

The Miami Foundation

# Miami **Open** for Business

Supported by Wells Fargo

The  
Miami  
Foundation

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## About The Program



The Miami Foundation’s mission is to build a stronger, more equitable and resilient Miami. Fueled by a \$20 million grant from Wells Fargo, the Miami Open for Business program aims to empower historically underserved nonprofits and small businesses to build generational wealth and resilience through the ownership of critical business assets, such as technology, equipment, machinery, vehicles, inventory, and property. The program, running through 2024, distributes grants and loans to entrepreneurs to purchase assets.

## Program Details and Event Schedule

### Program Details

- In 2022, Wells Fargo donated \$20 million to The Miami Foundation to establish the Miami Open for Business fund to support historically underserved small business owners with asset ownership.
- Locally, the program awards grants and loans to purchase critical business assets, such as technology, machinery, vehicles, and commercial real estate. Eligible applicants in Miami-Dade County are Black, Latino, LGBTQ+, veterans, and/or people with disabilities.
- Since inception, over \$6 million has been invested in 300 organizations.
- **Microgrant for Technology or Equipment (up to \$20K):** 178 small businesses and nonprofits have been awarded \$2.4 million.
- **Asset Building Loan for Entrepreneurs, ABLE (up to \$100K):** 14 borrowers have been issued \$1 million in low-interest financing.
- **Collective Real Estate Ownership, CREO (up to \$500K):** 9 collaboratives have received \$3 million in funding commitments for down payments on shared commercial real estate.
- Small businesses employ half of our county's workforce and are the heartbeat of our economy, but are the most susceptible to income shocks and real estate volatility.
- Open for Business prioritizes Miami communities that have been historically overlooked when it comes to small business development and investment, many of which are historically Black neighborhoods.
- We also invest in skills development and training. Ten partner organizations have delivered over 4,500 hours to 450+ business owners.

### Schedule

**5:00pm**

- // Venue Doors Opens
- // Complimentary Gallery Access
- // Pitch Competition By MDEAT X Black Professionals Network (BPN)

**6:00pm**

- // Neighborhood-Themed Networking Cocktail Hour With Hors d'oeuvres

**7:00pm**

- // Formal Program Begins
- // Grantee Recognition

**7:30pm**

- // Panel Discussion
- // Grant Award Announcement For A Small Business Policy And Advocacy Implementation Partner



## **Rebecca Fishman Lipsey**

President And CEO  
The Miami Foundation

Social innovator and former policymaker Rebecca Fishman Lipsey is the president and CEO of The Miami Foundation, a \$400+MM community foundation focused on building a stronger, more equitable Greater Miami. Since her appointment in 2020, she has grown The Foundation by 25%, infused a commitment to equity into every grant program and initiative of The Foundation, and has invested over \$100 million into nonprofits that strengthen Miami for all who call this place home.

Prior to leading The Miami Foundation, Rebecca was the youngest person in history appointed to the Florida Board of Education, overseeing educational policy impacting 3 million children from kindergarten through college. Rebecca founded Radical Partners, an incubator for social impact ventures. She started her career as a public school teacher, inspired by her grandparents experience as refugees years ago.

Rebecca was named “Best Non-Profit Executive” by The International Stevie Award for Women in Business; “Best Role Model” by Miami Today; and “20 Under 40” by The Miami Herald. She holds a master’s from Bank Street College of Education, and graduated as valedictorian of her University of Pennsylvania undergraduate class. When she’s not building a stronger Miami, you can find Rebecca banging on the piano, walking ‘round the neighborhood with her husband of 18 years, and serving as a personal assistant to her two young boys.

## **Hector J. Ponte**

### South Florida Region Executive Branch Banking Wells Fargo & Company



Hector J. Ponte is the Region Executive for Wells Fargo's South Florida region. He oversees 120 Wells Fargo branches and more than 1,100 employees across Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

A 37-year veteran in financial services, Ponte began his career as a part-time teller with Florida National Bank in 1986, a Wells Fargo predecessor, and has held various branch, district and regional leadership roles. Most recently, he served as the Region Bank President for Broward County, formerly known as Wells Fargo's Southeast Florida region.

A South Florida native, Ponte is very active in the community. He currently serves as Chair-Elect of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Executive Committee and as Immediate Past Chair of the Miami-Dade Public Education Fund, where he has been a board member for more than 20 years. He also sits on the boards of directors of the United Way of Broward, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance CEO Council and the Broward Workshop.

Additionally, Ponte serves as the executive sponsor of the company's South Florida Employee Impact Team (EIT), which leads community and volunteer projects for the company's employees across Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

In 2012, Ponte was inducted into the Miami-Dade College Hall of Fame. In 2016, he was awarded the Distinguished Citizens Award by the South Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America and selected by the National Diversity Council as a 2016 Top Latino Leader Award Winner. He was also named as one of the South Florida Business Journal's Business of Pride Outstanding Voices in 2018 and received the Greater Ft. Lauderdale Alliance's 2018 CEO Council Economic Development Leadership Award. For the last six years, Ponte has been named to the South Florida Business Journal's Power Leaders list, as well as the publication's Power Leaders in Banking list. In 2022, Ponte received the South Florida Business Journal Ultimate CEO Award and the South Florida Business and Wealth Magazine Diversity & Inclusion Award.

He is a graduate of Miami-Dade College and is fluent in Spanish.



**Brittany Morgan**  
Economic Resilience Director  
The Miami Foundation

Brittany Morgan (she/ella) was born and raised in Miami and joined the foundation to design and launch the Open for Business fund, a \$20 million investment in asset building for Miami-Dade’s minority entrepreneurs. A seasoned community economic development professional, she brings over a decade of experience working in diverse program and project management roles spanning the small business, public health, education, and workforce sectors.

Previously, Brittany was a program officer on The Rockefeller Foundation’s Equity and Economic Opportunity team, leading a national effort to support Black and Latino small businesses with access to capital in 12 major U.S. cities, including Miami. Prior to entering philanthropy, Brittany worked at the University of Chicago Inclusive Economy Lab and built a research-practice partnership with the local community college district to deepen data-driven investments in first-generation student success. Before then, Brittany spent 6 years at Feeding America, managing community-based food insecurity initiatives across 60 food banks and 100 pantries, kitchens, and shelters throughout the U.S.

Brittany is ardently passionate about economic parity, social equality, and racial justice. Brittany holds a bachelor’s from the University of Chicago in international studies with a minor in human rights, and a master’s degree from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy. While she lived in Chicago for 14 years, she is beyond overjoyed to have returned home to the 305.

**MODERATOR****PANELISTS**

**Felipe Marques**  
Miami Bureau Chief  
Bloomberg News



**Mayor Daniella  
Levine Cava**  
Miami-Dade County



**Lynda V. Harris**  
Chairwoman  
Miami-Dade Chamber  
of Commerce



**Rodrick T. Miller**  
President & CEO  
Miami-Dade Beacon  
Council



**Lyneir Richardson**  
CEO  
Chicago TREND

## Mayor Daniella Levine Cava

### Miami-Dade County

Daniella Levine Cava was elected Miami-Dade County's first-ever woman Mayor in November 2020. She enters the Mayor's office following a 40-year career as a relentless advocate for South Florida families in public service and elected leadership. As Miami-Dade County's Mayor, she oversees a metropolitan government with nearly 30,000 employees serving nearly 3 million residents, managing an annual budget of approximately \$10 billion. A social worker, lawyer, and community activist, she was first elected in 2014, and re-elected in August 2018, to serve as the Miami-Dade County Commissioner representing District 8. She came to elected office after having served as an advocate for South Florida families for over 30 years. Born in New York and raised partly in Latin America, Mayor Levine Cava received her bachelor's degree in psychology with honors from Yale University and graduate degrees in law and social work from Columbia University. She came to South Florida in 1980 to join her husband, Dr. Robert Cava, a Miami native, who returned home to join his father in medical practice.

## Lynda V. Harris

### Chairwoman of the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce

Lynda V. Harris currently holds the position of President of Sunshine State Development of South Fla., Inc. where she is responsible for identifying, acquiring, and assisting in developing multi-family housing projects. Her interest in real estate development began when she was 18 years and was a tenant in a 20-unit building. Lynda is the owner and developer of various affordable housing projects and specializes in developments that address the "Missing Middle", which consists of developments under 70 units. Lynda has a Public/Private Partnership (P3) with the North Miami Community Redevelopment Agency which will house seniors with a focus on housing for artists. As a former Guardian Ad Litem, Lynda is passionate about young girls aging out of foster care and is currently developing a residential housing development for that vulnerable population. Lynda holds a Bachelor's Degree from Florida A&M University, holds a Series 6 and 63 Securities License, is a certified Community Real Estate Development (CRED) graduate, and Certified Grant Writer.

## Rodrick Miller

### President and CEO of Miami-Dade Beacon Council

As President and Chief Executive Officer of Miami-Dade County's official economic development organization, Miller is focused on attracting and retaining companies that create high-value jobs and actively invest in the community. Experienced in leading economic recovery efforts in challenged markets across the country, Miller has launched or turned public-private development agencies around in New Orleans, Detroit and, most recently, Puerto Rico, where he served as Chief Executive Officer of Invest Puerto Rico. Prior to those positions, Miller served as the Executive Vice President of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, Vice President of International Economic Development for the Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) and held several other positions in the public and private sectors. Over the course of his career, he has brought more than \$6B in private investment and 50,000 new jobs to communities where he has worked. Miller holds a Master of Public Policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and a Bachelor of Science in International Business from St. Augustine's College. He also gained a Graduate Diploma in Finance from the Monterrey Institute of Technology (ITESM) in Mexico as a Fulbright Fellow.

## Lyneir Richardson

### CEO and Co-Founder of Chicago TREND

Lyneir Richardson is co-founder and CEO of The Chicago TREND Corporation. He is an experienced commercial and residential real estate developer with over 17 years of experience in urban retail development. TREND is a social enterprise formed in 2016 with a mission to catalyze and accelerate strategic commercial development. TREND's most recent innovation is an inclusive shopping center ownership and community revitalization strategy to identify, acquire and improve service-oriented community shopping centers. Lyneir is also an instructor in the Department of Management and Global Business at Rutgers Business School in Newark, N.J and serves as executive director of the Center for Urban Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (CUEED), a research and practitioner-oriented center at Rutgers Business School. Lyneir has served as Chief Executive Officer of the primary economic development corporation in Newark, NJ, for two different mayoral administrations. Lyneir is a graduate of Bradley University and the University of Chicago Law School.



## Funding Recipients

### Microgrant for Technology or Equipment – Small Businesses

- A & L Rodriguez Corp
- A&H Design Services LLC
- Adri's Beauty Salon INC.
- Alabao Roofing Services Corp.
- Aldano Group LLC
- Andys'son inc
- Anima Mundi Inc.
- ARY Projects
- Azeez Bakare Studios LLC
- Bach Business Solutions II LLC
- Bakerish Corp
- Berenblum Busch Architecture Inc
- Best Pest Pros LLC
- Birdie Frozen Yogurt Shop LLC
- Black Travel Summit
- Blossom Group Florida, LLC
- Bodysong LLC
- Brand Consultant Group LLC
- BSExpress Delivery LLC
- Busines1st Inc
- Chefs on the Run Assorted Cuisine
- Clean Innovation Inc. DBA Cookie Cutters of Miami
- Confecciones Aquino Corp
- Cornerstone Healthcare Navigation & Patient Advocacy, LLC
- Corteza Woodwork Company
- Cosechas Florida OP LLC
- Credit360 Inc
- D & M Latin Corp
- Designers Group Inc.
- Designs By Sommer LLC
- Destiny Bridal Dress Inc.
- Digital E Consulting LLC
- Distincol Inc.
- DJ Styles LLC
- Doral Preschool Corp
- Dos Micos LLC
- Dualis Consulting corp
- DUB Consulting, LLC
- Easy plus corp
- EC Service Provider LLC
- Fanny Food Peruvian, Corp
- Fefi's Beauty Salon
- Fletcher & Company LLC
- Flowers By Nelson
- FONSI LLC
- Fookem's Fabulous, LLC
- Foreclosure Forensics LLC
- Freedom Wingz, LLC
- Fruit of Life LLC
- Fysique Fitness, Inc.
- Goalnews LLC
- Goodprint Corp
- Hair life with quank
- Healthy Lifestyle Club INC
- Holistic Center LLC
- Ideal Music Box
- Italian Vice LLC
- IT-SOL CORP
- Jin Jin Food Corporation
- Juice Defined
- Kay's Island Grill
- Kids Steps Academ Inc
- Kingdom Business Solutions Inc.
- La Chepena Corp
- La Nueva Era Cafe LLC
- Lashell's Purrrty Accessories LLC
- Latinas Power INC
- Law Office of Liza R. Galindo, P.A.
- Leo Travel & Tours INC
- Little Giants Kid's Services, Corp
- Luna Psychology Group, P.A.
- Magnolia Birth House
- MIA Elite Football

## Funding Recipients

- Miami Growth Machine LLC
- Miami Mini Riders Transportation INC.
- Milton's Servises LLC
- Natous Herbs Llc
- Neyci Braids N`Beauty LLC
- Nitro Barber Shop INC
- One on One Behavioral Services LLC
- Open Mind Learning and Fine Arts
- PG Tropicals Inc.
- Pikitin Learning Projects
- Pitch It LLC
- Power Barber Shop Corp
- Prime Proposal Group, INc.
- Project M media Corp
- Publigraphic, LLC
- Qoe The Brand
- QUAXAR.COM, INC
- Queen Extensions LLC
- Radiate Miami LLC
- Roots Printing LLC
- Seedees Inc
- Shining Light Childcare Development Center, Inc
- ShopHowell LLC
- Skyline Insurance & Finances LLC
- STK Hands-Free Corp
- Suite 110 Urbanwear LLC
- Taste The Many Talents Inc
- Tate Media Enterprises LLC
- Ten's Kitchen, LLC
- Threaded By Lavish Inc
- Tidy Pets, LLC
- Top Notch Aftercare and Tutoring Program Inc.
- TWOMATOS, INC.
- WE ARE MAJOR, LLC
- Wunderfood LLC
- Xponential Learning INC
- Yasnay Montalvo-Garcia, LLC
- Yuly'J Nails Corp
- Zaytouna Foods LLC
- Zo Creative, Inc.

## Microgrant for Technology or Equipment – Nonprofits

- 305 Pink Pack
- 79th Street Corridor Neighborhood Initiative LLC
- Affirming Youth Foundation, Inc.
- American Czech and Slovak Cultural Club
- Art Prevails Project
- Avenues Of Excellence, Inc.
- BAC Funding Corporation
- Beyond the Bars
- Black Economic Development Coalition Inc
- Brévo Theatre
- Brighter Days Foundation International
- CEO Financial Literacy Academy
- Chainless Change, Inc.
- Collective Sistahood Inc
- Dade County Street Response
- Divine Centers Of Quality, INC
- Do Good 41 Inc.
- DVCAI
- Edge Zones, Inc.
- Erzule Paul Foundation
- Experience Aviation
- Fab Lab Miami
- Fanm Saj, Inc
- Fulford United Methodist Church
- Gamebred Youth & Families, Inc.
- Glory House of Miami
- Goulds Panthers Track Club
- HACCOF Foundation Inc.
- Healthy Little Havana
- Helping Hands Youth Center & The Beautiful Game Project
- Honey Shine Inc.
- Hued Songs
- Joshua's Heart Foundation
- Kids N Touch Academy
- Leading With Love, Inc.

## Funding Recipients

- Miami Police Athletic League
- Moonlighter FabLab
- MUCE Educates
- No Bully Gang Inc.
- Peter London Global Dance Company, Inc.
- Pierre Toussaint Leadership and Learning Center Inc
- Positive People Network, Inc.
- Prosperity Social & Community Development Group, Inc.
- Roots Collective
- S.E.E.K Foundation, Inc.
- SBC Community Development Corporation of Richmond Heights, Inc.
- South Florida Community Development Coalition
- Sweet Home Academy
- Teen Up-Ward Bound Inc
- The Children's Voice Chorus
- The Home Team - Miami, Inc.
- The Honeycomb House
- The Lucy Project. Inc.
- The McKenzie Project Inc
- The Poetry Potluck
- The Smile Trust
- Thelma Gibson Health Initiative (TGHI)
- Transition, Inc.
- TransSOCIAL, Inc.
- Venprendedoras Foundation
- Village Freedged Inc
- Women Photographers International Archive (WOPHA)

### Asset Building Loan for Entrepreneurs (ABLE) Borrowers

- Agni Enterprises LLC
- Artefactus Cultural Project Inc
- Birdie Frozen Yogurt Shop LLC
- Clean Innovation
- Fanny Food Peruvian Corp
- Fruit Of Life LLC
- Healthy Lifestyle
- Miami Mini Riders Transportation
- Neysouth LLC
- OJR Stone LLC
- Smart Network Solutions
- Tardieu Group Inc
- Ten's Kitchen
- Zergent

### Collective Real Estate Ownership (CREO) Collaboratives

- EPIC Consultants and EPIC Management Consulting (Richmond Heights)
- Florida Immigrant Coalition and Americans for Immigrant Justice (North Miami)
- Global Speech and Rehab Services and Interactive Therapy Solutions (North Miami Beach)
- Invizio LLC, Zia Construction, and Building Center No 3 (Allapattah)
- Neighborhood Housing Services of South Florida and Catalyst Miami (North Miami)
- Teen Up-Ward Bound Inc. and MerrickDamon University (Opa Locka)
- The Allapattah Collaborative CDC (Allapattah)
- TRU Prep Academy and Wing Partners LLC # 581 (Miami Gardens)

## On the Terrace

### Area

### Business Name

Allapattah

**Plaza Santo Domingo  
"Placita Dominicana"**

Liberty City &  
Little Haiti

**Taste The Many Talents Inc.**

Homestead &  
Florida City

**The Sommer Curry Experience**

Richmond Heights &  
Perrine

**Delectable Sweets & Treats**

Overtown

**ebene naturals**

Miami Gardens &  
Opa Locka

**Juice Defined LLC**

North Miami &  
North Miami Beach

**Tinajita, LLC DBA Vegallia**

## Technical Assistance Providers



**Branches**  
Grow Deeper, Climb Higher



**South Dade Connections**  
Connections for a Greater Good



**The Allapattah Collaborative, CDC**



**Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council**



# Special Thanks

## Celebrating Black-Owned Businesses & Professionals

**VIDEOGRAPHY, BRANDING  
AND EVENT PRODUCTION**



**CATERER**



**DECORE**



**PHOTOGRAPHY**



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**DJ Nasty305**

Assistant Program Director and  
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