

Summary Statement:

As the first Hispanic woman elected to the Miami Beach City Commission and long-time community activist, Matti Herrera Bower exemplifies the power of dedication and compassion towards elderly, disabled and low-income citizens, women and children, and all residents of Miami Beach.

Committees:

* Before being elected Commissioner:

- 1982 - Recreational Centers & Parks Facilities Board
- 1983 – 1990 – Community Development Advisory Committee
- 1986 – Ad Hoc Committee on Quality Education in Miami Beach
- 1988 – Safe Neighborhood Improvement District 1 – Member of Advisory Board
- 1992 – Ad Hoc Bureau of Children’s Affairs
- 1992-1994 – Chair, Miami Beach Development Corporation
- 1993-1997 – Member, Miami Beach Housing Authority

* After being elected Commissioner:

- 1999 - Community Affairs, Chairperson
- 1999 – Miami Beach Redevelopment Agency, Board Member

* Miami Beach City Commission Committees:

- Member, Finance and Citywide Projects Committee
- Chairperson, Land Use and Development Committee
- Alternate, Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee

* Outside Committees representing the City of Miami Beach

- Member, Dade Cultural Alliance
- Member, Miami-Dade Tourist Development Council
- Member, Miami-Dade County League of Cities Board of Directors
- Subcommittee: Member, Citizens’ Oversight Committee to the Inter-local Agreement for Public School Facility Planning in Miami Dade County
- Board Member, Carnival Center for the Performing Arts
- Subcommittees: Member, Nominating and Governance Committee
- Member, Urban Development Committee

Biographical Sketch:

First Elected to the Miami Beach City Commission in November 1999 and presently running for Mayor of the City of Miami Beach, Vice Mayor Matti Herrera Bower has established a reputation for being dedicated and passionate about the issues that face Miami Beach. Her enthusiasm to help others is recognized by all who meet her. Matti is well known for being a leader in the community and doing the right thing for her residents.

Prior to her election, Vice Mayor Bower began her career as a community activist over thirty years ago as the President of the Feinberg Fisher Elementary School Parent Teachers Association (PTA). Vice Mayor also served as President of the PTA at Nautilus Junior High School and Miami Beach Senior High School. Additionally she worked on countywide issues as member of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Board's Attendance Boundary Committee, Committee on Bilingual Education, Miami Beach Feeder Pattern and the Citizen's Advisory Board. A major cornerstone of her ongoing efforts to ensure quality education for all students, making Miami Beach a great place to live, play and work.

Vice Mayor Bower has worked tirelessly on issues that directly affect people. Most recently, she led the Miami Beach Fight against the Movement to rescind the Miami-Dade County Human Rights Ordinance, which protects the rights of everyone, regardless of an individual's sexual orientation. She co-founded the Miami Beach Hispanic Community Center. She is a past Commissioner for the Miami Beach Housing Authority and a former member of the Community Development Advisory Committee.

Vice Mayor Bower has long supported the arts. She was a member of the Art Housing Group and the Friends of the Bass Museum Board of Directors. Always committed to historic preservation, Vice Mayor Bower has chaired the Art Deco Weekend Festival for several years and is a past member of the Miami Design Preservation League (MDPL) Board of Directors. In addition, she worked tirelessly with MDPL Founder to help register the Art Deco District in the National Register for Historic Places.

She contributed to the City's current economic boom through her ongoing commitment to economic development. Prior holding office, Vice Mayor Bower chaired the Miami Beach Development Corporation, a community-based economic development corporation that has led the revitalization and affordable housing programs in the Art Deco District, South Pointe, Lincoln Road, Washington Avenue, Collins Avenue and Ocean Drive. She also sat on the Lincoln Road Task Force and the Board for the Lincoln Road Partnerships.

Currently, Vice Mayor Bower sits on the Miami Beach Commission's Finance and Citywide Projects Committee, the Neighborhoods/Community Affairs Committee and the Land Use and Development Committee, that she chairs. Vice Mayor Bower also sits on the City of Miami Beach Transportation Management Association.

In addition, she is a member of the Miami-Dade County Carnival Performing Arts Center Trust Board as well as other several committees and sub-committees, the Urban Development Committee and Subcommittee. Vice Mayor Bower is also a member of the Women on Municipal Government Committee of the National League of Cities, the Dade Cultural Alliance and was appointed by Governor Jeb Bush to the Governor's reading Transition Team.

Vice Mayor Bower is the recipient of numerous awards including the Miami Beach Development Corporation Founding Chairman's Award, City of Miami Beach Community Heroes Award, Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation Department's in the Company of Women Pioneer Award, MDPL Chairman's Award, Boys and Girls Clubs Award, the National Housing Award, the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Women of Leadership Award, the Women Worth Knowing Award from the Miami Beach Commission on the Status of Women, City of Miami Beach Proclamation from

Mayor and Commission for outstanding commitment to the wellbeing of the Children of Miami Beach Community and the Children's Trust First Annual "Champions for Children" Award for her outstanding achievement in Public Policy.

Vice Mayor Bower has also received Certificates of Appreciation for her work with the Miami Beach Housing Authority, Miami Beach Hispanic Community Center, Miami Design Preservation League, Miami's Magnets' District Advisory Committee, Miami Beach Latin Chamber of Commerce, North Area Region 1 Citizen's Advisory Committee, South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Council for Excellence in Government.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Vice Mayor Bower is a retired dental assistant who has resided with her husband Richard Bower, in Miami Beach for more than 40 years. Vice Mayor Bower has four daughters: Manon Hernandez, Lisa Roman, Laura Rubenstein and Lisa Jo Bower. She also has six grandchildren: Katie, Natalie, Tommy, James, Ann and Lee who reside in North Carolina, West Palm Beach and Miami Beach.