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## Related Group CEO Pledges \$35M to Miami Art Museum

By Jennifer LeClaire



Robertson

MIAMI—In another move to bolster Miami's future as a 24/7 city, The Related Group's founder has increased his Miami Art Museum contribution to \$35 million. The gift is the latest in a string of support for the museum, which city officials expect to act as a cultural hub and drive additional development in the urban core.

"Miami Art Museum's commitment to assembling one of the world's leading collections of contemporary art reflects my own desire for Miami to continue to grow as an international cultural destination," Jorge Perez, CEO of The Related Group, said in a statement. "My hope is that the collection I am donating to the museum, along with the gift for the museum's new building campaign, will enhance its role as a place where

locals and visitors come together to experience an expansive collection of contemporary art, including our community's finest works, and become educated in the global visual arts."

With Perez's donation, the Herzog & de Meuron-designed has raised complex to \$167 million of its \$220 million goal. In addition to \$20 million in cash, Perez will also donate a portion of his Latin American art collection valued at more than \$15 million to the museum's permanent collection. The museum will be renamed the Jorge M. Pérez Art Museum of Miami-Dade County Perez's honor.

**"Jorge Perez was one of the earliest developers to recognize that centralized development in Miami's urban core had the potential to create a 24/7 community and raise the city's profile as a global destination," Alyce Robertson, executive director of the Miami Downtown Development Authority, tells GlobeSt.com. "His support for Miami Art Museum further underscores an appreciation for the catalytic effect the arts can have on economic development. Museum Park will be a focal point of downtown Miami, bringing hundreds of thousands of new visitors a year, activating our city's waterfront, and spurring a positive economic impact."**

The 120,000-square-foot Miami Art Museum will be an anchor of the new, 29-acre Museum Park overlooking Biscayne Bay and will include public gardens and sculpture installations. Construction is already underway on the project. It will include 32,000 square feet of galleries for MAM's rapidly growing permanent collection, as well as an educational complex with a library, auditorium, classrooms, and workshop space, and a cafe and store.

"Miami Art Museum is a public hub for the city's vibrant arts landscape, and major gifts such as Jorge's allow the institution to continue and build on its central role in the community," Aaron Podhurst, chairman of the MAM board of trustees, said in a statement. "The significant support for MAM and other local cultural organizations clearly signals the tremendous impact cultural anchors have on our quality of life and continued emergence as a global center for business and tourism."