

Southeast Overtown/Park West Community Redevelopment Agency

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE SOUTHEAST OVERTOWN / PARK WEST COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY RECEIVES TWO PRESTIGIOUS FRA AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING REDEVELOPMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

MIAMI, FL – October 24, 2016 – The Southeast Overtown / Park West Community Redevelopment Agency (SEOPW CRA) received two (2) Florida Redevelopment Association (FRA) Awards for its outstanding achievements in redevelopment – The President’s Award and Outstanding Housing Project Award. The FRA presents awards annually to projects that exhibit the best practices in Florida redevelopment over the past year. This year’s winners were announced during the FRA’s 2016 Annual Conference awards dinner held in Orlando on October 14, 2016.

Each year the FRA awards committee carefully selects the winners from dozens of entries submitted by agencies from across the state of Florida. All of the entries embody the spirit of successful community redevelopment and revitalization. This year, the SEOPW CRA earned the President’s award for the adaptive re-use project, The Overtown Performing Arts Center (OPAC). The OPAC is a great addition to the Overtown community, serving as a performing arts center and banquet space for concerts and other community and cultural events and activities. The 9,500 square foot facility, located at 1074 NW 3rd Avenue, houses a state of the art culinary/catering kitchen and kitchen incubator space for startup food businesses and local entrepreneurs. This was the main driving force for the center’s renovation in addition to supporting local hospitality and culinary Institute job training programs.

Prior to its renovation, the OPAC was formerly known as the Ebenezer Methodist Church. Built in 1947, the church housed one of the oldest congregations in Overtown. In an effort to put the vacant building back into use, the CRA invested \$2.6 million into the renovations; with the objective to preserve the historical significance and architectural design of the building.

In addition to the President’s Award, the SEOPW was also awarded the “Outstanding Housing Project” for its investment in the Island Living Apartments. The 70-unit, mixed -use, affordable housing development is located in the heart of Overtown. Standing eleven stories high, the apartment building features one, two, and three bedroom units, offering high-quality, affordable housing for local residents. The fully occupied, transit-oriented development also includes 5,000 square feet of commercial space, pedestrian friendly streetscapes, a playground area, a modern community room, exercise room, computer lab and a parking garage.

Island Living is just one of four new affordable housing projects in the Overtown area. The CRA has awarded close to \$30 million in grants towards the development of new affordable projects in Overtown and provided over a thousand units of affordable housing. Other new projects in the area include the Plaza at the Lyric located at 919 NW 2nd Avenue; Courtside Apartments located at 1699 NW 4th Avenue; and St. John Plaza Apartments located at 1327 NW 3rd Avenue. St. John Plaza Apartments is scheduled to begin construction in November 2016.

[MORE](#)

To learn more about the Southeast/Overtown Park West Community Redevelopment Agency (“CRA”) and its initiatives, please visit www.miamicra.com/seopwcra or call 305.679.6800.

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THE SOUTHEAST / OVERTOWN PARK WEST COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The Southeast Overtown / Park West Community Redevelopment Agency (“CRA”) is one of three community redevelopment agencies within the municipal boundaries of the City of Miami. The CRA was created in 1982 to promote and encourage the redevelopment of the Overtown and Park West communities (redevelopment area). The main objective of the CRA is to spearhead new development and redevelopment efforts that accomplish beneficial revitalization within its boundaries. The CRA’s main mission is to enhance the quality of life, improve the public health, safety, morals and welfare of the residents and stakeholders in the redevelopment area.

FLORIDA REDEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1974, the FRA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to assisting Florida professionals and volunteers in community revitalization efforts. With its mission of “transforming spaces, revitalizing places,” FRA is committed to providing a forum for its more than 300 members to share knowledge and common experiences regarding revitalization opportunities and issues. FRA advocates for quality urban economic development and urban infill, and serves as a statewide clearinghouse for redevelopment information. For more information about the awards program or the Florida Redevelopment Association, contact Carol Westmoreland at (850) 701-3608 or visit www.redevelopment.net.