



Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Mayor Eileen Higgins
Commissioner Damian Pardo
Commissioner Miguel Gabela
Commissioner Christine King
Commissioner Ralph Rosado
Commissioner Rolando Escalona

Miami City Hall
3500 Pan American Drive
Miami, FL 33133

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

I am writing in strong support of the restoration of the Miami Marine Stadium, an architectural, cultural, and historical landmark whose significance extends far beyond its physical structure. I offer this letter in my capacity as Vice Chair of the Amigos of the Cuban Heritage Collection at the University of Miami, and as someone deeply engaged in preserving the cultural memory of Miami's immigrant and exile communities.

I also write as a longtime resident of Key Biscayne, where I have had the distinct pleasure of driving past this marvelous structure for more than thirty years. Over time, Miami Marine Stadium has become a familiar and deeply evocative presence in my daily life—a constant reminder of Miami's bold architectural vision and the layered cultural history it represents.

Designed by Hilario Candela and opened in 1963, Miami Marine Stadium emerged at a pivotal moment in the city's history—just as Miami was becoming a principal point of arrival for Cuban exiles fleeing the Castro regime. For the Cuban diaspora, the stadium was more than a venue; it was a civic gathering place where culture, music, sport, and community converged. It became part of the emotional geography of exile—an open-air space where a displaced people forged new traditions while remaining deeply connected to their roots.

Over the decades, Miami Marine Stadium has hosted countless events that resonated powerfully with the Cuban and broader Latino communities: concerts, cultural celebrations, family gatherings, and historic moments that helped define Miami as a hemispheric city. In doing so, it

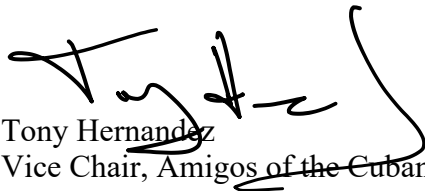
stands as a physical testament to the resilience, creativity, and civic contributions of the Cuban exile community and other immigrant populations who helped shape modern Miami.

The restoration of Miami Marine Stadium represents an opportunity not merely to preserve an iconic example of modernist architecture, but to reaffirm Miami's commitment to honoring its diverse cultural heritage. Restored thoughtfully, the stadium can once again serve as a vibrant public space—one that welcomes new generations while respecting the layered histories embedded within its concrete walls.

From the perspective of cultural preservation, this restoration aligns squarely with the mission of the Cuban Heritage Collection: to safeguard the stories, artifacts, and spaces that illuminate the lived experiences of Cuban exiles and their descendants. Miami Marine Stadium is one such space—rich with memory, symbolism, and meaning.

I strongly urge continued investment and public support for this restoration. Doing so will ensure that Miami Marine Stadium remains not only an architectural treasure, but also a living cultural landmark—one that reflects the city's unique identity and honors the communities that helped build it.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Hernandez', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Tony Hernandez
Vice Chair, Amigos of the Cuban Heritage Collection
President/CEO
Latino Broadcasting Company