

Elite in business community join in to congratulate winners

BY MARILYN BOWDEN

Sponsors representing an elite corps of Miami's business community joined Miami Today in congratulating the 2016 Gold Medal Award winners during a gala event held last week at the JW Marriott Marquis Hotel Miami.

For the third consecutive year, **BNY Mellon Wealth Management Miami** was the event's dinner sponsor.

"It's been our pleasure to promote Miami Today as a very important voice in our community," said BNY Mellon's Florida president, Joe Fernandez. "Not only does it provide civic leadership and engagement, but also its circulation reaches the thought leaders of our community."

BNY Mellon is a merger of two of the country's oldest financial institutions—the Bank of New York, created by Founding Father Alexander Hamilton in 1784, and Mellon Financial, founded by Thomas Mellon and his sons in 1869 – and has been committed to community service from the outset, Mr. Fernandez said.

In the 1930s, Andrew W. Mellon donated a large part of his art collection and construction funds to create the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. "Art," Mr. Fernandez said, "has always been a part of our long and storied history."



Photos by Sergio Alsina

Ellen and Louis Wolfson III, partner in the Pinnacle Housing Group.

Recently, BNY Mellon donated important works from its corporate collection to the Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum at FIU and to the Perez Art Museum Miami.

That sense of commitment to the community, he said, takes many other forms as well.

"Almost everyone on our staff is involved in their community in specific ways," Mr. Fernandez said, "so we are very much about our community. It's very important to what we are trying to accomplish."

Mr. Fernandez presented the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award to former Miami Mayor Maurice Ferré. Each year since 2008, Miami Today and the Gold

"The community has always been very important to our company, and the annual Gold Medal Awards recognize its key leaders and contributors. Bacardi USA toasts the 2016 Gold Medal recipients."

The law firm **Hunton & Williams** has had an office in Miami since 1999.

"Hunton & Williams is a proud ongoing supporter of Miami Today and the Gold Medal Awards," said Managing Partner Juan C. Enjamil. "We salute the individual honorees and organizations recognized this year for their service and accomplishments. Our community counts on the efforts of those who continually help build, promote and protect business in Miami and provide for the public good. With over 115 years of client service, our firm also stands committed to the values of exceptional business and community service."

Hunton & Williams Partner Thomas Julin presented the 2016 Gold Medal for an Individual, won this year by Miami Dade College President Eduardo Padrón, to Mark Cole, executive director of Miami Dade College Foundation.

Established in 1997, sponsor **Pinnacle Housing Group** is a full-service real estate development company providing affordable housing for working families and seniors across the Southeast.

Medal Awards dinner sponsor on an individual whose sustained service to the community has had a positive impact on the South Florida region.

Beverages were provided by **Bacardi USA**, longtime supporters of Miami Today events.

"Miami Today is Miami-Dade's source for credible business knowledge," said Eddie Cutillas, Bacardi's corporate sponsorship and events director. "It's in tune with relevant topics important to our business community. Bacardi USA is proud to have partnered with such a respected institution for many years."

Partner Louis Wolfson III presented the Gold Medal for an Organization to Boys & Girls Clubs of Miami-Dade, represented by its president, Alex Rodriguez-Roig.

"Pinnacle Housing Group believes in building a community from the bottom up," Mr. Wolfson said. "If your foundation is strong, your community can grow strong upon that foundation. Affordable housing, education and leaders who strive to improve their communities are the building blocks for a city to grow and prosper in the 21st century. Miami Today's Gold Medal Awards are dedicated to those who are truly helping Miami become one of the most successful cities on the planet."

Jay Pelham, president of **TotalBank**, presented The Silver Medal for an Individual to Andres Campo, CMO of the United Data Technologies, standing in for winner Henry Fleches, the company's CEO.

Headquartered in Miami, TotalBank is a leading integrated retail-commercial bank that has been serving South Florida for more than 40 years.

"Excellence is a rare and wonderful quality that deserves our recognition and support," Mr. Pelham said. "TotalBank is a proud sponsor of the Gold Medal Awards and, as part of our long-time commitment to the community, we celebrate these award recipients as true examples of excellence among us. We are proud to stand with those who represent the best of South Florida."

Codina Partners, a real estate investment and development firm founded by legendary South Florida developer Armando Codina now under the leader-

ship of CEO Ana-Marie Codina Barlick, sponsored the Silver Medal for an Organization, won this year by Miami Lighthouse for the Blind. The award was presented by Joe Jimenez, Codina's vice president for legal and regulatory affairs, to Miami Lighthouse President & CEO Virginia A. Jacko.

"At Codina Partners, we understand the roles that innovation, leadership and a strong foundation for success play in order to stand out among the best in South Florida's competitive landscape," Ms. Codina Barlick said. "With that in mind, we support Miami Today's 2016 Gold Awards and the talented honorees who are making an impact in our community."

Sponsor **Florida Power & Light Co.**, represented by Richard Gibbs, a senior communication specialist, presented the Bronze Medal for an Organization to Zyscovich Architects' managing principal, Bernard Zyscovich.

"Florida Power & Light Co. congratulates all of the award winners and nominees, and is honored to share this day with them," said Irene White, FPL's senior director of external affairs. "Together with these outstanding business leaders, FPL is working to make Miami-Dade County an even better place to raise a family and do business."

Two organizations were awarded Bronze Medals this year. The bronze for Express Travel was accepted by CEO Olga Ramudo from Carmen Betancourt-Lewis, vice president of Miami Today.

Ms. Betancourt also presented the Bronze Medal for an Individual to Steven L. Cantor, managing partner of the law firm Cantor & Webb.