

FLORIDA GRAND Opera

Carnival Center for the Performing Arts History

Miami is one of the most culturally diverse and exciting cities in the world. More than half of its residents were born in other nations, and many of them live in dynamic neighborhoods where their native languages, cuisines and customs flourish and enrich those of their adopted city. In the past two decades, the number of Miami-based cultural organizations has exploded from a few hundred to more than 1,400, and the city's reputation as a cultural crossroads has become widely known. Visionary leaders within local arts organizations and the Metropolitan Dade County Commission, realizing that the arts are essential to the quality of life of any great urban center, developed Carnival Center for the Performing Arts transforming Miami into a truly cosmopolitan city.

- During the mid-1980s, leaders of the Concert Association of Florida, Florida Grand Opera, the Florida Philharmonic, Miami City Ballet and New World Symphony, as well as several philanthropists in the community, determined that the Greater Miami area needed a centralized place for these companies to perform.
- In early 1990, these five organizations formed the Performing Arts Center Foundation to raise money for a center where they would be resident companies. (In 2003, the Florida Philharmonic disbanded.)
- In 1991, the Metropolitan Dade County Commission created the Performing Arts Center Trust to manage the operations of the Center.
- By mid-1991, a site for a Miami performing arts center was chosen on 5.9 acres of land generously donated by Sears, Roebuck & Co. and Knight Ridder.
- In July 1993, the Metropolitan Dade County Commission approved the recommendation for building a major performing arts center. The project would become the largest public-private partnership ever undertaken by Miami-Dade County.
- In March 1996, the architectural firm of Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects was chosen to design the Center, along with the late acoustician Russell Johnson of ARTEC, Inc. and theater planning and lighting consultants Jules Fisher and Joshua Dachs of Fisher Dachs & Associates. By 1999, the design phase of the project was completed.
- In October 1997, Miami-Dade Art in Public Places Trust commissioned five artists-- José Bedia, Cundo Bermudez, Gary Moore, Anna Valentina Murch, and Robert Rahway Zakanitch-- to create original works for the Center.
- In April 2000, work began with the demolition of the Sears building. Plans were made for the preservation and eventual renovation of the Art Deco tower.
- In the summer of 2001, construction of the Center commenced and the Center, now named Carnival Center for the Performing Arts, had its grand opening in the fall of 2006.

67th Season 2007/08

Doral Center

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