

Commission Update

THE SCHOOL AND
COMMUNITY RELATIONS
COMMITTEE (SCRC)

CORAL
GABLES
THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

SCRC RECEIVES NEW LIFE

May 2015

Scope and responsibility of committee
expanded by Commission resolution

January 2016

School Improvement Projects approved by
City Commission

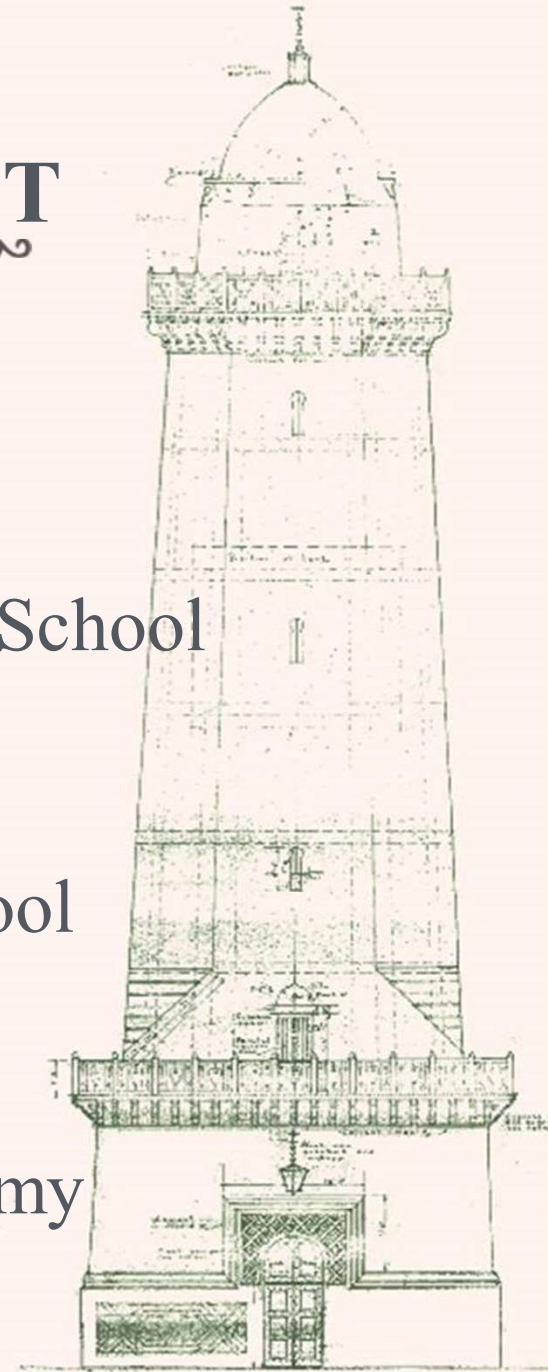
Mission

“Leave it better than we found it.”

“Leave a lasting legacy.”

SCRC SCHOOLS LIST

1. Coral Gables Preparatory Academy
2. David Fairchild Elementary School
3. Frances S. Tucker Elementary School
4. George Washington Carver Elementary School
5. Henry S. West Laboratory School
6. Sunset International Elementary School
7. George Washington Carver Middle School
8. Ponce de Leon Middle School
9. Coral Gables Senior High School
10. International Studies Preparatory Academy
11. Somerset Academy



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- “City Beautiful” Schools Initiative
- Community Education Initiatives
- “Community Schools” Project
- Coral Gables History Tours
- Financial Literacy Initiative
- Internship/Mentorship/Community Service Programs
- School Libraries/Book Drive Initiative
- Special Needs Initiative
- Technology Initiative

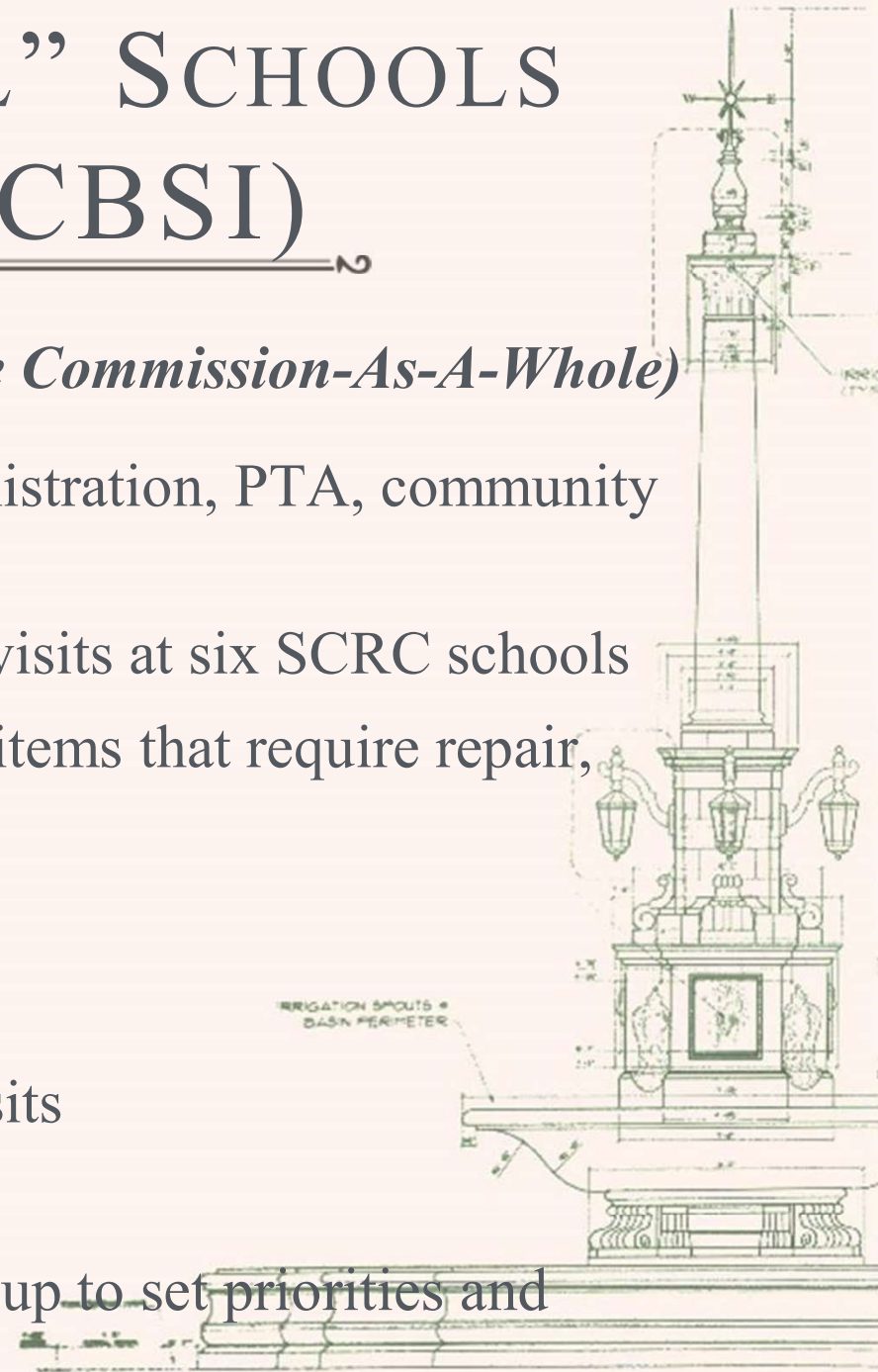
“CITY BEAUTIFUL” SCHOOLS INITIATIVE (CBSI)

Lead by Theresa Rice (appointed by the Commission-As-A-Whole)

- Engaged with school principal, administration, PTA, community partners and district staff
- To date we’ve performed school site visits at six SCRC schools
- Prepared comprehensive checklist of items that require repair, beautification, and attention

Pending Items:

- Conclude remaining school site visits
- Update CBSI projects list
- Convene CBSI projects review group to set priorities and timelines for addressing issues



“CITY BEAUTIFUL” SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

**Coral Gables Community Foundation Donates Benches
to Ponce de Leon Middle School**



COMMUNITY EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Lead by Carmen Manrara Cartaya (Appointed by Commissioner Mena)

- Hosted a School Board District 6 Candidates Forum
- Hosted a West Lab Town Hall Meeting
- Annually attend Coral Gables Chamber Education Breakfast and other education events and/or meetings
- Regularly meet with PTSA's, ESSAC groups, and other stakeholders
- Collaboration with fellow City boards and committees such as the Communications Committee and the Economic Development Board

Pending Items:

- Use social media and other City media platforms to get information to the community
- Continue collaborations with City boards and committees to disseminate information
- Collaborate with community partners and stakeholders
- Participate in City-led and or related events and meetings



Come celebrate our
4th Annual Children's Festival
and join us for many fun educational
activities for children.
Dental Hygiene Fun



Children's
Dental Clinic

Face Painting
Water Safety
& Popcorn

Arts & Crafts
Career Corner

Simulated Fireman
Activities

Book Readings

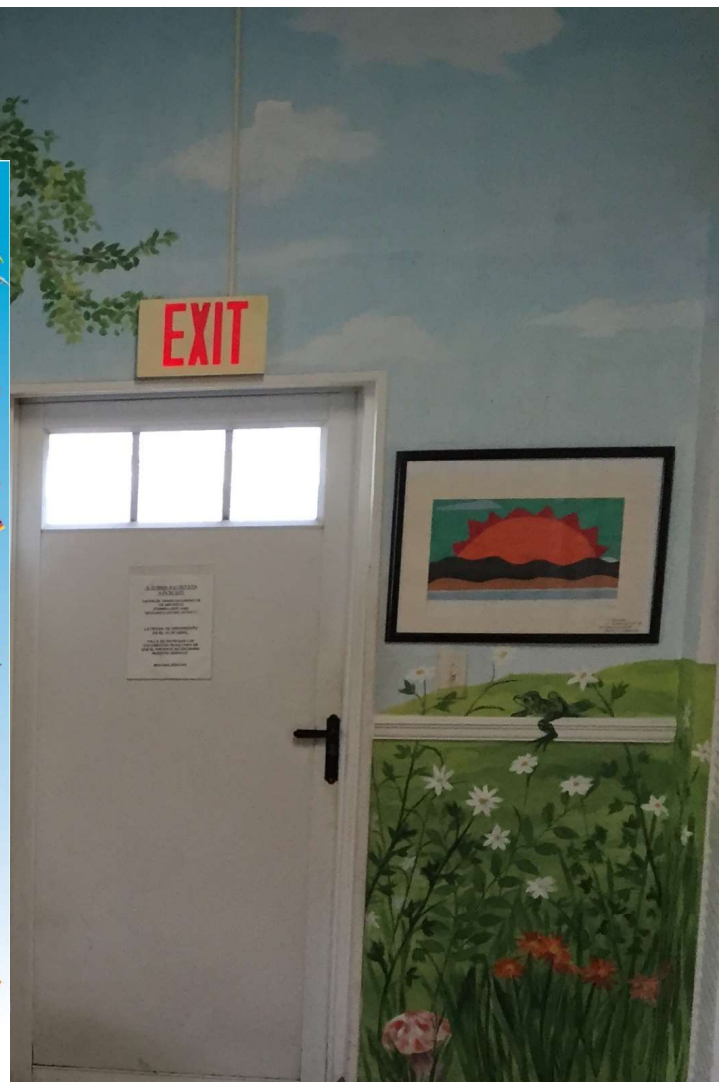
Hosted by:



CORAL GABLES
WOMAN'S CLUB

@cg_womansclub Eventbrite @CoralGablesWomensClub

1009 E. Ponce de Leon Blvd, Coral Gables, FL 33134
Complimentary Refreshments



COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE



Lead by Aileen Ortega (Appointed by Vice-Mayor Keon)

- Project to open SCRC school campuses and/or facilities for public usage/access
- Project is substantially complete, CGSH field is open to public when not in use
- MDCPS has a process and form for requesting usage of facilities such as auditoriums, fields etc.

Pending Items:

- Community education campaign
- Exploring future opportunities at Ponce Middle and other SCRC schools

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE



CORAL GABLES HISTORY TOURS

Lead by Mary Snow (Appointed by Commissioner Quesada)

- Implemented pilot program (December) with fourth grade students from George Washington Carver Elementary School
 - Students and their chaperones toured the Coral Gables Museum, Coral Gables City Hall and the Biltmore Hotel
- *“It takes a village”*:
 - Funded by the Coral Gables Community Foundation and MDCPS
 - Planned and lead by the Coral Gables Museum
 - Facilitated by MDCPS staff

Pending Item:

- The permanent addition of the City’s just reopened Merrick House as a stop in future tours
- Expand program to all 4th grade students at SCRC schools
- Sustain the program in perpetuity (endowment)

CORAL GABLES HISTORY TOURS



FINANCIAL LITERACY INITIATIVE

Lead by Ariel Fernandez (Appointed by Mayor Valdes-Fauli)

- Provide financial literacy information and/or support to all SCRC schools (i.e. Blue Chip Kids)
- Established relationships with MDCPS and other related stakeholders:
 - CGSH Finance Academy – Ms. Anne Carranza
 - Beacon Council
 - Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce
 - Community volunteers

Pending Items:

- Conduct a Financial Literacy Needs Review with SCRC schools
- Engage new relationships and stakeholders

INTERNSHIP/MENTORSHIP COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

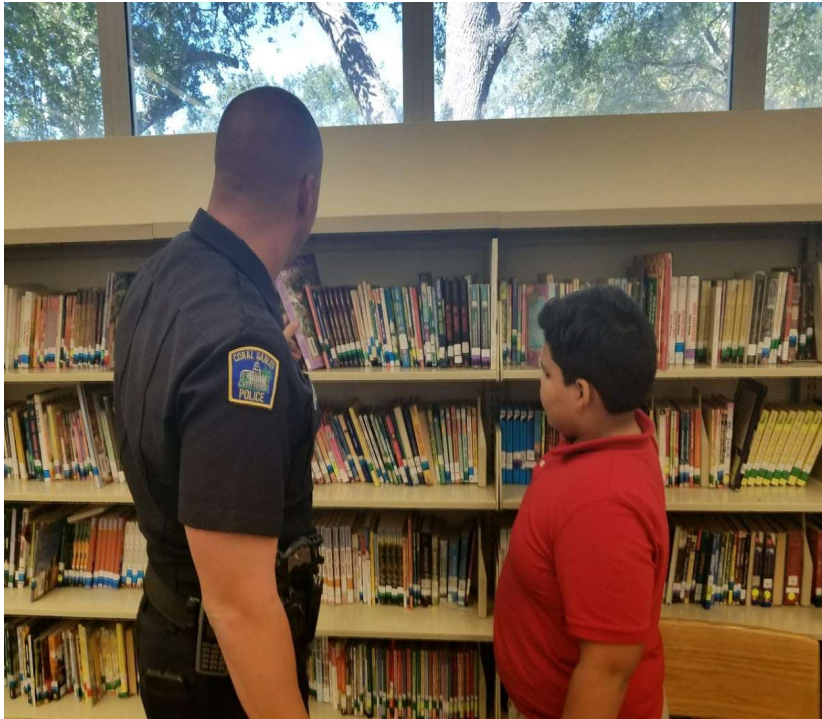
Lead by Sam Joseph (Appointed by Commissioner Lago)

- Established a relationship with MDCPS to accept academic year interns
- Participation in MDCPS' Career Day and Principal Today programs
- Coral Gables Community Foundation awarded funding to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Miami for Coral Gables' new *Bigs in Blue* program

Pending Items:

- *Bigs in Blue* to be expanded to include *Bigs in Red*, a new national initiative involving fire departments being implemented by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Miami
 - The City of Coral Gables will be the only municipality in the country to administer both programs.
- Engagement with MDCPS' Student Government Association
- Partnerships with Coral Gables Chamber and its members
- Engagement with local non-profit and other community-based organizations

INTERNSHIP/MENTORSHIP COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



“We are soooo grateful for this partnership. I can not express how much our students have VALUED this experience. Just from one visit, Officer Valdivia’s mentee brought his grade up in reading from an “F” to a “C”!!

***Mentoring WORKS** and we hope that the officers can stop back by in January to check in on their assigned students who are very much looking forward to sharing with them how they are progressing.*

All the best to each and everyone of you.”

SCHOOL LIBRARY INITIATIVE

Lead by Sam Joseph (Appointed by Commissioner Lago)

- First SCRC project proposed by former Mayor Cason and Commissioner Slesnick
- SCRC School Library Needs Review conducted in 2016
- School Library Needs Review Wish List compiled

Pending Items:

- Redo the SCRC School Library Needs Review
- Convene School Library Needs Review team to set priorities and timelines for addressing the Wish List
- Establish partnerships with the city's Library Advisory Board, the Coral Gables Library, MDCPS' Media Services Department, and the Miami-Dade Public Libraries Division
- Build relationships with Books & Books (Mitchell Kaplan) and Miami Book Fair International (MDC)

SPECIAL NEEDS INITIATIVE

Lead by Sam Joseph (Appointed by Commissioner Lago)

- *Resolution Declaring Principles of Inclusion for Individuals with Autism and other Special Needs (with SCRC/SNI endorsement) adopted by Commission on April 12, 2016*
- SNI Planning Group convened in May 2016
 - SNI Goals & Priorities Identified

Pending Items:

- Continue work ensuring the implementation of the *Principles of Inclusion* in all City services and public programs
- Continue work to establish a special needs information clearinghouse (Parks & Recreation/Private partnership)
- Develop and implement Learning Disability Demonstration Classroom Project in partnership with UM/NSU CARD and MDCPS' ESE Department

TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

Lead by Sandy Dimitris (Appointed by the City Manager)

- Technology Needs Review conducted with SCRC schools in 2016
- Partnering with South Florida Digital Alliance to address and fulfill technology needs at SCRC schools

Pending Items:

- Establish contacts and relationships with technology related companies/members of Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce
- Assist SCRC schools in securing technology/business partnerships

EVENTS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Back pack and school supply drives and distribution events
- Honoring the achievements of schools, students and administration at City Commission meetings
- Hosting satellite office hours for School Board member Mari Tere Rojas in City Hall
- MDCPS District 6 Student Art Exhibition hosted at Coral Gables City Hall
- Fulfillment of school wish lists through meaningful partnerships
- Back to school events
- “Mayor and Commissioner For a Day” events

EVENTS AND RECOGNITIONS



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PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS RECOGNITION

- The City of Coral Gables' Public Servants & Staff
- School Board Member Mari Tere Rojas and District 6 staff
- Iraida Mendez-Cartaya and MDCPS' Central Region Office
- MDCPS District Administration & Staff
- The Coral Gables Community Foundation
- The Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce
- The Coral Gables Museum
- The Beacon Council
- Best Buddies International
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Miami
- The Coral Gables Women's Club

PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS RECOGNITION (CONT.)

- The Coral Gables Garden Club
- City of Coral Gables' Communications Committee
- City of Coral Gables' Economic Development Board
- City of Coral Gables' Landscape Advisory Board
- Coral Gables Senior High School PTSA & Alumni Association
- Crystal Academy
- MomsRising.org
- Nature Links
- South Florida Digital Alliance
- Triumph Steps, Inc.
- UM/NSU CARD
- **Our local schools, administrators, staff, students, and families**

LOOKING FORWARD

- Continue progress on School Improvement Projects
- Expand SCRC membership
- Update Education Compact with MDCPS
- Implementation of new projects:
 - Cavalier National Pride 2020 Campaign
 - “City Beautiful” Education Awards (CBEA’s)
 - Coral Gables Leadership Council
- Outreach to other Coral Gables educational institutions and/or stakeholders (i.e. private schools, home schools, college/universities, etc.)
- **Fulfill our Mission:**

“Leave it better than we found it.”

“Leave a lasting legacy.”

THANK YOU

“What a GREAT CHIEF and elected body we have in The Gables! I am incredibly proud of the manner in which Coral Gables engages with all of their constituents. You have really set the bar high as it relates to municipalities interacting with the community. We look forward to a continued partnership with such a fine Police Department and Elected Officials. Onward and Upwards!”

Warmly,

Patricia D. Fairclough, Ed.S

G. W. Carver Elementary School WL#0721

International Magnet Program

"Conquering the WORLD, one language at a time"



Thank You

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