

Volume 10

# THE PINK PALM

The LGBTQ+ Travel Insider for Greater Miami & Miami Beach



MIAMI  
GREATER MIAMI & MIAMI BEACH





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EXPLORE IT.**



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The Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science is supported by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County. This project is supported by the Building Better Communities Bond Program and the City of Miami. Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and a member of the Association of Science and Technology Centers.





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Mural by Markus Linnenbrink  
Photo: Miami Color Theory  
IG: @miamicolortheory





# Welcome to Our Latest Issue!

Rainbow Spring is back! Now in its third year, this vibrant season between March and June is one of the best times to visit Greater Miami & Miami Beach, with countless events celebrating our vibrant and thriving LGBTQ+ community. While our energetic nightlife is world-famous, there's so much more to experience – check out our “Out of the Bar” article for fun activities beyond the clubs and bars.

Discover how Miami inspires four incredible individuals in “Queer Innovation,” explore the buzz from influencers we've recently welcomed, and take a deep dive into our destination's rich LGBTQ+ history, culture and contributions. We'll also get to know some of Miami's LGBTQ+ farmers, spotlight Miami Beach's iconic lifeguard towers and highlight must-try LGBTQ+-owned eateries that serve up incredible flavors. Plus, don't miss our annual events roundup, featuring exciting celebrations and must-attend experiences.

Enjoy this issue and celebrate Miami's unstoppable LGBTQ+ spirit with us.

Stop by the LGBT Visitor Center for local and visitor information.

## LGBT Visitor Center

1130 Washington Ave., 1st Floor North, Miami Beach, FL 33139  
305/397-8914 • GoGayMiami.com

PLEASE CALL FOR HOURS.



305/673-4440  
GayBizMiami.com

The Greater Miami LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce (MDGLCC) is the largest not-for-profit corporation in the county for gay and lesbian businesses. MDGLCC offers the Pink Flamingo Hospitality Certification by training and certifying hospitality service professionals on issues related to gender and orientation and giving them tools to respond appropriately to all people. This is essential for creating environments where all visitors and employees are welcome.

For a list of Pink Flamingo Certified hotels and businesses in Greater Miami & Miami Beach, please visit [GayBizMiami.com](http://GayBizMiami.com).

## THE PINK PALM

The LGBTQ+ Travel Insider for  
Greater Miami & Miami Beach

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### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Shayne Benowitz, Gino R. Campodónico,  
Angela Caraway, A.M. De la Torre

### CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Adi Adinayev, Tim Chapman,  
Laura Paresky Gould, Dale Stine,  
Karli Evans/All Seeing Media

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T: 305/539-3000; 800/933-8448

Advertising inquiries should be directed to  
[Ali@GMCVB.com](mailto:Ali@GMCVB.com) or 305/539-3076.

Editorial inquiries should be directed to  
[Dan@GMCVB.com](mailto:Dan@GMCVB.com) or 305/503-3245.

For information about Greater Miami  
& Miami Beach, please visit  
[MiamiandMiamiBeach.com](http://MiamiandMiamiBeach.com)

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## WELCOME TO RAINBOW SPRING

Just wait till you experience Rainbow Spring! From March through June, this annual event invites LGBTQ+ locals and visitors as well as their friends and allies to enjoy exciting parties and activities. Plan your trip now to join the celebration and snag amazing deals on accommodations while you're here.

### EVENTS TO ENJOY

The excitement kicks off in late February/early March with the Winter Party Festival, a weeklong LGBTQ+ celebration filled with music, dance and community connections. Don't miss its main event: a seven-hour beach bash and epic dance party featuring top DJs from around the globe. In late March and early April, come together at Miami Beach Pride, one of the nation's largest Pride festivals, culminating in a dazzling 50-float Pride parade after 10 days of festivities. Later in April, embrace your creative side at the OUTshine Film Festival, showcasing films by established and emerging LGBTQ+ filmmakers alongside panel discussions, happy hours, after-parties and networking opportunities.

In mid-May, experience SweetHeat Miami, featuring exciting events created by women for women throughout Greater Miami & Miami Beach. On May 31 and June 1, the Miami Beach Pride Concert lights up Ocean Drive in brilliant rainbows to kick off Pride Month in unforgettable style. June continues the celebration with the Wynwood Pride music festival, No Fear, We're Queer Comedy Festival, the Adrienne Arsht Center's CommuniTea Dance and dozens more vibrant events honoring Pride Month's spirit of acceptance and joy.

### CAN'T-MISS OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES

Urban vibrancy and dazzling cityscapes are key draws in Greater Miami & Miami Beach. Yet, if you slow down and explore, you'll uncover a peaceful side to this dynamic destination. Here, you can savor endless outdoor adventures, abundant sunshine, fresh air and tranquil escapes. Nature-based attractions and activities are just as integral to Rainbow Spring as its modern, urban offerings. No visit is complete without embracing the great outdoors.

### UNBEATABLE OFFERS

The best part about visiting Greater Miami & Miami Beach during Rainbow Spring is experiencing all the fun while sticking to your budget. You'll discover a wide range of hotels to suit every style and budget, offering special discounts, buy-two-get-one-free deals on overnight stays, and various seasonal packages. Enjoy incredible on-property perks, like happy hour specials, spa deals and complimentary parking as well as exceptional dining offers. Saving on accommodations means more to indulge in during a day of shopping or enjoying mojitos and dinner.

For the latest information, visit [RainbowSpring.com](https://RainbowSpring.com). 🌸



# Out of the Bar

Greater Miami & Miami Beach is known for its vibrant LGBTQ+ nightlife, but there's so much more – beaches, multicultural cuisine, unique neighborhoods and activities – that celebrate the spirit of Miami beyond the party scene.

by **A.M. De la Torre**

Sure, Greater Miami & Miami Beach's LGBTQ+ bar and nightclub scene is famous around the world, but going out at night isn't the only thing that should be on your itinerary when you visit the destination. There are beaches, free and fun things to do, multicultural cuisine and a variety of neighborhoods representing Miami's history and the waves of people who've put down roots and made this wonderful place home. To further fire up your curiosity, check out these cool, beyond-the-party-scene activities ... sometimes out of the box, often out of the closet, and in all ways reflecting aspects of the Miami spirit that make it such a draw for the LGBTQ+ community.

### EXPLORE MIAMI'S WET & WILD SIDE

#### Take a Queer Swamp Walk in the Everglades

Two of Miami's greatest natural assets are its clear, warm ocean water and rugged and exotic Everglades National Park, a UNESCO world heritage site about an hour from Downtown Miami. You can explore the Everglades with the Love the Everglades Movement (LTEM), an organization devoted to educating people about "the river of grass" and its fauna from the unique perspective of Native Americans who have lived there all their lives. Houston Cypress, an openly queer "two-spirit" Miccosukee artist and conservationist, is one of the founders. LTEM offers a variety of activities, including queer swamp walks, meteor-watching camping nights, Native American culture, art and spirituality workshops, and preservation and clean-up meetups, all especially welcoming to the LGBTQ+ community and Black and Indigenous people of color.



(1) Swamp walk in the Everglades

(2) Patrick & Dave off the shore of South Beach

#### Dive the Sea With Miami's LGBTQ+ Community

A deeper, so to speak, eco-tourism experience can be found just about a hundred yards' swimming distance off the shore of South Beach: a vibrant reef alive with schools of bright, tropical fish, colorful coral, turtles, sharks and other marine life. Patrick & Dave, members of the nonprofit Urban Paradise Guild (UPG), are your go-to guides to immerse yourself in the Miami Beach Marine Park, an under-the-radar natural attraction they are working to











protect and a side of Miami most people – not even locals – know exists. As volunteers, they lead weekend scuba and snorkel dives from March to October, sharing their passion for this special area and UPG’s mission to preserve it as a marine protected area. These resourceful members of Miami’s LGBTQ+ community will help you navigate everything from when to go to what to wear.

## ART THAT’S DECO, ART THAT’S TRANS + ART THAT’S TRANSFORMED A NEIGHBORHOOD

### Take a Walking Tour of Art Deco Miami Beach

Miami Beach is famous for its pastel-colored Art Deco architecture. Gain a unique overview of these 1930s-era geometrically striking structures, the gay and lesbian history of Miami Beach and the LGBTQ+ community’s contributions to life in Miami by contacting Tours ‘R’ Us at [geonear@gmail.com](mailto:geonear@gmail.com) and requesting their Gay and Lesbian Walking Tour. The tour is only available upon request.

### Explore the Art of Trans Artist Leslie Martinez

As part of its permanent exhibit, Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) in Downtown Miami features the paintings of trans artist Leslie Martinez. Born in the Rio Grande Valley of the South Texas-Mexico border and with art degrees from The Cooper Union and Yale University, Martinez creates large-scale pieces from non-traditional materials, typically involving tactile layers of upcycled fabrics, scraps of dried paint and even ashes. Colorful and exuberant, Martinez’s work radiates joy while delving into



(3) Art Deco Welcome Center/  
Miami Design Preservation League

(4) Miami Gay Run Club

(5) HotMess kickball

serious and timely issues, such as climate, the physical environment, border crossings, migration and gender identity.

## DISCOVER THE SPORTY SIDE OF LGBTQ+ MIAMI

### Go Skateboarding With the Skate Nymphs

Whether you’re an am (amateur) or experienced skater or skateboarder, you’ll be stoked to learn that Skate Nymphs provides the opportunity to roll or ride with a crew that embraces women and LGBTQIA+ skaters. Skate Nymphs offers meetups and safe spaces for people to connect and do something they love. The group meets at various skateparks around Miami, welcoming skaters of all ages.

### Get Your Kicks and More With HotMess Sports

Does playing sports with a bunch of queer folks sound like your idea of a good time? Then join a HotMess Sports league event. Priding themselves on offering a safe, welcoming and fun experience, HotMess Sports brings together the LGBTQIA+ community and athletes from other marginalized groups for healthy competition that forges lasting kinship and connections. Play kickball, dodgeball and indoor or grass volleyball at parks throughout Miami, and make sure you stay for the after-game food, drinks and good times.

### Go for a Run With the Miami Gay Run Club

If you love running, lace up your shoes and join the Miami Gay Run Club for a casual group run every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the southwest corner of Lincoln Road and Bay Road in Miami Beach. This social running group welcomes runners of all abilities for a fun workout. Whether you’re a seasoned marathoner looking to achieve new goals or just starting out and looking for motivation, you will find a strong sense of community and camaraderie in a supportive environment where you can meet fellow runners, share your passion for running and achieve your fitness goals.

### Give Back to the Community With Men in Pink

Devote a few hours to doing something good for Miami’s women and children in need. Men in Pink, a nonprofit organization open to everyone and whose members are primarily gay men, celebrates the joy of giving back by connecting people with volunteer groups. It organizes monthly events where you can volunteer and enjoy the collective power of social philanthropy with a friendly, like-minded group. 🌸





DEERING ESTATE

Deering Estate is a premier landmark that showcases the best of South Florida's historic architecture and environment!

Deering Estate is a 21st Century house museum, cultural and ecological field station, and a national landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places, owned by the State of Florida and managed by Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department. Deering Estate is designated as one of seven Miami-Dade County "Heritage Parks," which have a vital role in our community's history, environment and in providing recreational and cultural experiences.

Visit [DeeringEstate.org](http://DeeringEstate.org) for more information on specialty tours & programs, weddings & celebrations, corporate events, special events, concerts, exhibitions, and more. Become a Member of the Deering Estate Foundation today!

**DEERING ESTATE** | 16701 SW 72 Avenue Miami, FL 33157  
305-235-1668 • [www.deeringestate.org](http://www.deeringestate.org)

To request materials in accessible format, sign language interpreters, CART and/or any accommodation to participate in any Miami-Dade County, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces-sponsored program or meeting, please contact Gisel Prado, 305-755-7848 or [Gisel.Prado@miamidade.gov](mailto:Gisel.Prado@miamidade.gov) at least 7 days in advance to initiate your request. TTY users may also call 711 (Florida Relay Service).







# **QUEER INNOVATION...**

**MIAMI'S STYLE INFLUENCE:  
FOUR INNOVATORS REDEFINE FASHION**

Creative Director: George Coronado / @georgecoronadomarketing

Photographer: Dale Stine / @dalestinephotography

Videography: Erick Astorga / @erick.astorga

Hair & Makeup: Jose Alexzander / @josealexzander

Logistics: Miller Morgado / @millermorgado10



René Rodríguez





Fay Albornas





Jonathan Stanton





**RENÉ RODRIGUEZ** pg. 9

**Choreographer/Dancer**

René is inspired by Miami's cultural fusion, which drives his dynamic choreography and innovative blend of tradition with contemporary movements.

@renerodofficial

**FAY ALBERNAS** pg. 10

**Local TV & Events Host and Personality**

Fay is inspired by Miami's unique history as the only city founded by two women, fueling her creativity and innovative approach to every project.

@faywhatt

**JONATHAN STANTON** pg. 11

**Model/Actor/Entrepreneur**

The energy and influence of Miami's Brickell Avenue, a global commerce hub, inspires Jonathan and fires up his creativity.

@jonathan\_stantonla

**CHRIS URQUIAGA** pg. 13

**Singer/Performer**

Chris draws inspiration from Miami's Biscayne Bay, where the yachts, bustling port and vibrant marine life ignite his innovative approach to music and performance.

@jchris\_music

**FASHION + ACCESSORIES** curated by George Coronado, in collaboration with:

**LOVE FOR UPCYCLING** — A community supporting upcycling artists and committed to reducing fast fashion's impact. Their designs focus on reusing and repurposing materials in an elevated, fashion-forward aesthetic.

@loveforupcycling

**ROYAL RESALE BOUTIQUE** — Step into a world of curated indulgence that showcases luxurious pieces and invites you to contribute. This boutique is a haven for discerning individuals seeking timeless elegance.

@royalresaleboutique

**LILIANA SALAZAR** — Fashion is an expression of the soul, and Liliana Salazar's heartwork connects essence through adornment with real fruits and elements of nature. From accessories to garments, be as unique as each slice of fruit.

@bylilianasalazar



A native of Lima, Peru, George Coronado is a fashion designer and brand manager who has called Miami Beach home for more than two decades. Coronado is the creative vision behind the Coronado Designs and Bnaked.us fashion lines and has spearheaded numerous fashion and styling projects globally throughout his career.

george@georgecoronado.com

**Special thanks:** Herb Sosa / @herbsosa





Chris Urquiaga





# THE BUZZ

**ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

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MIAMI THROUGH THE  
EYES OF INFLUENCERS



*"Miami is wonderfully gay-friendly.  
We immediately felt welcomed  
into the community."*

— @michaelandmatt



Check out the full interviews at [VisitMiamiLGBTQ.com](https://www.VisitMiamiLGBTQ.com)



*"It's a vibe absolutely distinct from any other city in the U.S."*

— @twobadtourists



*"We just love Miami! The energy in Miami is so contagious, and we love the weather."*

— @27travels



# Then and Now: Miami Has Always Been Gay-Friendly

Miami: A Sunlit Haven of Beaches,  
Nightlife and Boundless Freedom,  
Pioneering LGBTQ+ Tourism Since  
the Early 20th Century

by A.M. De la Torre

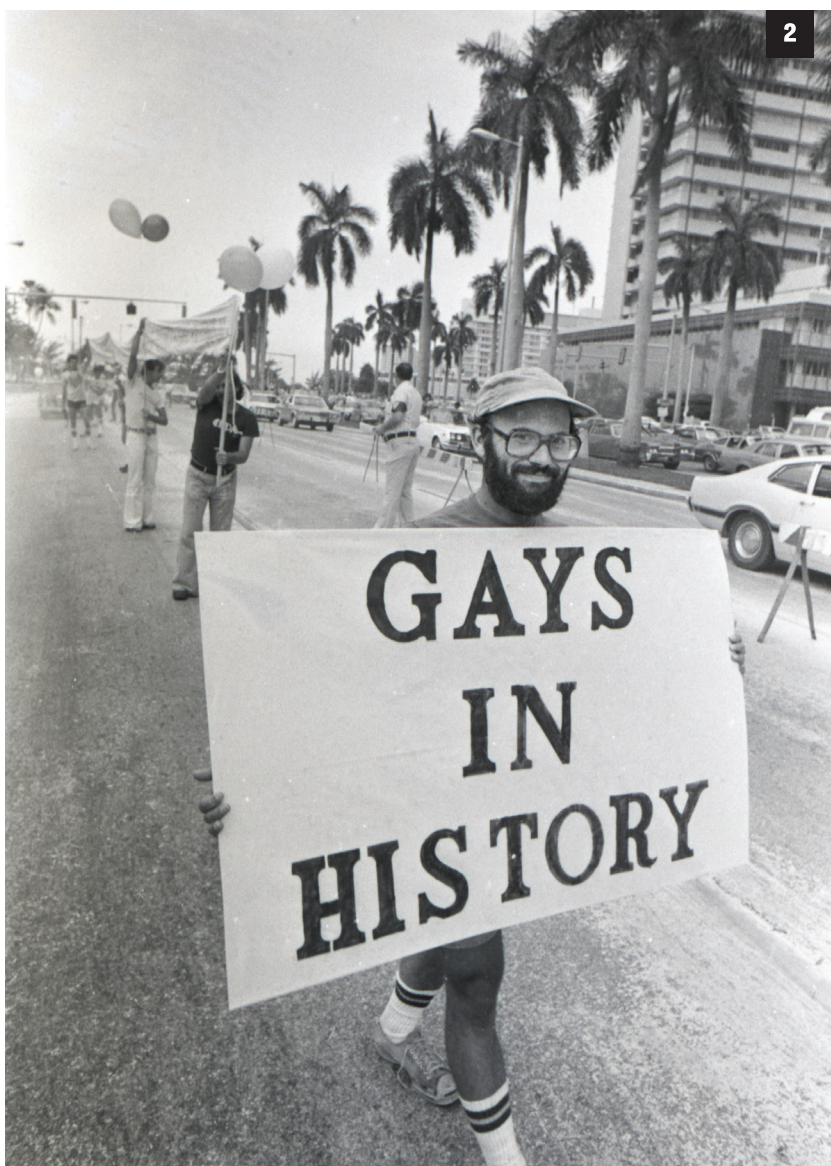
Greater Miami & Miami Beach is one of those magical places that the whole world wants to visit, especially the LGBTQ+ community. But Miami didn't become the captivating queer destination it is overnight. With its clean, clear Atlantic Ocean beaches, year-round sunny weather and celebrated nightlife, Miami established itself as a playground for the LGBTQ+ community in the early 20th century. Throughout its distinct history, Miami has subtly promoted itself as a "fairyland" where the confines of the real world, including boundaries around gender and sexual expression, could be loosened, creating the foundation for LGBTQ+ tourism.

## THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY'S ROOTS IN MIAMI

By the 1930s, Miami had a thriving and visible queer culture where people who today would likely identify as LGBTQ+ often found work, made intimate connections and built community. Like in many other places, there was backlash and discrimination against LGBTQ+ people, but that resulted in more determination within the community to resist, persist and coalesce for rights, equality and respect. And because "gay" isn't just in the community's name but intrinsic to its character, you can bet good times were mixed in as well.

## MIAMI'S THRIVING 70s & 80s LGBTQ+ CULTURE

During the 1970s, when protests against the status quo happened across the United States, Miami's LGBTQ+ community made great strides by not only bravely and proudly coming out of the closet but also confidently establishing a gay-friendly place to live and visit. New York City's Stonewall Uprising





took place in 1969, and its first gay Pride parade was held in 1970. Organizations supporting the LGBTQ+ community started to spring up, as did LGBTQ+ culture and meeting places. Christ Metropolitan Community church, a Protestant denomination that affirmed LGBTQ+ rights, was founded in 1970 as a congregation for gay and lesbian Christians.

Both the Republican and Democratic national conventions were held in Miami Beach in 1972, and Miami's queer community put gay rights in the spotlight. At the Democratic National Convention, it was even proposed to be part of the party's platform. Gay rights activists protested outside the Republican National Convention. Just a few months earlier, Miami Beach welcomed gay pride week on Lincoln Road. Club Baths opened in 1974, offering men a gay bathhouse with spa amenities such as saunas, a pool and steam baths. In 1977, Miami joined almost 40 other progressive cities in the U.S. that passed nondiscrimination ordinances protecting gays and lesbians, and another gay pride parade was held in 1978.

Throughout the late 70s and 80s, gay bars and dance clubs flourished, with more than 20 clubs operating in locations across Miami-Dade County, including Coral Gables, Coconut Grove, Downtown Miami and Miami Beach. There were gay beaches at 21st Street in Miami Beach and Virginia Key near Key Biscayne. During the 1980s and 90s, Miami Beach became an epicenter of glamour and celebrity, as then-closeted gay fashion icon Gianni Versace and many more LGBTQ+ people relocated here to live their best lives. In fact, the LGBTQ+ community is largely credited with reinvigorating what was then a rundown area and injecting it with energy, beauty, creativity, a lively Bohemian-yet-cosmopolitan spirit, and plenty of investment dollars.

### LGBTQ+ IMPACT ON MIAMI'S CULTURE

Leonard Horowitz, an openly gay man, helped found the Miami Design Preservation League, which still promotes the preservation of the iconic Miami Beach Art Deco architecture known all over the world. Other organizations also formed to provide support and fight for LGBTQ+ rights, among them Pridelines (formerly Pridelines Youth Services) under the leadership of Dr. Marilyn Volker, Peter Meyer and other concerned adults. In 1985, the legendary White Party kicked off at the uber-chic Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, earning the title of the season's premier event across gay America and



(1-3) Miami's first Pride parade in 1978, photos by Tim Chapman | HistoryMiami Museum  
(4) Leonard Horowitz Place, honoring his contributions (5) Palace South Beach

becoming a major fundraiser for HIV/AIDS-related charities. SAVE Dade (now SAVE LGBTQ) opened its doors to champion for gay rights in 1993, as did Equality Florida.

In 1997, recognizing the power of the "pink dollar," George Neary, the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau's head of Cultural Tourism/LGBTQ+ Marketing, led the destination's first LGBTQ+ press trip. The Miami-Dade Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, the largest nonprofit in the county for gay and lesbian businesses, formed in 1999 under the stewardship of its then-and-now president, Steve Adkins. This bolstered the community further, and LGBTQ+ hot spots abounded, including Salvation, Warsaw, Torpedo, 821, Laundry Bar, Kremlin, SCORE, Twist and Palace South Beach.

### MIAMI WELCOMES LGBTQ+ TOURISTS

The LGBTQ+ community's contributions to Miami Beach were not lost on local politicians, and progressive laws were passed to ensure that these valued citizens could continue to thrive. The laws solidified Miami Beach as a gay tourist mecca long before other destinations even recognized the gay travel market. In April 2009, after many decades without an organized Pride event, the city held its first Miami Beach Pride celebration, backed by outspokenly supportive City of Miami Beach







Mayor Matti Herrera Bower. More than 15 years later, this multiday event attracts 100,000+ attendees annually.

In 2010, the Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, with support from the City of Miami Beach, opened an LGBT Visitor Center at the beautiful, historic Old City Hall, providing a friendly welcome, a safe and affirming space for residents and visitors, and a wealth of valuable resources and materials to make the most of the destination. Gay marriage became legal throughout the U.S. in 2015, and since then, thousands of LGBTQ+ couples have tied the knot at some of the area's most beautiful churches, beaches, hotels and event venues.

### MIAMI'S LGBTQ+ PRIDE AND ANNUAL EVENTS

Miami rolls out the rainbow-colored carpet 365 days a year and cultivates an environment where everyone can have a good time. Every day, there's something to do and someplace to go that highlights the area's warm and welcoming spirit, whether it's at the LGBTQ+-friendly 12th Street Beach or clothing-optional Haulover Park Beach, LGBTQ+-owned restaurants and hotels, queer art and drag shows, and, of course, its famously festive bars. The temperature rises even more during annual LGBTQ+ events such as the multiday Winter Party Festival, Miami Beach Pride, GayOcho (a Hispanic LGBTQ+ festival in Little Havana), the Celebrate Orgullo Latin pride festival, OUTshine Film Festival and Wynwood Pride.

Miami's LGBTQ+ history is filled with countless powerful stories of resilience, courage and triumph that have shaped the destination into the vibrant and beautiful place it is today. The foundation laid by these stories has not only helped Miami embrace its LGBTQ+ influences but has made it more welcoming, unique and strong. Over the years, Miami has only grown in its commitment to creating a welcoming environment where people from all walks of life can come together to celebrate, live freely and joyfully, and progress gaily every day. The LGBTQ+ community is celebrated throughout the year, with pride and acceptance at the heart of the destination's culture. 🌸



(6) Miami Beach Pride Parade (7) Adi Adinayev for Winter Party Festival (8) Martha Wash performs at Arshat Center CommuniTea Dance





# Step Into a Masterpiece of Miami's Queer Past at Vizcaya

Discover Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, a majestic example of Gilded Age splendor designed by Paul Chalfin, a trailblazing artistic director and openly gay man who brought eclectic European inspiration to the tropics of Miami in the 1910s. Explore lush gardens, grand interiors, and Miami history.



**PAUL CHALFIN**  
Vizcaya's Artistic Director



**BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY AT [VIZCAYA.ORG](https://vizcaya.org)  
AND EXPERIENCE THE INTERSECTION OF  
BEAUTY AND HISTORY.**



## Discover LGBTQ+ Stories



Join us in celebrating the stories of our community with Beyond Vizcaya—a storytelling initiative capturing and sharing LGBTQ+ voices in Miami. Explore these powerful stories or submit your own at [BeyondVizcaya.org](https://BeyondVizcaya.org).

**HISTORY BLOOMS AT VIZCAYA—FIND YOUR STORY HERE.**



# LGBTQ+ FARMERS

## NURTURING MIAMI'S FOOD & COMMUNITY

Discover the inspiring stories of these remarkable LGBTQ+ growers and their profound contributions to our sustainable environment and Miami's flourishing communities.

by Gino R. Campodónico

Greater Miami & Miami Beach has a vibrant, eclectic community of LGBTQ+ growers who have emerged as unsung heroes in sustainable agriculture. These dedicated organizations have not only championed thriving year-round farmers markets that showcase the region's rich agricultural tapestry but have also played an integral role in nurturing the local culinary scene. Through their tireless efforts, these growers have cultivated fresh, local foods while adding another avenue of broad-mindedness to Miami's agricultural landscape. Let's meet some of the destination's remarkable LGBTQ+ growers and learn about

their contributions to local sustainability efforts and how they help Miami's communities continue to flourish.

### URBAN OASIS PROJECT: CULTIVATING A UNIVERSAL LOVE OF FOOD

Urban Oasis Project, a dynamic force within Miami's LGBTQ+ community of food growers, is committed to the idea that good, clean, healthy food should be accessible to everyone. Originally just a volunteer organization, this not-for-profit entity used to run its own farms but now focuses on creating farmers markets throughout Miami, planting gardens for and

with low-income families, building a more equitable and sustainable local food system, and actively supporting local farmers by bringing their produce to markets.

Art Friedrich, executive director of the Urban Oasis Project, believes food is more than fuel. It can bridge divides, build community and pay homage to an area's rich cultural diversity. Driven by the idea that "the love of food is universal across all cultures," he furthers the organization's efforts to use food as a way to unite people from all walks of life, regardless of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability or economic status.

"In a place as diverse as Miami, we have a great opportunity to create a food movement that celebrates our differences," Friedrich said. "Access to good food should be a right for everyone, so we've always tried to balance providing high-quality foods and services with keeping things affordable to the many real Miamians we serve."

You can support Urban Oasis Project's initiatives by stopping by these markets to see them in action:

#### Legion Park Farmers Market

6601 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33138  
Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#### Vizcaya Village Farmers Market

3250 S. Miami Ave., Miami, FL 33129  
Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.





## **GROW ROOTS MIAMI: HELPING PEOPLE GROW THEIR OWN FOOD**

Grow Roots Miami, a pioneering LGBTQ+ food-growing initiative by Finca Morada (an urban permaculture farm and community space), was launched to empower underserved communities and advocate for sustainability and social justice. Founded by queer farm manager Cris Bouza, Grow Roots Miami nurtures the community by planting free edible gardens and food forests for low-income families, hosting educational events and workshops, and practicing composting, resource sharing, soil regeneration, gardening and rainwater harvesting.

Marginalized groups, such as Black, Indigenous, people of color, queer, trans and disabled individuals, often need extra help. The Grow Roots Miami team helps families and individuals in need by installing a four-by-eight-foot raised annual garden or food forest garden completely for free, depending on what foods they want to plant. Grow Roots Miami brings all the materials, labor, seasonal seeds, soil, fertilizer and mulch and also provides maintenance training and check-in calls. All of this is part of their mission to strengthen the ties that bind us to nature and our communities and nurture feelings of well-being, joy, knowledge and belonging. To help make that a reality, Grow Roots Miami has partnered with like-minded activists and grower groups in the Miami area, including (F)empower, Urban Oasis Project, Plant Philosophy, Little River Cooperative, Buenezas and Urban GreenWorks.

## **FINCA MORADA: IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY FROM THE GROUND UP**

Spanish for “purple farm,” Finca Morada is a queer and trans BIPOC co-op, arts collective and urban farm in North Miami. It was formed in 2019 with a mission to pursue LGBTQ+, environmental, racial, gender, social and food justice. It has a half-acre urban agroecological food forest garden sanctuary where it grows over 150 types of edible, medicinal, supportive and native species for the community and serves as an educational resource about plants and sustainability.

Since 2019, Finca Morada has hosted over a hundred free or sliding-scale, donation-based







**LGBTQ+ growers have emerged as unsung heroes in sustainable agriculture.**

programs and events centered on education, healing and living in reciprocity with the earth. These events include everything from artist-in-residency programs, internships and food-growing workshops to sound healing, yoga, meditation and astrology-inspired events. Led by founder Cris Bouza, the co-op also has a list of ongoing initiatives that improve the community, such as providing affordable housing and participating in neighborhood composting and food sharing.

#### **MIAMI SEED SHARE: CARE, CONNECTION, SUSTAINABILITY ... AND SEEDS**

The brainchild of queer naturalist and educator Corinne Mariposa, Miami Seed Share is a community-based organization that started from a simple idea: Everyone should grow more plants. Dedicated to “people, plants and pollinators,” Miami Seed Share runs

Miami’s free public seed collection, hosts free workshops about propagating plants and growing native gardens, and works with local schools, libraries, public parks and nonprofits to promote efforts to protect the area’s plant community. Since its inception in 2019, Miami Seed Share has distributed more than 50,000 free packs of seeds throughout Miami.

Driven by a passion for gardening and supporting the destination’s landscapes, Miami Seed Share advocates do more than give out seeds; they foster a community of like-minded individuals rooted in care, connection and sustainability. These efforts have made an indelible impact on Miami – so much so that, in 2021, Mariposa earned the Unity Coalition | Coalición Unida MicroGiving Award for her work to make Miami equitable and conscious. 🌸





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# TRANSFORMING THE BEACHSCAPES OF MIAMI

Thanks to architect William Lane, Miami Beach's lifeguard towers are beach staples that hold a special place in the hearts of all who come to visit them.

**by Angela Caraway**



They're the colorful icons of Miami Beach that are always photo-ready. Not only do the Miami Beach lifeguard towers help lifeguards protect swimmers, but they are also artful symbols of the area's past and present. Designed by queer architect William Lane, the lifeguard stands flaunt a rainbow of colors, radiate Art Deco style and reflect the Miami lifestyle. Taking a picture in front of one of them is a must-do on any visit to Greater Miami & Miami Beach.





Morris Lapidus' use of contemporary forms mixed with bold geometries and even baroque elements inspired me to push boundaries that other designers may not have.

— William Lane

## WHO IS WILLIAM LANE?

William Lane is an award-winning architect who's credited with splashing his distinctive, surreal mark throughout the destination's public and private spaces. After working in the studio of artist Dennis Oppenheim in New York, the Office for Metropolitan Architecture in London, and I.M. Pei and Partners in New York, Lane established his own practice in 1990 and moved to Miami in 1992.

In Miami, he is most known for the whimsical lifeguard towers that dot Miami Beach, each with its own personality and flair. But he was also behind the award-winning oval antennae pavilion at South Pointe Park at the southern tip of South Beach and the restroom/shade/concession building in Samson Oceanfront Park in Sunny Isles Beach. He also played a part in designing Freehand Miami, a fashionable hostel in Mid Beach.

## THE HISTORY OF THE TOWERS

After Hurricane Andrew hit South Florida in 1992, the City of Miami Beach hired Lane and his design team to fashion new lifeguard towers to replace five damaged in the storm. When crafting the towers in 1995, Lane drew inspiration from the city itself. Miami Beach is famous for its Art Deco-style buildings, and Lane took a cue from the buildings that define the city, along with its rich melting pot of cultures.

"The lifeguard towers were influenced not only by Miami's mid-century and Art Deco architecture but also by its Caribbean culture and the use of vibrant colors derived from the natural beauty of the tropics," Lane said.

He was influenced by his friendships with other renowned creatives.

"When I first moved to Miami, I had the pleasure of becoming friends with Morris Lapidus, the architect of the Fontainebleau hotel, Eden Roc hotel and the Lincoln Road follies," Lane said. "His use of contemporary forms mixed with bold geometries and even baroque elements inspired me to push boundaries that other designers may not have."

Soon, just like the Art Deco buildings, the unique, vibrant lifeguard stands became a trademark of Miami Beach. In 2017, he was approached again by the city to create six new prototypes to replace 36 lifeguard towers from the tip of South Pointe Park to 86th Street. His designs once again beautifully reflected the Art Deco style and Miami's vibrant LGBTQ+ population.

## DISCOVERING THE DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE OF LANE'S TOWERS

When you first spot one of the lifeguard towers, there's no denying that they still embody Miami and its time-honored Art Deco

and Miami Modern (MiMo) heritage. These are not your typical lifeguard stands that favor function over form and design. They are color-drenched pieces of architectural art. As soon as you step onto the bright-white sands of Miami Beach, the towers' vibrant mix of colors and eclectic shapes grabs your attention. You'll spot rooflines that mimic waves and sunbursts, with curls and sharp angles and even swooping forms that allude to Miami Beach's mid-century style. Lane compares the towers to the Moai figures on Easter Island in that "they are an expression for identity and culture on Miami Beach."

The lifeguard towers' color mixtures also stand out. Some are splashed in pink with green and orange accents; others are dashed in purple and trimmed with lavender and peach; some are teal with royal blue and lime combinations. Lane's parade of colors is not only a nod to the destination's bright tropical fauna but an homage to the Pride flag and Miami's LGBTQ+ community.

The next time you're sunbathing or just enjoying Miami Beach, stop to snap a few photos that capture the bold colors and unique architecture of the lifeguard stands. And take a moment to discover more about William Lane, his visionary work and his design firm's iconic projects around Miami's vibrant landscape. 🌸



# Dining with Pride

Explore LGBTQ+-owned restaurants in Greater Miami & Miami Beach.

by **Shayne Benowitz**

The vibrant restaurant scene in Greater Miami & Miami Beach is famous for its fusion of cultures, bold flavors and innovative dining experiences. This thriving culinary landscape is also home to a wide array of LGBTQ+-owned restaurants. From lively drag brunches to eclectic international cuisine and casual, inexpensive spots, these Miami restaurants are more than just places to eat; they're symbols of pride and progress for the LGBTQ+ community. Check out some of the best LGBTQ+-owned restaurants in neighborhoods across Miami.



Photo by Jose Iglesias







*These restaurants are more than just places to eat; they're symbols of pride and progress for the LGBTQ+ community.*



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# LGBTQ+ Annual Events

For dates and information about all events in Greater Miami & Miami Beach, go to [VisitMiamiLGBTQ.com](http://VisitMiamiLGBTQ.com)

## Gay8 Festival

Feb

## Winter Party Festival

Feb/Mar

## Miami Beach Pride

Mar/Apr

## CONEXION Queer

## Tango Festival

Apr

## OUTshine Film Festival

Apr + Oct

## Out (Loud) in the Tropics

Apr/May

## SweetHeat Miami

May

## Wynwood Pride

Jun

## No Fear, We're Queer

## Comedy Festival

Jun

## Arsht Center's CommuniTea Dance

Jun

## Celebrate ORGULLO

Oct

## URGE Miami Festival

Nov/Dec

## Art Gaysel

Dec



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