

Development Authority leader wins honors for development of tourism

By CATHERINE LACKNER

Better known for presiding over Miami's Downtown Development Authority as executive director, Alyce Robertson has been named the 2018 South Florida Tourism Professional of the Year, authority directors learned at their monthly meeting.

"No one deserves this award more than Alyce," said Ken Russell, authority chair and Miami commissioner, in a release. "During her tenure, Alyce has been a driving force behind establishing downtown as a center for the arts and culture with free public programming, like Art Days, which brings thousands of visitors to shop at our businesses and dine in our restaurants each year."

"We want to recognize the outstanding work she's done to build downtown into a major center, not only for business, but for tourism," said Alvin West, authority treasurer and senior vice president/chief financial officer of the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, at the meeting. "She's worked



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with the hotels, and with the marketing department at the bureau."

Downtown welcomes 7 million visitors each year, he added. "Every major district has a champion, and she is the champion for



Alyce Robertson was recognized.

downtown. We are as pleased as punch that she has received this award," Mr. West said, to applause from the group.

The award is given by the Miami Dade Academy of Hospitality and Tourism, which prepares students for post-secondary education in the hospitality and tourism industries.

Ms. Robertson thanked the group and said she was surprised to receive the award. "I was up against some very solid tourism professionals, and I thought I was just a bureaucrat."