

35 Years MIAMI TODAY

WEEK OF THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2018

A Singular Voice in an Evolving City

WWW.MIAMITODAYNEWS.COM \$6.00

BEST OF

MIAMI

Celebrating our 35th Anniversary

Spotlighting:

ARTS & CULTURE • BANKING & FINANCE • TECHNOLOGY • EDUCATION IMPROVEMENTS • CROSSING BORDERS • HEALTH AND MEDICINE • ENTREPRENEURS • QUALITY OF LIFE • UNSUNG HEROES • NEWCOMERS • NONPROFIT EXECUTIVES • ROLE MODELS • INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS • SPARKPLUGS • STICKING WITH IT • GIVING BACK • TRANSPORTATION • NATIONAL REPUTATION • STARS IN GOVERNMENT • PLANNING • COMMERCIAL SPACE • THOUGHT LEADERS • LEADERS IN SCIENCE • TURNING US GREEN • CULTURAL PRESERVATION • DEVELOPMENT • WORKFORCE HOUSING

Those who plan to guide the positive growth of Miami

BY JOHN CHARLES ROBBINS

A community without vision, without a plan, is left with no direction.

Controlled growth and development, guided by professional planners, can activate new spaces and breathe life into old neighborhoods.

One of those professionals is **Jeremy Calleros Gauger**, deputy planning director for the City of Miami.

Mr. Gauger was nominated in the category of “Planning Our Future: The best of those who look ahead through planning.”

Tossing his name into the ring was David Polinsky of Fortis Design Build.

Mr. Polinsky is a businessman and developer, and serves on the Wynwood Business Improvement District board. He is considered a key player in the transformation of the neighborhood into the Wynwood Arts District.

Mr. Polinsky said Mr. Gauger is new to the city’s Planning Department but is already having a positive impact.

“While he has only been on the job for six months, his influence and knowledge are felt everywhere. He is shepherding forward-thinking on transit, density, historic preservation, millennial housing, affordability and urban design. He is a landscape architect formerly with Arquitectonica and a rising star, not afraid to pitch controversial ideas,” said Mr. Polinsky.



Estrellita Sibila knows land development rules, process and players.

Mr. Gauger also received a nomination from Iris Escarra, a Miami attorney who specializes in land use and zoning matters.

“Since his arrival at the City of Miami, he has worked on long-standing planning initiatives such as creating opportunities for micro units, working on the revamp of the NCD (Neighborhood Conservation District) Coconut Grove legislation, and creating an inclusionary zoning ordinance,” Ms. Escarra said.

“These are large, big-picture initiatives that facilitate smart growth. He is an advocate for also planning for the city’s sustainability and resiliency design efforts as the city continues to be built. He [hit the

ground] running at the City of Miami and is making sure that Miami stays at the forefront of good planning principles.”

Planning and zoning can be complicated, especially in a major city with tremendous growing pains. Adding to the morass is a new emphasis on sustainability and on green building standards.

Someone who is more than up to speed on these future planning issues is Miami-based attorney **Estrellita S. Sibila**.

Ms. Sibila was nominated by Jane Muir, an attorney who focuses on corporate general counsel and commercial litigation.

Ms. Muir said, “Land develop-

ment is regulated by strict zoning laws, so oftentimes a project’s success at the planning stage depends on an advocate like Estrellita who knows the rules, and more importantly, the local process and the local players. The projects she works on today become the places we live, work, learn and enjoy in the Miami of tomorrow.”

Ms. Sibila’s legal experience has included an emphasis on affordability and sustainability, and building green.

“Estrellita helps clients strike a delicate balance between their goals and objectives and the impact of development on the surrounding community,” Ms. Muir said. “She navigates complicated situations with grace and ease and leverages her skills, relationships and stellar reputation to deliver positive results for her clients and for Miami.”

Since 2012, Ms. Sibila has been a shareholder of Sibila Lage PLLC, a boutique law firm serving individuals, developers and companies in real estate and business law matters throughout South Florida and beyond.

The firm represents owners, investors, developers and lenders in real property transactions, and can assist property owners in navigating complex frameworks and regulations governing land development, including green building and sustainable land development practices and incentives.

Ms. Sibila serves as board attorney to governmental entity Clean



Energy Coastal Corridor, and as outside general counsel to small and medium-sized corporations.

As a senior associate for Weiss Seroata Helfman Cole & Bierman from 2005-2015, Ms. Sibila represented affordable, market rate and sustainable building developers before quasi-judicial boards and regulatory agencies throughout Miami-Dade.

She worked to obtain land use, zoning and comprehensive plan amendments as well as development approvals for high-rise residential condominium projects, commercial office and industrial projects.

Ms. Sibila also advised municipal clients on green building standards and assisted in the creation of sustainability plans for municipal operations, drafted green building ordinances for local municipalities and advised green business clients on contractual and business matters.

She is a graduate of the University of Miami School of Law and the UM College of Arts & Sciences.

MIAMI DADE COLLEGE
Where the Future Begins Today

Now offering innovative programs in:

Advanced Manufacturing • Artificial Intelligence • Aviation • Computer Animation • Cybersecurity • Data Analytics • Digital Marketing Management • Engineering • Entrepreneurship • Fashion Design & Merchandising • Film, TV and Digital Production • Forensic Accounting • Game Art • Health Informatics • Information Technology • Instruction Design and Technology • Internet of Things Applications • Mechatronics • Rapid Prototyping • Robotics • Supply Chain Management • Transportation and Logistics • Virtual & Augmented Reality Technologies



THE FUTURE IS NOW
Visit mdc.edu today to see all that MDC has to offer.

Largest enrollment in the country | 2 million+ students admitted | more than 300 academic pathways | numerous baccalaureate degrees | 8 campuses, outreach centers and more | www.mdc.edu | 305-237-8888