

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.

Led by a board of Downtown residents, property owners and business owners, the organization's key priorities include enhancing quality of life for residents, creating a welcoming environment for businesses, advocating for smart urban planning and attracting visitors.

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:

- **Public Safety:** Funding up to 650 hours/month of off-duty police and a camera network (21 cameras, 8 license plate readers in the CBD) with plans to expand into Brickell and the Arts & Entertainment District.
- **Clean & Safe Streets:** Downtown Enhancement Team—staffed by formerly homeless individuals—keeps public areas clean and maintained (see Quality of Life report).
- **Hospitality & Security:** Downtown Ambassadors offer info, assist visitors, and support Miami PD as extra eyes and ears.
- **Homeless Outreach:** Offer grants to add shelter options and services.
- **Mobility Improvements:** Over 23,000 riders have used the Miami DDA Freebee Downtown Circulator; Brickell Circulator in planning (RFP pending).
- **Community Activations:** Launching Downtown Creative Collaborator Grants (July 1) to support arts & culture and hosting events like Holiday Village.
- **Business Support:** Business Incentive Grants to attract needed businesses and free Permit Clinic has supported over 700 businesses.
- **Public Spaces:** Advocating for safe and active Baywalk & Riverwalk connections, including funding projects like the I-395 Baywalk Pedestrian & Bikeway Bridge.
- **Data & Resources:** Tools like the 3D Development Pipeline Map help inform development, policy, and investment decisions.

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 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

“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'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

Enhanced Services Report

April 2025

Downtown Enhancement Team (DET)

- Collected Grand Total of **4,501 (55 gallon)** garbage bags
- Trimmed and maintained **124** blocks of overgrown weeds and encroachment
- Assisted MPD Detail with **2** special clean-ups in neglected corners & homeless encampments
- Removed **20** instances of illegal dumping
- Power washed **22** blocks in the CBD
- **1,125** instances of graffiti were removed from public property

Enhanced Services Coordinator Community Engagement

- Engaged with **43** Homeless Individuals; **17** documented and entered into HIMS System;
 - **19** referred to Hermanos De La Calle
 - **17** encampment assistance by Miami Police Department
- **39** Business Contacts

Downtown Ambassadors

- **26,889** Hospitality assists / **504** Safety Walks
- **175** Motor Assists / **2,063** Business Contacts
- **37** Incidents/Interactions with City of Miami Police Dept. or Fire Rescue

Quality of Life –

- **4** Street/MOT signs / **2** Traffic Signals reported to MDC PW
- Reported **7** instances of illegal dumping to City of Miami Solid Waste for collection
- **5** Cart inspections conducted in the Downtown Miami Special Vending District
- **14** lighting issues were reported to FPL/City of Miami & Miami-Dade County
- **111,254** uses to date at Pit Stop (FY 24-25);
restrooms have been used **903,883** times since inception