

CORAL GABLES

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Connecting Communities

The Villagers announce \$50,000 awarded to 2019 grant recipients

BY KAREN F. BUCHSBAUM

The Villagers have announced their 2019 grant recipients, 11 entities that will share \$50,000. Grants are allocated for historic restoration and preservation projects, including those to educate, document, and perpetuate the heritage of Miami-Dade County.

Grantees for 2019 are Barnacle State Park for Marjory Stoneman Douglas House, Coral Gables Garden Club, Coral Gables Merrick House, Coral Gables Museum, Coral Gables Woman's Club, Deering Estate, Montgomery Botanical Center, Pinecrest Gardens for Whilden Carrier Cottage, Redland Farm Life School, Damir Anthony Sinovic's research for "Façade: Historic Coral Gables," and the Woman's Club of Coconut Grove.

Susan Medina chaired the Projects/Grant Committee to review applications and select the recipients, along with committee members Jeanne Bunten, Marlin Ebbert, Gayle Duncan, Helen Duncan, Alexis Ehrenhaft, Sweet Pea Ellman, Dolly MacIntyre, Carolyn Reyes, and Martha Voytek.

"Our mission is to protect and preserve our interesting and valuable history, so it can be enjoyed for generations to come," explained Villager president Joan Bounds.

The Villagers is Miami-Dade County's oldest historic preservation organization, founded in 1966. The not-for-profit all-volunteer group, originally formed to save the Douglas Entrance, grew to identify and assist other endangered sites. Members regularly advocate for local preservation and have been leaders working with sites for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, providing brainpower, elbow grease and funding. By educating, advocating, fundraising, and documenting, The Villagers continue a 53-year tradition of service for the restoration and preservation of historic sites.

More than 70 local organizations have received funding for preservation projects, many with multiple grants. Additionally, college scholarships are awarded annually to students studying historic preservation at Florida universities, and graduating seniors from Miami's Design and Architecture High School.

Panel discusses the preservation of city's Brutalist-style buildings



Pictured (l-r) are Jane Maranos, Melissa Wyllie, Jean-Francois Lejeune, Robin Hill, Karelia Martinez Carbonell, Allan Shulman and Rolando Rivas-Camp. (Photo credit: JP Scholl)

BY ROBERT HAMILTON

An audience of architecture and preservation aficionados gathered in the austere beautiful Glasgow Lecture Hall at the University of Miami on Saturday, Jan. 19, to get a Brute awakening. They were not disappointed.

It was a day of reckoning in the public discussion and evaluation of a building style that came into being on the heels of World War II and fell out of favor in the era of Post-Modernism. It was commonly referred to as "Brutalism," and recent critics have been brutal in

their condemnation of it — until now when a major resurgence of interest in the style has brought it back into favor.

"Beauty & The Brute," as the public event was billed, brought together a stellar group of panelists who gave their unique professional views on the importance of maintaining and preserving outstanding examples of Brutalist architecture, both globally and — in the case of the Coral Gables Public Safety Building designed in the Brutalist style and scheduled for likely demolition — locally.

"Beauty & The Brute" brought the

We're Taking it to Tally

BY MARK TROWBRIDGE

President and CEO

Every year around this time, our Chamber is hard at work, focused on putting together our annual advocacy trip to Tallahassee where we share our legislative priorities with partner organizations and elected officials. Over the past decade, we have grown this program from being a mere participant in Dade Days to now hosting our own fly-in with 20+ participants.

The goal of the trip is simple — to share our members' most significant concerns regarding their businesses and to deliver this message in person, face-to-face, with our elected leadership of the Florida House and Senate. There is one thing that always impresses — when our members take time from their busy schedules to travel to



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