

The Facts About the Miami Downtown Development Authority

About the agency

The Miami Downtown Development Authority (DDA), an independent agency of the City of Miami, is the driving force behind maintaining the economic health and vitality of Downtown Miami. The organization's key priorities include creating a welcoming environment for businesses, enhancing quality of life for residents, advocating for smart urban planning and attracting visitors.

Our board of directors is comprised of downtown property owners, business owners and/or residents, ensuring that we understand the issues affecting the Downtown community.

Who does the Miami DDA serve

The Miami DDA serves the many residents, investors, business owners and visitors that make up our unique downtown Miami ecosystem, from the Arts & Entertainment District, through the Central Business District and Brickell. Whether it's a small business owner who needs assistance getting a permit to open their new shop, or a family looking for free and engaging activities to do with their kids right in their neighborhood, the Miami DDA's efforts and programming are designed to serve all who call Downtown Miami home.

"I'm very happy to have found Miami DDA's Permit Clinic, as we're looking to expand our business into a new space. We're very, very appreciative of all the hard work." Alex Karavias, co-owner of Meraki Greek Bistro

"They've assisted me with issues with my permits, help with garbage, and all sorts of issues that surround downtown. Honestly, without them, I don't believe that we'd still be around after 47 years." Eddie Lirio, owner of Manolo & Rene Grill

"I had been trying to complete a process for two months. In less than five minutes the [Permit Clinic] team helped me connect with the right people and move forward effortlessly. Thank you again for this invaluable resource." Stephanie Carvajalino, Brickell resident

The facts about the Miami DDA's budget

- The Miami DDA serves the needs of our Downtown residents, business owners and visitors. A few examples of initiatives funded by the Miami DDA include:
 - Enhancing police services by funding off duty officers and a security camera network
 - Expanding homeless outreach with grants to add shelter options and services
 - Improving mobility with the Freebee Downtown Circulator and the upcoming Brickell Circulator
 - Bringing family-friendly and cultural activations to the urban core through the Downtown Creative Collaborator Grants and Holiday Village
 - Welcoming new and needed businesses with Business Incentive Grants and the free Permit Clinic

- Cleaning and maintaining public areas through the Downtown Enhancement Team, comprised of all formerly homeless individuals
- Offering additional hospitality and security-related services through our Downtown Ambassadors, who provide information and assistance while serving as additional eyes and ears for City of Miami Police
- Creating engaging urban spaces for the community to enjoy, such as advocating for the I-395 Baywalk Pedestrian and Bikeway Bridge
- Empowering stakeholders with vital information and resources like the 3D Development Pipeline Map to inform development, policy and investment decisions that benefit Downtown Miami
- The Miami DDA is funded by a special tax levy on properties (42% from commercial and mixed-use properties and 58% from residential properties). It operates efficiently and effectively keeping operational expenses at less than 30%, which is below the national average of 35% for similar organizations. More than \$9 million is allocated to programs and initiatives annually.