

Some favoring a change in DWNTWN concerts' manager

By CATHERINE LACKNER

The DWNTWN Miami Concert Series may be under new management if Marc Sarnoff, chair of both the Miami City commission and the city's Downtown Development Authority, has his way.

Mr. Sarnoff suggested at a recent authority meeting that Timothy F. Schmand, Bayfront Park executive director, take over the concert series.

"Tim has put on more concerts than anyone in any park," Mr. Sarnoff said. "This should be under his tutelage."

Mr. Schmand, who did not attend the meeting due to scheduling conflict, could not be reached.

The series, which runs from

October through April (except December) has featured such diverse acts as Suenalo, Fancy Me Yet, Jahfe, Laura Izibor and PALO. The South Florida Jazz Orchestra with Nicole Henry is scheduled Feb. 12. Performances are at the Tina Hills Pavilion at Bayfront Park.

The project is funded by the authority and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

The proposed management switch is all about "trying to figure out efficiencies," Mr. Sarnoff said. "Government is most resistant to efficiency."

"We were never out to be the permanent owners of the concert series," said Alyce Robertson, authority executive director. "We're looking for new owners over the long haul.



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We're not a presenting organization and it's a big drain on staff."

"I thought we paid somebody to manage it?" Board member Jose Goyanes asked.

"Just to pick the talent," Ms. Robertson responded. "We do a

lot of the public relations and the logistics."

Mr. Sarnoff's management suggestions also extend to the Olympia Theatre at the Gusman and the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts.

"I don't know how much

longer the Miami Parking Authority should run Gusman," he said. "We should determine whether another entity is more qualified."

The Gusman family donated the theater to the city in 1975 with the stipulation that it be managed by the parking authority, in an effort to keep it removed from City Hall politics.

Mr. Sarnoff said he would also like to see the downtown authority forge "a better conversation and some efficiencies" with the Arsht Center for the Performing Arts. He noted that Suzanna A. Valdez, center vice president of advancement, "wants us to have a board meeting at the performing arts center. Maybe we could bring Tim in to try to figure out the efficiencies."