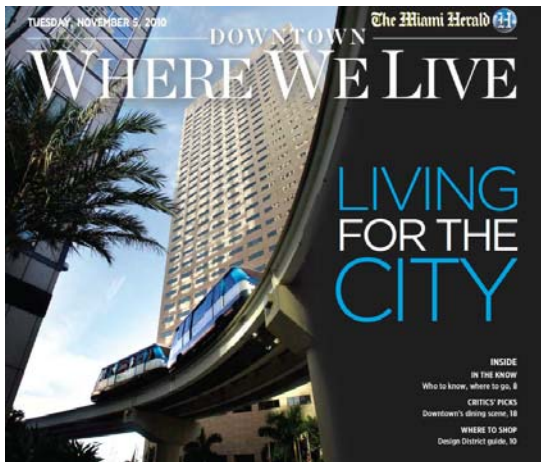


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14 can't-miss downtown events

1. DWNTWN Miami Concert Series

Free concerts, presented by the Miami Downtown Development Agency, run October through April on the second Friday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Bayfront Park, 301 N. Biscayne Blvd. Info: www.miamida.com.

2. Wynwood Gallery Walk

The Wynwood Art District galleries and studios open 7 p.m.-10 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month.

3. Art + Design Night

This Design District gallery walk, which also takes place 7 p.m.-10 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month, coincides with Wynwood's walk. Info: www.miamidesigndistrict.net.

4. Arsht Center's Family Fest

This family-friendly free event features live outdoor performances, dancing, hands-on demonstrations and workshops on the outdoor plaza of the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County, 1300 Biscayne Blvd. Held four Saturdays throughout the year, starting Saturday. Info: www.arshtcenter.org.

5. Miami Book Fair International

This eight-day literary party in November draws hundreds of thousands of word lovers to the Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus, 401 NE Second Ave., for a street fair, Children's Alley, Comics Galaxy section and readings by hundreds of authors. This year's event is Nov. 14-21, with appearances by Jonathan

Franzen, Sebastian Junger, Nora Ephron and rocker Patti Smith, among others. Info: 305-237-3258; www.miamibookfair.com.

6. Art Basel Miami Beach

While the internationally renowned art festival is on Miami Beach, a huge number of related shows and events occur in the Design District and Wynwood during Art Basel week in early December. Among them: The Red Dot Art Fair, Photo Miami, Sculpt Miami and the SCOPE Art Show, along with special events at individual galleries and collectors' warehouses.

7. New Year's Eve

The city rings in the new year with a free party on Dec. 31 at Bayfront Park, 301 N. Biscayne Blvd. Fireworks and music are followed by the dropping of the Big Orange. Info: www.bayfrontparkmiami.com.

8. Miami International Boat Show

Produced by National Marine Manufacturers Association, this annual boating event in February includes racing, fishing and sailing seminars, as well as vendor booths. The next show is Feb. 17-21. The showcase is at the Miami Beach Convention Center, but Strictly Sail Miami, the Sail America-endorsed show held in conjunction, occurs at Miamarina at Bayside, 401 Biscayne Blvd. Info: www.miamiboatshow.com.

9. Caribbean Festival

This annual reggae music festival, also known as Marleyfest, celebrates the life and music of Bob Marley with a day of music at Bayfront Park

in February. Info: www.bobmarleymovement.com.

10. Calle Ocho

The culmination of Carnaval Miami, this free, day-long street festival in March showcases Cuban and Pan-American music and food for blocks and blocks along Southwest 8th Street in Little Havana. Info: www.carnavalmiami.com.

11. Ultra Music Festival

This two-day outdoor electronic music event at Bicentennial Park, 1075 Biscayne Blvd., is in March, coinciding with the Winter Music Conference. Info: www.ultramusicfestival.com.

12. Miami International Film Festival

Showcasing new and established international filmmakers over a 10-day period, this festival in March takes place at venues all over Miami, including the Gusman Center, 174 E. Flagler St. Info: www.miamifilmfestival.com.

13. Mercedes-Benz Miami Corporate Run

This 5K is a downtown staple among South Florida companies. Usually in April, it attracts more than 20,000 participants. Money raised is donated to the South Florida Region of the American Red Cross. Info: www.mercedesbenzcorporaterun.com.

14. Fourth of July

Free fireworks are set off annually at Bayfront Park, along with kid zones and carnival booths. The free event is every July 4. Info: www.bayfrontparkmiami.com.

— ERICA A. HERNANDEZ