



# Miami Beach Urban Studios

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

## MINUTES

### Leadership Advisory Board Meeting June 02, 2016

**Board Members Present:** Asi Cymbal, Pablo De Ritis, Eric Hankin, Michael Larkin, Chad Oppenheim, Adriano Salucci, Jeff Weinstein

**Others Present:** John Stuart, Executive Director of the Miami Beach Urban Studios and Associate Dean of Cultural and Community Engagement in CARTA. John Stuart took notes and produced the minutes.

1. **Welcome**
2. **Meeting Minutes of 3.31.16:** Approved unanimously.
3. **Board Elections**
  - a. Unanimous 6-0 support for the following slate of candidates
    - i. Pablo de Ritis, Chair
    - ii. Alfred Karram, Chair-elect
    - iii. Adriano Salucci, Vice-chair
  - b. As a note, Pablo did ask that the Chair-elect and Vice-chair be called upon to attend meetings that he may not be able to do attend because of his particularly busy schedule this fall with the opening of Faena Forum.
  - c. **THANK YOU PABLO, ALFRED, AND ADRIANO FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP ROLES WITH THE BOARD!!**
4. **Advice to the Director and Board Member Activities**
  - a. During this portion of the meeting board members were encouraged to learn more about each others' ongoing projects in an effort to think about ways in which they might form synergies with one another and for the Urban Studios.
    - i. We noted that Benjamin de la Peña has left the board.
    - ii. **Adriano** recommended that we reconnect to Thomas Camy, Creative Director for eMERGE Americas. [Follow up: Thomas is coming in to the Urban Studios on Friday.]
    - iii. **Jeff** is working on a new building very close to 1111 Lincoln Road. He is also closely involved with both the Lincoln Road BID (Business Improvement District) efforts being undertaken by Ilona Oppenheim and Barbara Römer to invigorate Lincoln Road with art and design projects. Jeff was interested in finding ways that students might be able to learn from the building projects and the landscape architecture redesign project that James Corner is involved with. Jeff noted his disappointment with the mentoring experiences and suggested that students be selected first for showing an interest in being mentored and then be offered opportunities by board members. He was willing to host something like a dinner or cocktail party for students interested in meeting others and being mentored.

- iv. **Internships:** We discussed ways in which perhaps the City of Miami Beach might be able to support internships for students who would be engaged with the Lincoln Road design project.
  - v. **Eric** commented that things are going well at the Design Architecture Senior High and that he felt John's proposed design studio to explore a new site for the Miami Beach Urban Studios was a good one. He also hoped that students and faculty would utilize their time at the Urban Studios to question things that are problematic in the city. Eric mentioned that the DASH visit to the Urban Studios went well. Later in the meeting, Eric put in a plug for continuing to help students understand the importance of the mentoring experience.
  - vi. **Adriano** mentioned that Mark Bisnow sold Bisnow Media in May for \$50M. Things haven't changed in the firm and Adriano is responsible for regional sales and events.
  - vii. **Pablo** spoke about the launch of his project, Faena Rose and the imminent opening on October 29, 2016 of the Faena Forum. We discussed giving faculty and students lead time to figure out ways to interact with the talent coming through Faena Rose. Pablo asked for a one-pager to describe the Urban Studios and John promised to create one.
  - viii. **Chad** spoke about a new project in Nicaragua for the owner of GoPro. He also mentioned projects in Morocco, and his work with fashion designer James Perse. Other projects included a large hotel with Disney and projects with the Fertitta brothers. We spoke about ways in which Chad might find ways to introduce hi clients to what is happening at the Urban Studios and the College in general.
  - ix. **Asi** is finishing up the Enrique Norton building in the Design District, which should be opening around the end of November. There are some new directions to the project in Fort Lauderdale.
  - x. **Michael** mentioned working on zoning and development issues for a new waterfront project south of fifth to be designed by architect Richard Meier.
- b. Mentoring
    - i. There was a general agreement that mentoring needed to take a new form this year. I think the takeaway was that all students need to be introduced to the opportunity, but only those who respond to the initial opportunity and show initiative should be put in contact with board members, whether it be for a gathering hosted by Adelee at Verde or a gathering hosted somewhere in town by Jeff and/or Michael or Alfred. It seemed that something needed to change to create a more satisfactory experience all around.
  - c. Director's Dinners
    - i. Eric and Asi both felt that the Director's Dinners should be continued and that they were excellent opportunities to develop community around the Urban Studios for students, faculty, and for board members and friends.
  - d. Project to Envision a Sustainable MBUS of the Future

- i. As we begin the second five-year rental term in the 420 Lincoln Road building, it seems time to take stock in the MBUS project and think about ways to make it financially sustainable. This fall, John will conduct a studio in which the Urban Studios on a free standing site in Miami Beach will be the subject of study. This also opens up the conversation about the visioning of the Urban Studios as a funded project. We discussed the possibility of finding \$30M donors through clients and networks of corporations to insure the long-term health of the kind of investigations being completed at the Urban Studios.

**5. 2016-17 Board Meeting Dates:**

- i. **NEXT MEETING Thursday, August 25, 2016, 5-7PM**
- ii. Thursday, November 17, 2016, 5-7PM
- iii. Thursday, January 19, 2017, 5-7PM
- iv. Thursday, March 30, 2017, 5-7PM
- v. Thursday, June 1, 2017, 5-7PM