

Date: March 10th, 2022

To: Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
and Members,
Board of County Commissioners

From: Miami-Dade County Commission for Women
Monica Interian, Chair

Subject: Nominations for Inaugural Year of Miami-Dade County Women’s Hall of Fame

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At the December 1, 2021 meeting of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) a resolution (Item #11A3, Resolution 212701) was passed to establish the Miami-Dade County Women’s Hall of Fame. The Commission for Women would like to thank Chairman Diaz for his prime sponsorship of this item and commitment to women’s history. The Hall of Fame was created using the Florida Women’s Hall of Fame as a template. It will honor and recognize women who have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for women and our community in Miami-Dade County.

The Commission for Women (CFW) was tasked with calling for nominations, collecting those nominations, and presenting no more than ten (10) candidates to the BCC for consideration. The CFW collected nominations via a digital form over the month of January into early February. The CFW delegated the task of deciding the candidates from among the nominees submitted to present to the BCC to their Executive Director, Monica Skoko Rodriguez. The nominations for this first year consisted mainly of leaders in Miami-Dade history. As such, the CFW decided to only present the BCC with the historic women nominated who have since passed and not include women currently living for the inaugural year of the Women’s Hall of Fame.

The Commission for Women received nominations and narrowed those received down to the individuals outlined on Page 2 of this document. As each of the trailblazers below are currently deceased, a short biography is provided after each name in lieu of a resume. The three (3) highest ranking nominees will be inducted into the 2022 Miami-Dade Women’s Hall of Fame. Each member of the BCC is requested to consider and nominate three (3) candidates to the 2022 Miami-Dade County Women’s Hall of Fame from the list below and as a body decide on three (3) candidates to induct into the 2022 Women’s Hall of Fame.

Thank you for your attention on this matter,



Monica Interian
Chair, Miami-Dade County Commission for Women

- **Mary Athalie Range:** Ms. Range was Miami's second woman city commissioner and the first woman to head a state agency in Florida. She led efforts to improve the quality of life for Black residents of Miami-Dade.
- **Roxcy Bolton:** Ms. Bolton was a local pioneer for women's rights. She founded the Miami-Dade chapter of the National Organization for women, championed the ERA, and advocated for the creation of Women's Equality Day. She was also an advocate for rape victims and helped establish the Rape Treatment Center at Jackson Hospital - the first of its kind in the country which is now named after her.
- **Mary Brickell:** Ms. Brickell is another founder of the Miami area and helped to continue the work of Julia Tuttle in growing Miami in the city it is today. Unlike many before her, her and her husband befriended Native Americans and opened a trading post next to their home. During a 1873 typhoid outbreak, she turned her home into a hospital and used her nursing skill to treat settlers and Native Americans alike.
- **Annie Coleman:** Ms. Coleman organized the Overtown Women's Club to improve the conditions of Overtown in the 20's and led projects to pave streets, create parks, and more. She started a local library, led efforts to desegregate Miami's beaches, and helped to allow Black Miamians to serve as policemen.
- **Polita Grau:** Ms. Grau was a Cuban political prisoner and key organizer of the Pedro Pan operation which helped 14,000 Cuban children leave the island.
- **Carrie Meek:** Congresswoman Meek served in the FL legislature and the US House of Representatives. Along with two other members, she became the first Black member of Congress from Florida since the Reconstruction era. During that time she was a champion for voting rights, helped Miami recover post-Hurricane Andrew, improved the County's transit system, advocated for her constituents including Haitian immigrants and senior citizens.
- **Arva Moore Parks McCabe:** Ms. Parks McCabe was a historian who was integral in preserving such important parts of Miami's history such as the Biltmore Hotel. She was the president of History Miami and produced several films on Miami and Coconut Grove. She was an important part of telling Miami's history.
- **Marjory Stoneman Douglas:** Ms. Stoneman Douglas was an author and environmentalist whose work re-shaped environmental policies protecting the Everglades. Her book, *The Everglades: River of Grass* redefined the Everglades as a precious resource.
- **Julia Tuttle:** Nicknamed the "mother of Miami," Ms. Tuttle was the driving force behind founding the City of Miami. She helped convince Henry Flagler to extend his railroad to Miami - forever changing the course of history for the city.