

What's Up in Downtown Miami



New Businesses Activating Historic Buildings in the Flagler District

By Terrell Fritz

After significant disruption since 2020, first by the COVID-19 pandemic and then the ongoing Flagler Beautification streetscape project, there is good news in Downtown Miami's historic Flagler District. Exciting new restaurants and bars are opening in two of the district's most important historic buildings.

Photo above: Interior of Julia & Henry's

WALGREEN DRUG STORE, 1936

200 E. Flagler Street • Architects: Zimmerman, Saxe, & McBride with E. A. Ehmann

Julia & Henry's (yes, that's Tuttle & Flagler) is a unique, trendy entertainment eatery. It offers 26 different culinary choices including menus crafted by James Beard award-winning chefs and talented creators. Miami culinary scene's most lauded chefs are part of the action, including Michelle Bernstein and José Mendín, as are internationally recognized names like French pastry chef Yann Couvreur, Latin American restaurateur Tomas Kalika, and top Peruvian chef and butcher Renzo Garibaldi.

Soon the building's fourth and fifth floors will open as music recording and rehearsal studios, podcast studios, and support services for the music industry. Culminating the project, Torno Subito Miami by world-renowned chef Massimo Bottura will open on Julia & Henry's rooftop.



OLD US POST OFFICE/ COURTHOUSE, 1914

100 NE 1st Avenue • Architect: Oscar Wenderoth; (1937/1948 addition: Kiehnel and Elliott)

Just a couple of blocks away, exciting new businesses are opening in the Old Post Office on NE 1st Avenue. **Biscayne Bay Brewing Company**, Downtown Miami's first Tap Room, has opened on the building's third floor offering a wide selection of craft beers brewed on-site. It provides a welcoming atmosphere where beer enthusiasts can enjoy favorite brews while relishing in the historic surroundings. The food menu includes elevated bar bites, Mediterranean dips, flatbreads, sandwiches, bao buns, and a Colorado wagyu burger.

On the fourth floor of the Old Post Office, **The Roystone** has opened as a "discreetly sinful" cocktail bar. Enveloped in an ambiance that transcends time, The Roystone offers a carefully crafted menu of imaginative signature cocktails, thoughtfully curated bites, and cherished classics. In addition, The Roystone will host an array of activations including HiFi vinyl DJs, jazz band performances, and disco-house nights.





Interior of The Roystone.

A New Buzz in the Flagler District

Throughout the district, other new businesses have opened, including **Shishkabob Mediterranean Cuisine**, 251 East Flagler Street; **Dumplings Mi Amor**, 119 SE 2nd Avenue, bringing the love of dumplings to Downtown Miami; and **Tâm Tâm**, 97 NW 1st Street, a Vietnamese food and wine bar. More will be opening in 2024.

Meanwhile, the **Flagler Beautification Project** is transforming Flagler Street into a curbside festival-street. The project achieved a milestone over the summer of 2023 with the reopening of East 2nd Avenue to automotive traffic.

Decades-old infrastructure being what it is, rebuilding intersections at the north-south avenues is proving to be a challenge, but the new festival streetscape along Flagler's east-west blockfronts is moving forward. The entire project should be completed during 2024.

The coming year will also feature lively district events and activities. Street Stages (Olympia Arts MIAMI) takes art to the streets with live performances in district open spaces. The new businesses promise ongoing special events, and promotional plans are coming together for activities in conjunction with Miami Gems and the Miami Book Fair (November), Miami Art Week (December), and spring 2024 events including St. Patrick's Day, the Miami Film Festival, and Lexus Corporate Run. ■

For more information, check out the Flagler District BID website at downtownmiami.net

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