGOV CITY SERVICES –**

#### **Make requests, ask questions, and get service for:**

Permit management

Payment of permits, business licenses, lease services, certificates of use, stormwater bills, invoice services, special assessments

Parks memberships

City vendor registration

Parking permit renewals

Zoning code and map access

City employee portal

Lobbyist registration

### **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE –**

#### **The science of where, including maps of:**

City trees

Hurricane debris sites

Voting precincts

Street lights and traffic calming measures

Smart city kiosks

Trolley routes

Pet waste stations

Bicycle routes

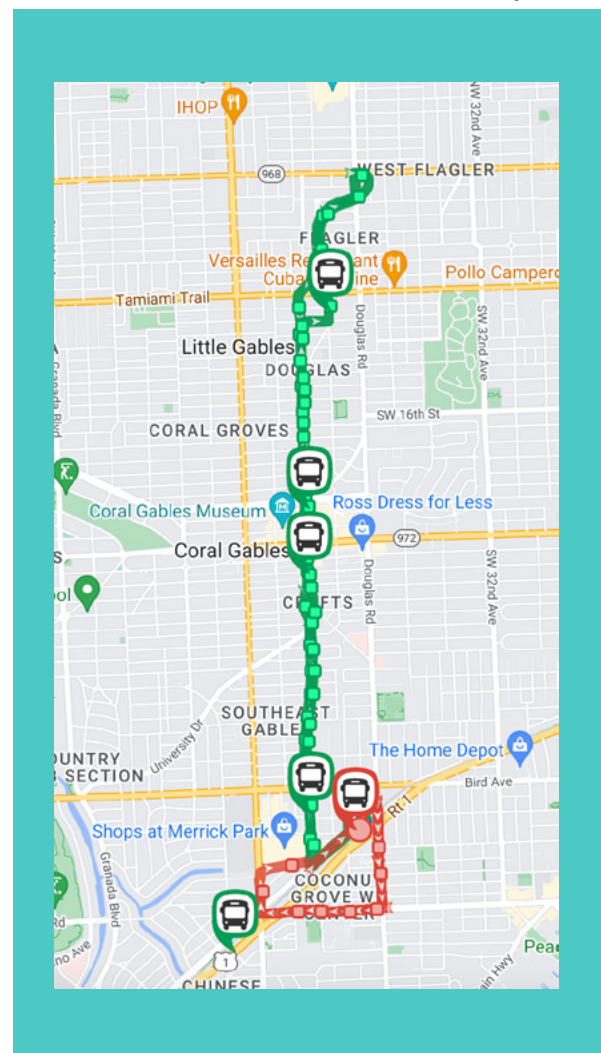
Historic properties

Wi-Fi locations

Zoning maps

EV charging stations

**The Real-Time  
Trolley Tracker**





# Coral Gables Schools

## Relocation Guide

By LUKE CHANEY



The Growing Place

Coral Gables features a wide array of excellently rated public and private schools, some of which rank among the top in South Florida. Many offer unique programs and non-traditional methods of teaching, such as a variety of language studies, STEM curriculum, and magnet and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs. Here, there are schools available for every family's needs.

### *Private Schools*

#### **CORAL GABLES PRESCHOOL**

TODDLER – KINDERGARTEN

3010 Columbus Blvd.

305.444.9792

[gablespreschool.org](http://gablespreschool.org)

Coral Gables Preschool prides itself on providing activities for social growth, positive self-image, and the development of school readiness skills. Its curriculum includes reading/writing, language and art/music, math, science, social studies, and Spanish. Learning through play is an emphasis. TUITION: \$775-\$950 monthly (extra \$200 for kindergarten materials and books fee)



## GIRALDA PRESCHOOL

INFANT – PRESCHOOL

320 Giralda Avenue

786.332.3610

[preschoolingables@gmail.com](mailto:preschoolingables@gmail.com)

Giralda Preschool is a community-based, year-round early childhood program designed for children aged six weeks to five years old. Our curriculum is carefully crafted to reflect each child's unique interests, strengths and needs. Our daily routine fosters a culture of free exploration infused with creative movement, music, art, storytelling, dramatic play, and STEAM activities. We offer a well-rounded education focused on reading, writing, early math, and early science to prepare your child's academic growth and success.

Tuition: \$1250 (average)

## GRANADA DAY SCHOOL

INFANT DAYCARE – KINDERGARTEN

900 University Dr.

305.444.2028

[granadadayschool.com](http://granadadayschool.com)

Granada Day School is accredited by the Christian Schools of Florida and by the National Council for Private School Accreditation. Its curriculum includes language and literacy, science, math, social studies, and Bible studies. The school was established in 1954, and its mission statement ensures that a "quality Christian education" will be provided.

TUITION: \$8,300-\$18,000 annually

## THE GROWING PLACE SCHOOL

AGES 1 – FIFTH GRADE

536 Coral Way

305.446.0846

[thegrowingplace.school](http://thegrowingplace.school)

On behalf of the First United Methodist Church of Coral Gables, The Growing Place School aims to provide Christian, child-centered, and purposeful education to toddlers through fourth graders (growing to fifth grade by 2025). The school includes project based learning, environmental sciences, STEM, math, chapel, language arts, Spanish, physical education, music, and Highscope (preschool). All teachers have three or more years of K–12 teaching experience.

TUITION: \$7,800-\$11,000 annually

## BANYAN DAY SCHOOL

TODDLER – KINDERGARTEN

340 Palermo Ave.

305.447.1233

[banyandayschool.org](http://banyandayschool.org)

Banyan Day School is a bilingual English/Spanish school that includes small class sizes and self-directed activity periods. The curriculum includes language arts, reading and writing, math, social sciences, art, and computer instruction.

TUITION: \$925-\$1,020 monthly

## INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

INFANT – PRE-KINDERGARTEN

3930 S. Le Jeune Rd.

305.770.6195

[iscoralgables.com](http://iscoralgables.com)

International Christian School is a private day-care, preschool, and kindergarten school for children from three months up to kindergarten. The school includes science and social studies curriculum, healthy meals, athletics and physical education, as well as a broad-based language education intended to provide each student with great advantages in their educational and future careers.

TUITION: \$1,250-\$1,500 monthly

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart





Gulliver Prep

Florida to offer the International Baccalaureate program.  
TUITION: \$10,000-\$20,000 annually

### BRIGHTMONT ACADEMY

K-12

6101 SW 76 Street, South Miami 33143

305.433.7557

[brightmontacademy.com/campuses/miami-fl](http://brightmontacademy.com/campuses/miami-fl)

Full-time, one-to-one instruction that enables students to complete all grade required coursework and build self-confidence for lifelong learning success. As an accredited private school our curriculum includes math, language arts, science, social studies, foreign language, and electives for 1st through 12th grade. In addition we offer Advance Placement and Honors courses.

TUITION: \$28,000-\$33,000 based on the program

### CARROLLTON SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART

PRE-K3 – GRADE 12

3747 Main Hwy., Miami 33133

305.446.5673

[carrollton.org](http://carrollton.org)

Founded in 1961, Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart is the only Catholic, all-girls, Montessori-3 through Grade 12 college preparatory school in Florida. The curriculum includes religious studies, world languages, and science. The average student-to-teacher ratio is 17:1, and students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities.

TUITION: \$32,980-\$46,800 annually



St Philip's Episcopal School

### ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

PREK3 – FIFTH GRADE

1121 Andalusia Ave.

305.444.6366

[stphilips.org](http://stphilips.org)

St. Philip's aims to educate children from pre-school through fifth grade intellectually, physically, and spiritually. The curriculum includes instruction in Spanish, Latin and French, reading, writing, music, art, sacred studies, science, math, physical education, social studies. Student/Teacher ratio is Early Childhood 8:1, Lower School 12:1, 4th & 5th grade students 1:1 student to Laptop ratio.

TUITION: \$28,810-\$32,535 annually

### THE BILTMORE SCHOOL

PRE K-8TH GRADE

1600 South Red Road, Miami 33155

305.266.4666

[biltmoreschool.com](http://biltmoreschool.com)

Established in 1926, The Biltmore School uses a curriculum based on teaching techniques and materials that cater to educational, emotional, and physical development over the years. The school was the first in South

### GORDON SCHOOL

3 MONTHS – 6TH GRADE

2625 SW 3rd Ave, Miami FL 33129

305.854.-3911 ext 270

[gordonschoolmiami.org](http://gordonschoolmiami.org)

The Gordon School offers Hebrew, STEM, Athletics, Fine Arts, Music, Performing Arts, Spanish, Science, Judaic Studies, Technology, Math, ELA, Health and Wellness. Sports offered: Basketball, Soccer, Pickleball, Field Hockey, Yoga, Karate. Numerous Extracurricular activities offered: Cooking, Sewing, Tennis-Pros2Go, Jewelry, Pottery, Spanish, Gymnastics, Theater, Karate, Dance.

TUITION: \$20,584

### GULLIVER PREP

PRESCHOOL – HIGH SCHOOL

General phone: 305.666.6333

12595 Red Rd. (K-8 Campus) 305.665.3593

6575 N. Kendall Dr. (Upper School Campus) 305.666.7937

8000 SW 56th St. (Upper School Miller Campus) 305.274.9535

[gulliverprep.org](http://gulliverprep.org)

Gulliver's PK-8 campus is in Coral Gables, while the other campuses are in Pinecrest and surrounding neighborhoods. Its mission is to create an academic

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE





Riviera Schools

## CRYSTAL ACADEMY

SPECIAL THERAPY CENTER AND  
SCHOOL FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM AND  
RELATED DISORDERS

DIAGNOSIS – HIGH SCHOOL

107 Antilla Ave.

305.567.5881

crystalacademy.org

Crystal Academy's mission is to provide the best evidence-based therapies and individualized intervention for children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and other developmental delays, promoting language and communication, education, socialization, and inclusion opportunities.

TUITION: \$28,677-\$41,293 annually

## Public Schools

### GEORGE W. CARVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRESCHOOL – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

238 Grand Ave.

305.442.5286

gwces.com

George W. Carver Elementary School is an international magnet school with programs in Spanish and Italian. Its mission is to foster an innovative, multilingual program with an academically challenging and rigorous curriculum, ensuring student achievement and personal growth for success in a global society.

### SUNSET ELEMENTARY

PRESCHOOL – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

5120 SW 72nd Ave.

305.661.8527

sunsetinternationalschool.com

Sunset Elementary School features a magnet program and international studies in French, German, and Spanish. The vision of the school is to nurture culturally competent and globally-minded individuals.



George W. Carver Middle School

community devoted to educational excellence, with a personal touch that fulfills each student's potential throughout their academic careers.

TUITION: \$29,300-\$47,600 annually

### RIVIERA SCHOOLS

PRESCHOOL – HIGH SCHOOL

6800 Nervia St. (Day School) 305.666.1856

9775 SW 87th Ave. (Preparatory School)

786.300.0300

rivieraschools.com

Riviera Schools is a co-ed college preparatory school for students from preschool through 12th grade. It has a 100 percent admission rate to four-year colleges or universities and boosts a wide-ranging curriculum, including STEM, with specialized coursework in biomedical sciences, engineering, and computer sciences.

TUITION: \$19,950-\$35,250 annually



**CORAL GABLES  
PREPARATORY ACADEMY**

*KINDERGARTEN – MIDDLE SCHOOL*

105 Minorca Ave.

305.448.1731

[coralgablesprepacademy.net](http://coralgablesprepacademy.net)

Formerly Coral Gables Elementary School, Coral Gables Preparatory Academy features a prestigious magnet program. Kindergarten through fourth graders attend the Lower Academy, and fifth to eighth graders attend the Upper Academy.

**HENRY S. WEST  
LABORATORY SCHOOL**

*KINDERGARTEN – MIDDLE SCHOOL*

5300 Carillo St.

305.661.7661

[westlabschool.org](http://westlabschool.org)

This professional development magnet school has a partnership with the University of Miami's School of Education. West Lab, as it is known by locals, aims to provide high-quality education for all

students and to pioneer change in the teaching and learning processes. Its goal is for students to become interested learners and contributing members in a changing, multicultural society.

**GEORGE W. CARVER  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

*MIDDLE SCHOOL*

4901 Lincoln Dr.

305.444.7388

[gwciddleschool.net](http://gwciddleschool.net)

Ranked No. 18 among all middle schools in the State of Florida, George W. Carver Middle School is a magnet school that offers advanced placement testing in Spanish, German, Italian, and French. Carver houses both the International Studies Program for students continuing their studies from Sunset Elementary School as well as the International Education Program for students beginning their studies of foreign languages in the sixth grade.

**PONCE DE LEON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

*MIDDLE SCHOOL*

5801 Augusta St.

305.661.1611

[poncedeleonmiddle.net](http://poncedeleonmiddle.net)

Ponce de Leon Middle School is a magnet school that features an International Baccalaureate program. Its mission is to provide its students with a safe, academically challenging, and culturally diverse learning environment that fosters the development of a strong character and intellect.

**CORAL GABLES SENIOR  
HIGH SCHOOL**

*HIGH SCHOOL*

450 Bird Rd.

305.443.4871

[coralgablescavaliers.org](http://coralgablescavaliers.org)

Coral Gables Senior High School is regarded as an International Baccalaureate Magnet School of Excellence and an "A-rated" school by the Florida Department of Education. Its curriculum features 43 advanced courses, including



advanced placement and dual-enrollment classes. There are also 40 student-led extracurriculars, and it has recently received funding from the state to upgrade facilities across the campus.

## **INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PREPARATORY ACADEMY**

### *HIGH SCHOOL*

1570 Madruga Ave.

305.663.7200

[internationalstudiesprep.net](http://internationalstudiesprep.net)

International Studies Preparatory Academy is a language magnet school serving students from grades nine through 12. The school features language studies in French, Italian, and

Spanish. Its mission is to prepare students to meet the challenges of the 21st century through the development of their academic and social development, linguistic capacity, cultural appreciation, and international and global awareness. ISPA's learning philosophy promotes choice, equity, diversity, and academic excellence for all students. □



# Coral Gables

## Relocation Guide

By LUKE CHANEY

Lennar Foundation Medical Center



**F**eaturing a large variety of services, including a comprehensive cancer center and the No. 1-ranked eye hospital in the United States, Coral Gables has established itself as one of the nation's leaders in health care. The region is served by Baptist Health South Florida and the University of Miami Health System and welcomes the youngest and oldest of Gables residents.

### DOCTORS HOSPITAL

5000 University Dr.  
786.308.3000  
[baptisthealth.net](http://baptisthealth.net)

In the 75 years since its opening, Doctors Hospital has remained consistent in its commitment to providing high-quality medical

# Health Care



care to the Coral Gables community. Doctors Hospital is a Magnet hospital, the highest recognition for nursing excellence. It offers general and specialized services, including orthopedics and sports medicine, cardiac care and sports cardiology, general surgery, robotic



and minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery, geriatric medicine, and pulmonary care. It is also home to the Miami Heat Sports Medicine Center at Baptist Health Orthopedic Institute, which earned high-performing honors in orthopedics and hip and knee replacement this year.

## UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI HEALTH SYSTEM

Lennar Foundation Medical Center  
5555 Ponce de Leon Blvd. 305.689.5555

UHealth Tower: University of Miami  
Hospital and Clinics  
1400 NW 12th Ave. 305.325.5511

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center  
1475 NW 12th Ave. 305.243.5302

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Lennar  
Foundation Medical Center  
5555 Ponce de Leon, 3rd Floor  
305.326.6000

The University of Miami Health System includes the Len-

nar Foundation Medical Center, University of Miami Hospital and Clinics, the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, and more than 50 other Florida locations where patients can access high-quality care.

The Lennar Foundation Medical Center is a five-story, 206,000-square-foot ambulatory multidisciplinary care center that provides access to leading physicians for students, faculty, and staff of UM, as well as residents of surrounding communities. Set in the heart of Miami's health district, UHealth Tower is the flagship Uhealth location, providing research-driven, leading-edge care in multiple specialties. The Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center is South Florida's academic-based cancer center, home to an expert team of more than 2,500 physicians, researchers, and staff working to discover, develop,



and deliver world-class care. The Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, meanwhile, is ranked as the top eye hospital in the entire United States.

Slated to be completed in 2025, UHealth at SoLé Mia is a 363,000-square-foot ambulatory site east of Biscayne Boulevard in Downtown Miami. It will be

UHealth's largest outpatient facility serving residents of northeast Miami-Dade County and south Broward County with a focus on healing, wellness, and prevention. Specialists from Sylvester Cancer Center and the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute will be on-site.

### NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

3100 SW 62nd Ave.

305.666.6511

[nicklauschildrens.org](http://nicklauschildrens.org)

Since 1950, Nicklaus Children's Hospital has advanced its mission to inspire hope and promote lifelong health by providing the best care to every child. It has over 40 pediatric specialties, five programs of which are identified as among the best in the United States by the U.S. News & World Report: cardiology and heart surgery, neonatology, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopedics, and pulmonology.

This year, a 127,000-square-foot surgical tower is slated for completion that will fully accommodate



the latest equipment for operating suites and will include augmented reality for surgery and visual reality surgical planning.

### **CORAL GABLES HOSPITAL**

3100 Douglas Rd.

305.445.8461

[coralgableshospital.org](http://coralgableshospital.org)

Operating under the Steward Health Care Network, Coral Gables Hospital was established in 1926. The 245-bed acute care hospital serves South Dade County as well as many patients from Latin America and the Caribbean. Services include emergency care, cardiology, orthopedics, general surgery, and urology. Coral Gables Hospital is also the first in Miami-Dade County to be certified by the Joint Commission in both total hip and total knee replacement. □



Coral Gables Hospital



# The Chefs of the Gables

*Coral Gables' culinary offerings include eight James Beard or Michelin-awarded chefs*

By MAYA REGO

In April of this year, Coral Gables received its first Michelin star for a local restaurant in the form of SHINGO, Chef Shingo Akikuni's 14-seat omakase eatery at the historic La Palma Hotel. But Akikuni, who already had a star from a previous venture, is only one of several Michelin-starred chefs that have descended upon the Gables in recent years. With culinary masterminds like Thomas Keller, Donatella Arpaia, and Jeremy Ford all opening up new restaurants in the Gables, perhaps more Michelin stars are in the City Beautiful's future.

What makes the influx of culinary talent here all the more fascinating are the various backgrounds of each chef. The spectrum is vast. Educationally, some are self-taught, whereas others come from the most prestigious culinary schools in the world. Specialty-wise, there is no shortage of cuisines. From Spanish to Japanese and everything in between, here are some of the best and brightest in the City Beautiful.



**Chef Shingo Akikuni**



**Chef Pablo Zitzmann**

## CHEF SHINGO AKIKUNI – SHINGO

Just over a year since its debut, SHINGO has already become one of the most acclaimed restaurants in all of Miami. The classic omakase den, headed by Chef Shingo Akikuni, recently became the first Gables eatery to receive the coveted Michelin Star. To earn Michelin distinction, restaurants are evaluated according to five criteria: quality of product, mastery of flavor and cooking technique, the personality of the chef represented in the dining experience, value for money, and consistency.

A fourth-generation sushi chef and Osaka native, Akikuni crafted the fourteen-seat dining experience around the Japanese expression of *omotenashi*, or true hospitality. The menu is designed around seasonal ingredients, with products being sourced both locally and from Japan. Akikuni's commitment to making his self-titled restaurant adhere to traditional Japanese dining is evident not only in the food but in the ambience as well; the space was entirely designed by woodworkers in Kyoto, who incorporated traditional elements of omakase dens across Japan, such as the use of Hinoki and Sugi woods on the counter, ceiling, and grand entrance.

## CHEF DONATELLA ARPAIA – NOMA BEACH AT REDFISH GRILL

About a year-and-a-half after taking over the longstanding Redfish Grill at Matheson Hammock, Chef Donatella Arpaia has completely reconfigured the Gables' only waterfront restaurant into a seafood-dominated Italian hotspot. It was out with the old and in with the new from the moment Arpaia arrived, from the menu to the bar to the building itself. Shoddy electrical work and a painfully small kitchen were just some of the challenges the chef, who won a Michelin star for a previous restaurant in New York, tackled upon accepting the position as NOMA's new leader. Despite the struggles, she has worked successfully to breathe life into the nearly 90-year-old establishment.

Her Italian heritage and Napoli culinary training are apparent across the menu, especially in the intriguing and popular sea urchin and burrata pizza. Arpaia's personal touches don't end there; the restaurant's new name, NOMA Beach at Redfish Grill, refers to her twins, Noah and Emma. And the Michelin-starred chef says she views NOMA as an extension of her own home, which is apparent in the dichotomy of comfort cuisine and upscale dining.

## CHEF NIVEN PATEL – ERBA

The last year has been a tumultuous one for Chef Niven Patel, the homegrown restaurateur and creative mind behind some of Miami's most lauded fine dining experiences. Last October, Patel unveiled Erba, an upscale Italian joint featuring modern takes on classic dishes, to widespread acclaim – *Esquire* named Erba one of the best new restaurants of the year in the entire country. Three months later, Patel and his business partner, Mohamed Alkassar, suddenly announced they were parting ways with the Thesis Hotel, which hosted Gables favorites Mamey and the Michelin-recognized Orno, now redeveloped as The Collab. And one month after that, Patel opened up NiMo Coastal Mediterranean, his first venture into Palm Beach County.

The James Beard semifinalist shows no signs of slowing down now, even as his projects continue to receive rave reviews. Ghee Indian Kitchen, Patel's authentic Bib Gourmand-awarded restaurant, is poised to open a new location in Wynwood come fall. And as for his presence in the Gables, Erba is a worthy successor to his endeavors at Thesis, an exemplary culinary experience on par with some of the most iconic Italian eateries in the country.



Chef Donatella Arpaia

Chef Niven Patel



**CHEF PABLO ZITZMANN – ZITZ SUM**

Growing up in Colombia, born to German and Mexican parents, it may seem surprising that Chef Pablo Zitzmann, the visionary behind the Bib Gourmand-awarded dumpling house Zitz Sum, would feel so passionately about Asian food. Yet it is precisely those South American roots that prompted his love for the flavors of the Far East, as he spent his childhood in teppanyaki restaurants in and around Bogotá. Later, Zitzmann immersed himself in the flavors and dining habits of Hawaii, Hong Kong, and Japan. The day after graduating from Academia de Cocina Verde Oliva in Bogotá, Zitzmann moved to Miami with his father. Here, his professional career has flourished.

Prior to opening Zitz Sum in 2021, Zitzmann gained praise for his work at No Name Chinese, a now-defunct but once beloved eatery in South Miami. Today, Zitz Sum is self-described as a “fam jam,” with the chef’s wife, Natalia Restrepo, leading the pastry kitchen and managing the business aspects of the restaurant alongside Zitzmann. Originally meant to be a pandemic-era pop-up, Zitz Sum is now a Gables mainstay.

**CHEF JEREMY FORD – BEAUTY AND THE BUTCHER**

Since adding Beauty and the Butcher to Grove Bay Hospitality Group’s roster in 2022, Florida native Jeremy Ford has garnered national recognition for the contemporary Americana restaurant. The South Gables hotspot was featured on the Miami list of restaurants recommended by the Michelin Guide, championed for a menu that revolves around collaboration. Ford, however, is no stranger to Michelin recognition. Stubborn Seed, his stab at fine dining in South Beach, has now twice been awarded a Michelin star – and if that weren’t enough, Ford is both a “Top Chef” winner and a James Beard semi-finalist.

Yet despite the grandeur Ford and his awards exude, the chef’s career began in a place nearly every foodie credits with their love of cooking: a family member’s kitchen. For Ford, this particular kitchen happened to be that of his maternal grandmother. Her knowledge of Italian cooking was passed down to Ford and is now evident across all his restaurants, which celebrate locally sourced ingredients and contradictory elements of flavor and texture.

**CHEF THOMAS KELLER – BOUCHON BISTRO**

Just a year since Chef Thomas Keller added a Coral Gables location to Bouchon Bistro’s impres-

sive collection, the superbly simplistic French brasserie has already been added to numerous Best of Coral Gables and Miami lists. While Keller, one of the most prominent celebrity chefs and restaurateurs of the 20th century, may be largely known for his upscale fine dining restaurants, Bouchon takes a more affordable look at Keller’s classic experi-



Chef Jeremy Ford



Chef Thomas Keller

ences. Less formal than The Surf Club, Keller’s Michelin-starred restaurant in Surfside where a New York strip costs \$235, Bouchon reminds diners that French food truly excels when simplicity, well-sourced ingredients, and precision rank above all. Sometimes, reliable upscale is all one needs to feel satisfied. And the outdoor plaza is gorgeous in the winter, making it one of the best spots to eat outside in the City Beautiful.



Chef Antonio Bachour

### CHEF ANTONIO BACHOUR – BACHOUR

The beating heart of the Gables' brunch scene, Bachour offers up precisely what people are looking for when they shell out \$30 to forego cooking at home. Owned and operated by Chef Antonio Bachour, the bakery and restaurant caters to a variety of diners' needs. Looking to impress an out-of-town client? Try a 7 pm reservation and an order of the Lomo Risotto. Feeling drowsy during your mid-afternoon slump? Head over for a cafe-cito and one of their expertly made viennoiseries. And, of course, it is no surprise that Bachour's great success has been in its patisserie department; Bachour himself was once described as a "confection master" by Zagat. One look at the refrigerated shelves full of croissants, bon-bons, macarons, and unique desserts, and you'll understand why.

Originally from Puerto Rico, Bachour crossed the pond to Miami in the early 2000s and began working in Miami Beach restaurants. Over the years, he served as executive pastry chef at iconic hotspots like Scarpetta and Talula, then tested his talents in the Big Apple, opening Trump SoHo on behalf of the KNR restaurant group. Today, in the Gables, Bachour and his eponymous restaurant offer a masterclass in balancing a classy ambience, culinary technique, and out-of-this-world desserts.

### CHEF MICHELLE BERNSTEIN – SRA. MARTINEZ

Over a decade after its original location in the Design District closed, Sra. Martinez is poised to re-open – but this time, the beloved tapas restaurant will be situated in the heart of downtown Coral Gables. It takes the place of Open Stage Club, a live music venue and bar that shut down during the pandemic and has since left the city-owned space tenant-less. Chef Michelle Bernstein, the pioneer and restaurateur behind countless trendy Miami spots, announced Sra. Martinez' revival in 2022. Two years later, Bernstein has confirmed that they are set for a fall grand opening this year.

The original restaurant was known for being a small yet energetic space, with a menu that combined regional Spanish classics with Bernstein's own contemporary flare. It opened in 2008 to critical acclaim; *Esquire* named it one of the best new restaurants of 2009. Later that year, Bernstein became the first woman to win the James Beard Award for Best Chef in the Southeast. Just four short years later, however, Bernstein and her partner David Martinez shut Sra. Martinez's doors to pursue other endeavors.

The new iteration of Sra. Martinez has been given a "2024 update" according to Bernstein and Martinez, teasing live music and a more modern, bolder menu. Additionally, the partners are launching a Founding Membership Program ahead of opening, which offers members exclusive perks like early reservations and invite-only events. □



Chef Michelle Bernstein



# Useful Information

## Demographics



**Average Household Income:**  
\$190,744



**Median Earnings:**  
Male: \$110,867  
Female: \$78,698



**Population:**  
50,516



**Percentage Unemployed:**  
1.3%



**Number of Companies:**  
12,042



**White Collar Workforce:**  
77%



**Veterans:**  
1,095



**Educational Attainment:**  
HS Degree or Higher: 97%  
College Degree or Higher: 76.21%  
Post-Graduate Degree: 38.16%



**Number of Households:**  
18,947



**City Employees:**  
730



**Top Industry:**  
Office and Administrative Support  
(17.59% or 14,482)



**2023 City Budget Estimate:**  
\$246,087,023

Source: data.census.gov (as of 2020); rockethomes.com;  
beaconcouncil.com; coralgables.com/business

## CITY OF CORAL GABLES

### Office of the City Commission

(305) 460-5222

#### Mayor

Vince C. Lago.

vlago@coralgables.com

#### Vice Mayor

Rhonda Anderson

randerson@coralgables.com

## COMMISSIONERS

### Kirk R. Menendez

kmenendez@coralgables.com

### Ariel Fernandez

ariel@coralgables.com

### Melissa Castro

mcastro@coralgables.com

### City Manager

Amos Rojas, Jr.

(305) 460-5204

arojas@coralgables.com

### City Attorney

Cristina Suarez

(305) 460-5338

csuarez@coralgables.com

(305) 460-5218

cityattorney@coralgables.com

### City Clerk

Billy Urquia

(305) 460-5210

burquia@coralgables.com

cityclerk@coralgables.com

## CITY DEPARTMENTS

### Adult Activity Center

(305) 461-6764

aacinfo@coralgables.com

### Coral Gables Television

(305) 460-5521

### Communications and Public Affairs Office

(305) 460-5521

mediarelations@coralgables.com



## *Elected & Appointed Officials*

### **Community Recreation Department**

(305) 460-5600

[parks@coralgables.com](mailto:parks@coralgables.com)

### **Development Services Department**

(305) 460-5245

[developmentsservices@coralgables.com](mailto:developmentsservices@coralgables.com)

### **Economic Development Department**

(305) 460-5311

[business@coralgables.com](mailto:business@coralgables.com)

### **Emergency Management Department**

(305) 460-5401

### **Finance Department**

(305) 446-6800

[finance@coralgables.com](mailto:finance@coralgables.com)

### **Fire Department**

(305) 460-5581

[fireinfo@coralgables.com](mailto:fireinfo@coralgables.com)

### **Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department**

(305) 460-5093

[hist@coralgables.com](mailto:hist@coralgables.com)

### **Human Resources Department**

Phone: (305) 460-5523

[humanresources@coralgables.com](mailto:humanresources@coralgables.com)

### **Innovation Technology Department**

(305) 460-5030

[it@coralgables.com](mailto:it@coralgables.com)

### **Parking Department**

(305) 460-5540

[parking@coralgables.com](mailto:parking@coralgables.com)

### **Passport Acceptance Facility**

Phone: (305) 460-5351

[passports@coralgables.com](mailto:passports@coralgables.com)

### **Police Department**

Phone: (305) 442-1600

[communityaffairs@coralgables.com](mailto:communityaffairs@coralgables.com)

### **Procurement Department**

(305) 460-5102

[procurement@coralgables.com](mailto:procurement@coralgables.com)

### **Public Works Department**

Phone: (305) 460-5000

[pwdepartment@coralgables.com](mailto:pwdepartment@coralgables.com)

### **Retirement Department**

(954) 527-1616

[CGRS-PA@grsconsulting.com](mailto:CGRS-PA@grsconsulting.com)

### **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

#### **Mayor**

Daniella Levine Cava

(305) 375-5071

[mayor@miamidade.gov](mailto:mayor@miamidade.gov)

#### **Property Appraiser**

Pedro J. Garcia

(305) 375-4712

[mdcpa@mdcpa.net](mailto:mdcpa@mdcpa.net)

#### **County Commissioners for Coral Gables**

##### **Kevin Marino Cabrera**

(305) 267-6377

[district6@miamidade.gov](mailto:district6@miamidade.gov)

##### **Raquel Regalado**

(305) 375-5680

[district7@miamidade.gov](mailto:district7@miamidade.gov)

### **STATE OF FLORIDA**

#### **Governor**

Ron DeSantis

(850) 717-9337

#### **Florida State Senate Members from Coral Gables Districts**

District 36: Ileana Garcia

(305) 442-6841

District 38: Alexis Calatayud

(305) 596-3002

#### **Florida House Member from Coral Gables District**

District 114: Rep. Demi Busatta Cabrera

(305) 442-6808

### **FEDERAL OFFICIALS**

#### **United States Senate**

Senator Rick Scott

(202) 224-5274

Senator Marco Rubio

(202) 224-3041

#### **United States House of Representatives**

Representative Maria Elvira Salazar

(305) 668-2285

*For more information, visit [coralgables.com](http://coralgables.com)*