

The Underline

Impact 2023



10 Miles, Together

The Underline

Our Mission

To deliver and activate a 120-acre, first-class linear park spanning 10 miles below Miami’s Metrorail that will transform regional mobility and celebrate diversity, culture and lifelong learning. Through innovative urban trails and creative programming, we are connecting people to their environment and each other to create a safe, healthy, equitable, and sustainable community.

Core Values

The Underline is a 120-acre park in Miami’s urban core that is building a first-class city celebrating:

- Diversity and Inclusivity
- Innovation
- Health and Wellness
- Sustainability
- Safety and Mobility
- Connectivity
- Fun

Equity Statement

The Underline recognizes, represents, and celebrates the unique fusion of cultures that make Miami one of the most diverse cities in the world.

We proudly create this park with the community with an unwavering commitment to be a safe and accessible public space for all who visit the park, regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, abilities, or socioeconomic status.

Our programs, attractions, and experiences are inspired and influenced not only by the rich diversity of today, but also in honor and tribute to Miami’s ancestral past and with an enthusiastic vision for a racially and culturally inclusive future.

As we reclaim, reinvigorate and regift the cherished land beneath the Miami Metrorail back to and on behalf of the whole community, we will continue to listen to and learn from the voices and lived experiences of our neighbors, and center our current and future policies and investments around equity, fairness and inclusivity.

2023 in Review

As we look back at the numerous accomplishments from our leadership, staff and partners during the fiscal year 2023 (October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023) we are thankful for the dedication and investment by people like you that helped make this year a resounding success.

Here are highlights:

- Construction groundbreaking for Phase 3 began September 2023 with a memorable event and celebration. This seven-mile, amenity-rich segment from SW 19th Avenue to Dadeland South Station serves the unique identities and histories of adjacent neighborhoods. *Pages 4-5.*
- The Underline welcomed over 1.5 million visitors and the Facilities team earned a high score on cleanliness and upkeep. *Page 6.*
- The Horticulture team launched the *Green Leaders* apprenticeship program to develop native plant horticulture practitioners and was awarded a \$2 million USDA Forestry grant to support 24 micro-forests and “green jobs”. *Page 6.*
- Added a monthly farmers market and *Just Ball* soccer clinics to bring more free community programs to Miami-Dade County residents. *Page 7.*
- Unveiled *Duality*, a bronze sculpture by the renowned American artist Hank Willis Thomas. *Page 8.*
- Installed computer vision security cameras, established a “digital twin” to assist with operations management and created digital signage to inform and connect. *Page 9.*
- Continued to grow our *Neighborhood Ambassadors* program and established a robust volunteer program to support events and operations. *Pages 10-11.*
- Raised over \$4,551,000 in public and private funding. We also welcomed additional *Atala Society* Members to our growing annual giving program. *Pages 13-15.*

Thank you for believing in The Underline, standing with us, and being a valued advocate and supporter of this evolving, innovative urban park and ecological corridor.



Meg Daly
Founder/CEO
Friends of The Underline



Rudy Touzet
Vice Chairman
Friends of The Underline Board of Directors

Design and Construction



The fiscal 2022-23 year showed rapid progress in design and construction of The Underline.

Phase 2

The over two-mile stretch of The Underline's Phase 2 from Coral Way to SW 19th Avenue took shape as the separated walking and biking trails were paved, LED, night sky lighting was installed and thousands of drought and flood-tolerant native plants and trees were planted. At SW 17th Avenue and US 1, the *Rain Garden* bioswale, green infrastructure that assists with stormwater drainage and supports our resiliency efforts, could be seen. The *Vizcaya Station Plaza* now has a meditation area and additional lighting to enhance safety. At the *Hammock Playground* the two play areas took shape and lush Pine Rockland plants began to thrive.

Phase 3

Phase 3 is the 3rd and final 7-mile segment of The Underline from SW 19th Avenue to Dadeland South Metrorail station. In 2023, residents showed up in large numbers to attend a series of public meetings to: 1. solicit input on twelve amenity areas; 2. see the proposed plans and; 3. review the planting strategy. Residents expressed their strong interest in adding pickleball courts, safe areas to bike, walk and skate, and the continued investment in nature, the environment and resiliency. Proposed micro-forests were a big hit as well as additional butterfly gardens.

Phase 3: What's coming?

See the planned amenity areas for The Underline's Phase 3



Grove Gallery
Between SW 24th
and 27th Avenues



The Underline Plaza
Directly south of the Douglas
Metrorail Station



Bark Park
Ponce de Leon Blvd
and Le Jeune Rd



Fitness Room
Behind the Gables Fire Station
by Riviera Drive



Water Balcony
Coral Gables Waterway
and Riviera Drive



Rain Gardens
Between Donatello Street
and Orduna Drive



Stormwater Ponds
Between Granada Boulevard
and Donatello Street



Pineland Courts
Coral Gables near
Carillo Street



Rock Ridge Plaza
At UM north of Stanford Drive



The U-Skate Park
Red Road and Ponce de
Leon Boulevard



Play Forest
By South Miami City Hall



Butterfly Gardens
Between SW 67th Avenue
and SW 80th Street

Facilities & Operations



The Underline *Green Leaders* tending Brickell Backyard native plants

Operations

The Underline Conservancy finalized a 2-year funding agreement with Miami-Dade County to provide funding support for operations and maintenance, which will be overseen by The Underline Conservancy board, a public private cohort charged with the day-to-day operations, maintenance and programming of the park. The Conservancy is charged with diversifying future funding sources to capture the value The Underline generates in the community.

In Phase 1, Brickell Backyard had numerous site upgrades: surface repainting; enhanced signage; acquired new storage and equipment to better serve our growing team and community.

The Brickell Backyard welcomed more than 1.5 million visitors over the past year. Additionally, we maintained an average “Sparkle” score of 4.1 out of 5, a measurement of the cleanliness and upkeep of the park by Miami-Dade County Parks Department. This high score demonstrates our continuous commitment to keeping our open space and trail in first-class condition for the community.

A Horticultural Haven

Phase 1 is home to over 70 native shrubs, grasses, wildflowers, palms, and 30 tree species! In 2023 we added 62 new native plant species, attracting over 20 species of birds and pollinators.

Thanks to Bank of America and the Daly Family Fund, we launched our *Green Leaders* apprenticeship program. Four exceptional and diverse students from Miami Dade College helped us tend to our gardens throughout the summer. We expanded our Horticulture team and created more “green jobs” opportunities by offering two of our outstanding apprentices full and part-time positions, as well as welcoming a new Horticulture intern. Further, we are excited to share that the Horticulture department was awarded a \$2 million USDA Forestry grant to support 24 microforests and “green jobs” across The Underline.

Programming and Events

The Underline has expanded its events and programs, providing numerous memorable experiences for the community. Thanks to the support of sponsors, donors, community partners, and residents, we welcomed 20,000 attendees to over 200 events, and generated \$13,500 in event rentals.

We launched seven new free and public programs, in addition to the ten event programs that we already host. One of the most successful monthly events, the farmers market, has already supported over 20 local businesses. It has truly become a staple event in our urban park.

Highlight Events

- Black Arts Celebration for Black History Month
- Global Music Series sponsored by Bank of America
- Movie screenings “Together We Cycle” and “The Geographies of Trash”
- Public and private *Day in the Dirt* activities
- Corporate gardening events for Swire Properties, TD Bank and Spirit Charitable
- Ten national mobile workshops for High Line Network, RailVolution, Aspen Institute, Federal Transit Administration, the National Association of Counties and more
- Over 100 free health and wellness yoga and Zumba classes and community bike rides sponsored by Baptist Health
- Expanded kids’ art classes at *Family Days* events
- More dog-friendly programs with Promoting Animal Wellness Saturdays (PAWS) and Dogleggers



New Programs

- Farmers market at The Underline
- *Just Ball League* soccer program sponsored by Goldman Sachs
- Zumba powered by Baptist Health
- *Walk4Life* sponsored by AARP
- The Underline guided tours
- *Climate Champs* sponsored by Peacock Foundation, Inc.



In 2023, The Underline proudly unveiled *Duality*, a bronze sculpture created by Brooklyn-based artist Hank Willis Thomas. The 9 foot tall sculpture features an outstretched arm holding up two fingers in a peace or victory sign. Thomas is known for exploring themes related to identity, history, and popular culture, and *Duality* is no exception. The artwork is a call to "loving action," meant to inspire mutual understanding and positive solutions using universal gestures and the power of the human figure.

Duality is one of Thomas' celebrated permanent artworks, alongside *Unity* at the Brooklyn Bridge in New York and *Raise* at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, AL. *Duality* represents a public monument for the 21st century, at a time when public monuments have been contentious.

In a recent *Miami Herald* article, Thomas expressed his hope that viewers take away the importance of creating and exhibiting art in public spaces. The Underline provides a beautiful and inviting space for art and cultural programming. The sculpture is privately funded by Debi and Jeffrey Wechsler, the Braman Family Foundation, and the Knight Foundation.

Duality joins five other public artworks on The Underline including *Water/Tables*, *Typee Sculpture Garden*, *The Allegory*, *Disappearing Treasures* and *In Tune with Nature*.



Duality with artist Hank Willis Thomas (c) 2023 Isaac Piniera

Technology & Innovation

The Underline has made significant progress in advancing technology initiatives with support from its partners and Tech Council leadership. We have secured funds for new technology projects while continuing to provide free Wi-Fi services to tens of thousands of visitors. Here are some of the highlights:

- **Cameras:** To enhance the safety of park visitors and optimize operational resources, The Underline installed a network of computer vision cameras. These cameras also help assess how people interact with the public space, providing unique insights and data.
- **Linear Lab:** The Underline has established 15 new partners for its “Linear Lab” including The University of Miami, Northeastern University, Cleo Institute, and Seaworthy Collective. The Linear Lab is a pioneering endeavor that transforms The Underline into a living lab and deployment sandbox for climate innovation, sustainable energy practices, and transformative mobility solutions.
- **Digital Twin:** To manage facility operations and analyze key metrics, The Underline has developed a "digital twin" with asset management software. This 3D representation of the park simulates, integrates, tests, monitors, and maintains physical assets and data in a digital environment.
- **Sensors:** The Underline also received federal funding to cover the entire 10 miles of the park with environmental sensors. These sensors will collect new data on the The Underline’s impact on the surrounding environment and community.
- **DTPR:** To ensure transparency and accountability around digital technology in public spaces, The Underline piloted an open-source communication standard, Digital Trust for Places & Routines (DTPR) and created signage to inform visitors about how technology is used to build trust and engage users.



Drone camera video helps construct the digital twin

Volunteer Engagement



TD Bank volunteers beautify gardens in the Brickell Backyard Promenade

We celebrated a milestone this past fiscal year by receiving over 4,000 community service hours from 279 volunteers! Their dedication significantly impacted our operational capacity and fostered a more engaged and connected community.

One outstanding volunteer donated nearly 300 hours advancing the fundraising efforts for The Underline. Thank you Marlon De Leon for your incredible contributions to our team. We appreciate your time and talents in furthering our connections to the communities we serve.

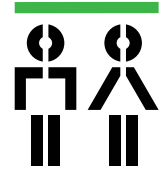
“I stumbled on to The Underline while searching for places where I could complete some community service hours. At first I just needed to fulfill my assignment's hours, but as I continued to show up I enjoyed the environment and office culture. I also really fell in love with the project itself.”

- Marlon De Leon, Volunteer

Over 2,000 hours were contributed by 160 volunteers in support of Underline events and administrative projects. Additionally, we received \$2,000 in donations from Students Offering Support (S.O.S.). The Underline welcomed student volunteers from 24 different schools and five higher education institutions. Our dedicated volunteers were celebrated through a Volunteer Appreciation Lunch and Volunteer Award Ceremony, where five volunteers were recognized for their outstanding dedication.

The community's support and engagement, coupled with the generosity of hundreds of donors, non-profits and public funders, such as Miami-Dade County, propel our team forward every day.

Community Outreach



During the 2023 fiscal year, The Underline Community Outreach team successfully established connections between people and neighborhoods. We proudly celebrated the first anniversary of our *Neighborhood Ambassadors* group, which now comprises 15 members from 13 different neighborhoods. These ambassadors play a crucial role in bridging the gap between our organization and their communities. They actively participate in meetings and initiatives to inform their communities while educating our staff about nearby neighborhoods and the challenges they face.



Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and community leaders on the Sound Stage

We have established a broad network of over 170 partners, which includes Miami-Dade County Commissioners Eileen Higgins and Raquel Regalado, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Radical Partners, and Mosaic Miami. Our extensive collaboration has resulted in the creation of over 50 events and programs, which have attracted residents from every corner of Miami-Dade County.

The quarterly *Community Connections: Speed Friending* event series, powered by Amazon, welcomed a diverse audience. These events connected community members with small businesses, arts, culture, and cuisine from Miami's diverse neighborhoods like Little Bahamas, Little Havana, Overtown, and more. In partnership with Dibia Dreams, we organized two school field trips, one with fourth graders and the second with seventh and eighth graders from Southside Preparatory School.



Community Connections: Speed Friending activation in the River Room

Marketing & Communications

The Marketing team has been crucial in advancing The Underline’s mission and fostering community engagement. Through strategic initiatives, we expanded our social media presence, increasing awareness of the project and enhancing donor recognition across multiple channels.

Our team has built strong relationships with diverse media channels and publications such as the *Miami Herald*, *National Geographic*, *Coral Gables Magazine*, *World Red Eye*, *Ocean Drive Magazine*, and *South Florida Business Journal*, amplifying The Underline's growth and impact across various platforms. This collaborative effort has deepened our connection with the public and attracted attention from potential donors and sponsors.

Our collaboration extends to program promotion and community outreach, reinforcing our commitment to inclusivity and community participation. The department has played a significant role in showcasing the volunteer programs and sustainability initiatives that underscore The Underline's dedication to creating a vibrant, resilient urban space. Through these comprehensive efforts, our team continues to drive The Underline toward its transformative goals.



Atala Society Takes Flight

The *Atala Society*, named after the Atala butterfly, a vibrant species native to southeastern Florida, the Bahamas, Cuba, and the Cayman Islands, symbolizes resilience and community spirit. Found in The Underline's native gardens, the once-near-endangered Atala now thrives at our park, reflecting nature's tenacity.

A total of 28 *Atala Society* members supported The Underline's commitment to fostering diversity, inclusivity, innovation, health, sustainability, safety, and connectivity in Miami-Dade County. Membership contributions, ranging from \$1,200 to \$10,000 annually, are vital in sustaining The Underline's trails, facilities, art, and public events, ensuring they remain a hub of beauty and innovation for locals and visitors alike.

"I support The Underline and the Atala Society because I am a local community member and I wanted to be more involved with this great project."

- Atala Society member



Atala Society members enjoy a wine and weeding event in the Oolite Room

If You Build It, They Will Come

Our bold vision is driven by public and private contributions. With more financial resources available, we can expand our reach, improve our services, and create better outcomes and experiences for both visitors, stakeholders and partners. This, in turn, leads to greater impact and support, ultimately fueling success.

By supporting The Underline, donors and partners make a direct contribution to a safe, multimodal, resilient linear park in Miami's urban core.

Thank you to all of you who donated in support of The Underline during the 2023 fiscal year. The following donors contributed over \$10,000 from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023, supporting the mission and vision to create a more connected, resilient and mobile Miami-Dade County.

13th Floor Investments
Adil & Salma Rahmathulla
Adler Group
Allegany Franciscan Ministries
Amazon
Ami and Jack Glottmann
Bank of America
Baptist Health
Batchelor Foundation
Christina and David Martin
Citadel Securities
Daly Family Fund
Debi and Jeffrey Wechsler
Ed and Carol Williamson
Florida Power & Light
Goldman Sachs & Co.
Governor Jeb Bush and family
Greenberg Traurig, P.A.
Iris and Anthony Escarrá
Judy and Jon Zeder
Kim and Eric Mendelson
Leesfield Family Foundation
LeFrak
Leslie Miller Saiontz
Lilly Weinberg

Lydia and Rudy Prio Touzet
Meg and John Daly
Miami-Dade County
Newgard Development Group
Nina and Camilo Miguel, Jr.
NR International
Peacock Foundation, Inc.
Publix Super Markets Charities
Robin Tassler and Roger Terrone
Steven J. Wernick
Swire Properties
TD Bank Charitable Foundation
The Arden and Jack Karson Philanthropic Fund
The Clinton Family Fund
The Collection
The Dunspaugh-Dalton Foundation, Inc.
The Honorable Donna Shalala
The Irma & Norman Braman Philanthropic Fund
The Kirk Foundation
The Miami Foundation
The Spirit Airlines Charitable Foundation
Thomson Family
United Way of Miami-Dade

Financial Report

The financials reflected in this report represent the time period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

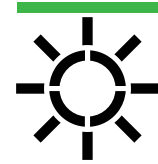
**Friends of The Underline and The Underline Conservancy
Consolidated Statement of Activities (Unaudited)
For the Fiscal Year Ended 09/30/2023.**

Contributions	\$1,833,095
Non-Government Grants	\$690,000
Government Grants/Funding	\$2,028,533
COVID Relief Income (Employment retention tax credits)	\$148,165
Other Revenue	\$22,279
Net Investment Income	\$243,535
Total Revenue and Support	\$4,965,607
Payroll and Benefits	\$1,298,415
Direct Park Operating Expenses	\$1,170,177
Park Programming	\$222,841
Park Art	\$478,546
Professional Fees	\$460,939
Insurance	\$213,646
Occupancy	\$92,990
Office Expenses	\$73,919
Other Expenses	\$43,662
Total Expenses	\$4,055,135
Increase in Net Assets	\$910,472

Though they are legally and operationally separate organizations with their own Boards of Directors and maintain, among other things, separate accounting and governance, Friends of The Underline Inc. is obligated by agreement to appoint individuals that constitute a numeric majority of the votes (by one) of the fully-constituted board of The Underline Management Organization, Inc.

As a result, and in accordance with ASC Topic 958-810-25-3, the organizations are consolidated for GAAP financial reporting purposes. For the purposes of these consolidated financial statements, Friends of The Underline, Inc. and The Underline Management Organization, Inc. are collectively referred to as “The Underline”.

Leadership



Friends of The Underline Board of Directors

Meg Daly
Founder

Rudy Prio Touzet
Vice Chairman,
Banyan Street
Capital

Christine Yormack
Treasurer
Bank of America

Norma Jean Abraham
Philanthropist

Jordan Bargas
Related, NY

Jessi Berrin
Baptist Health

Henry Bott
Swire Properties

Jessica Brumley
University of Miami

Iris Escarra
Greenberg Traurig

Daniel Gibson
Community Foundation
for Palm Beach and
Martin Counties

Brian Goldmeier
BYG Strategies

Lucas Hernandez
Microsoft Philanthropies

Ira Leesfield
Leesfield Family
Foundation

David Martin
Terra Group

Camilo Miguel, Jr.
MAST Capital

**Salma Merchant
Rahmathulla**
Pelicans Group

Miriam Ramos
Holland & Knight

Brent Reynolds
NR International

Josh Schertzer
Blackstone

Roger Terrone
Retired CPA

Debi Wechsler
Philanthropist

Lilly Weinberg
Knight Foundation

Steven Wernick
Wernick & Co

Jane Wooldridge
The Miami Herald

Judy Zeder
Coldwell Banker

Daniel Balmori
Pro Bono Attorney
Hogan Lovells

Our Public Partners

**Miami-Dade County
City of Miami
City of Coral Gables
State of Florida
USDOT and FDOT**

The Underline Team

Thanks to the entire Friends of The Underline team who work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to make sure our visitors have enduring joyful experiences.

Theresa Amado
Daniel Arrubla
Sebastian Arrubla
Lazara Ballester
Asha Bertsch
Christina Brown
Bryan Cardenas
Leana Cianfoni
Naomi Cruz
Natasha Dadlani
Meg Daly

Elissa Eguiluz
Masi Faroqui
Ehudes Garcia
Kate Gilhuly
Patrice Gillespie Smith
Sol Inaudi
Jake Moskowitz
Delven Patterson
Jamal Wilson
Nicole Zaldivar