

**LITTLE HAITI
REVITALIZATION TRUST**

212 NE 59th Terrace, Miami, Florida 33137

January 15, 2025

Mr. Arthur Noriega, V
City Manager
City of Miami
Office of the City Manager 3500
Pan American Avenue
Miami, FL 33133

RE: Little Haiti Revitalization Trust Annual Report

This document constitutes the Annual Report of the Little Haiti Revitalization Trust (“Little Haiti Trust”) submitted to the City Manager pursuant to City Code Sec. 2-890.

The Little Haiti Trust shall promote economic development, business and commerce in the area. The Little Haiti Trust shall develop and execute a plan to create jobs, attract industry and facilitate the production of goods and services in the area for residents and non-residents. It will facilitate the development of affordable housing, engage in homebuyer assistance programs and market the area to encourage former residents and others to locate to the area. The target area was described at the May 26, 2016, meeting of the City Commission and is established in Code Section 12.5-42.-Little Haiti Trust Jurisdictional Authority.

The purpose of the Little Haiti Trust is to cooperate with the City Manager, Department of Housing & Community Development, and other departments to ensure revitalization efforts in the Little Haiti area.

The overall goal of the Little Haiti Trust is to develop and execute an action plan and planning process that meet Little Haiti’s community needs and provide resources to immediately galvanize the Little Haiti Trust’s unique multi-faceted mandate.

To effect positive redevelopment of the Little Haiti area, the Little Haiti Trust currently promotes economic development, and commerce; facilitates the development of affordable housing; and engages in homeownership assistance programs.

The Board offers the following report specifically responding to the required questions per Section 2-890:

1) Whether the board is serving the purpose for which it was created.

Yes, the Little Haiti Revitalization Trust is effectively fulfilling its purpose. The Trust has made significant progress in promoting the revitalization and redevelopment of Little Haiti

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through strategic programming, community engagement, and economic initiatives. The Little Haiti Revitalization Trust conducts regular and special board meetings which include the opportunity for public comment to gather input from constituents.

The Little Haiti Trust continues to monitor the progress of the Magic City Innovation District Special Area Plan. The Trust has attended Planning, Zoning and Appeals Board and Historical and Environmental Preservation board meetings to provide an official stance on development projects such as rezoning request and the reconstruction of the historic Dupuis Medical Building.

2) Whether the board is serving current community needs.

The Board of the Little Haiti Revitalization Trust (LHRT) has focused extensively on outreach to the community in various methods in an effort to adequately determine the needs of the community in all aspects. Through its outreach efforts, the Trust has been able to compile data highlighting the community shortcomings and therefore effectively addressing current community needs through targeted initiatives and strategic programming.

The Board also prioritized community engagement by organizing community workshops that attracted over 300 participants to input for a 10-year Little Haiti Strategic Plan. The Trust's outreach included attendance at various resource fairs, distributing crucial information and resources to residents. Through these accomplishments, the Board has proven responsive to community needs, focusing on economic support, cultural enrichment, and fostering connections that reinforce Little Haiti's vibrancy and resilience.

3) A list of the board's major accomplishments.

Throughout 2024, the Little Haiti Revitalization Trust (LHRT) focused on fostering community engagement, supporting cultural preservation, and improving operational effectiveness.

Major Accomplishments (2024)

▪ **Governance & Operations:**

- Completed the first independent annual financial audit of the Trust.
- Expanded staff with the creation of a Special Projects Coordinator position.
- Facilitated a Board Retreat to refine the mission and vision of the Trust.
- Reappointed four board members to ensure leadership continuity.
- Held 12 monthly board meetings providing an opportunity for public input.
- Captured video recordings of board meetings for viewing on Trust's YouTube channel for public access.

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▪ **Programming:**

- Contracted FIU by Design (College of Architecture and Communication) for the development of a 10-year Strategic Playbook outlining strategies guiding the Trust initiatives for the preservation of Little Haiti.
- Established and launched a Home Rehabilitation Program, providing up to \$50,000 for home improvements for Little Haiti homeowners in need of repairs and upgrades. Over \$112,000 has been allocated for two residential properties thus far.
- Conducted a neighborhood canvassing initiative to conduct a needs assessment of Little Haiti residents while promoting trust initiatives and grant programs.
- Enlisted professional outreach services for the canvassing of commercial corridors within Little Haiti in promotion of the Small Business Grant Program resulting in 29 applications totaling \$200,000 in funding allocation.
- Disbursed \$100,000 to the Pierre Toussaint Leadership and Technology Learning Center at Notre Dame Church in support of its computer literacy program.
- Launched a media campaign for the promotion of the Trust including social media, newspaper and radio advertisements.
- Created guidelines for a Homebuyer Program providing down payment assistance grant as a path to homeownership for low to moderate income Little Haiti residents.

▪ **Events:**

- Organized the "Happy Birthday Little Haiti" event celebrating the 8th anniversary of the designation of the official boundaries of Little Haiti. The event featuring a panel of distinguished guest discussing the future development landscape of Little Haiti and gallery photo exhibition of future real estate development projects.
- Held three successful Community Workshops attended by over 300 participants fostering community input on a comprehensive redevelopment initiative including economic development, affordable housing, small business assistance and design guidelines.
- Hosted a Small Business Mixer in partnership with the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce connecting entrepreneurs, business leaders and community advocates.
- Organized the Community Roll Call Event attended by over 80 community members and City of Miami police officers to enhance neighborhood safety during Haitian Heritage Month.

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▪ **Community & Cultural Enrichment:**

- Installed 50+ street pole banners in celebration of Haitian Heritage Month depicting Neg Mawon, a famous statue honoring Haiti's independence.
- Administered 20 grants to community organizations for cultural events held in celebration of Haitian Heritage Month totaling over \$100,000.
- Conducted a Call to Artist for the selection and curation of art murals by local artists at the Caribbean Marketplace of the Little Haiti Cultural Center.
- Launched a weekly online newsletter to keep the community informed and engaged with programs, services and events geared for Little Haiti.
- Engaged with community organizations including financial institutions, nonprofit organizations and development corporations to foster partnerships for future initiatives such as trade school training for residents.

4) Whether there is any other board, either public or private, which would better serve the function of the board.

There is no other board public or private that can better serve the function of the board.

5) Whether the ordinance creating the board should be amended to better enable the board to serve the purpose for which it was created.

The ordinance creating the board was amended by City Ordinance No. 14221 providing the board flexibility to better serve its purpose. There are no additional amendments to the ordinance identified at this time.

6) Whether the board's membership requirements should be modified.

The current membership requirements do not need to be modified.

7) The cost, both direct and indirect, of maintaining the board.

The annual budget of the Trust is approved by the City Commission on an annual basis for the overall expenses of the administration of the Trust. The City will continue to receive payments on behalf of the Trust based on the public benefits agreement detailed in the Magic City SAP. The indirect cost of maintaining the board is identified as volunteer hours of the Board Members.

Sincerely,

Lesline Anglade-Dorleans



212 NE 59th Terrace, Miami, Florida 33137

Board Chairperson, Little Haiti Revitalization Trust