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15 companies committed or close about moving downtown

By KYLEA HENSELER

Interest in Miami's Central Business District grew in 2020 and remains strong in the new year, according to Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Christina Crespi, who told Miami Today that 15 companies are currently committed or seriously considering moving to the area.

Six companies, she said, have taken advantage of the Authority's "Follow The Sun" campaign, which

launched in October. This grant program, she said, provides companies with ten or more employees earning \$68,000 per year or more up to \$50,000 per year for three years. The current grant recipients, she said, will yield the city around 620 jobs in the next three years.

Companies moving to Miami, Ms. Crespi said, hail from a range of industries including tech, finance and entertainment and include Adi Dassler International Family Office, Concacord Genuity Group, Marco

Financial, Nucleus Research Inc. and World Property Channel TV.

One tool on the DDA's website that allows companies to scan the Miami skyline and view information on available commercial space, she said, has helped developers and investors view the city. During fiscal year 2019-2020, she said, the authority had close to 300 meetings with various companies. The authority, she said, is holding around 20 meetings each month.

The city's film industry, Ms.

Crespi said, has benefitted from the Covid-19 precautions in major film hubs like Los Angeles, with Miami's film office issuing around 20 permits last month.

The authority, she said, has dedicated around half a million dollars to covid recovery through grants and programs offering businesses relief or personal protective equipment.

One goal, she said, is to revamp Flagler Street, which currently features vacant storefronts activated by art galleries and live music on weekends. The effort, dubbed "Alt B" for "alternative Basel," kicked off in early December around the time the world-famous cancelled art show Art Basel would have occurred.

The first event, Ms. Crespi said, was an outdoor fashion show featuring a 200-foot runway in the middle of a closed-down Flagler, which was attended by 350 people and viewed online by millions. Cities in Europe, she said, have turned to the event for inspiration.

Around ten landlords, she said, have offered up their vacant storefronts to artists until late March through an initiative that allows them to set up window-shoppable, covid-safe galleries where custom-



Companies moving to Miami include tech, finance and entertainment firms.

Christina Crespi

ers can scan QR codes on the glass to make inquiries or purchases instead of going inside.

In the coming months, Ms. Crespi said, the authority will have more data for 2020 including reports on development and real estate. With multiple companies finalizing moving plans, she said she is expecting to make more relocation announcements soon.

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