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7275 Collins Avenue
MIAMI BEACH BANDSHELL
Miami Beach, Florida
Historic Resources Report



Prepared for
City of Miami Beach
1700 Convention Center Drive
Miami Beach, FL 33139

Submitted November 13th, 2024 by

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American Institute of Architects / NCARB

Introduction

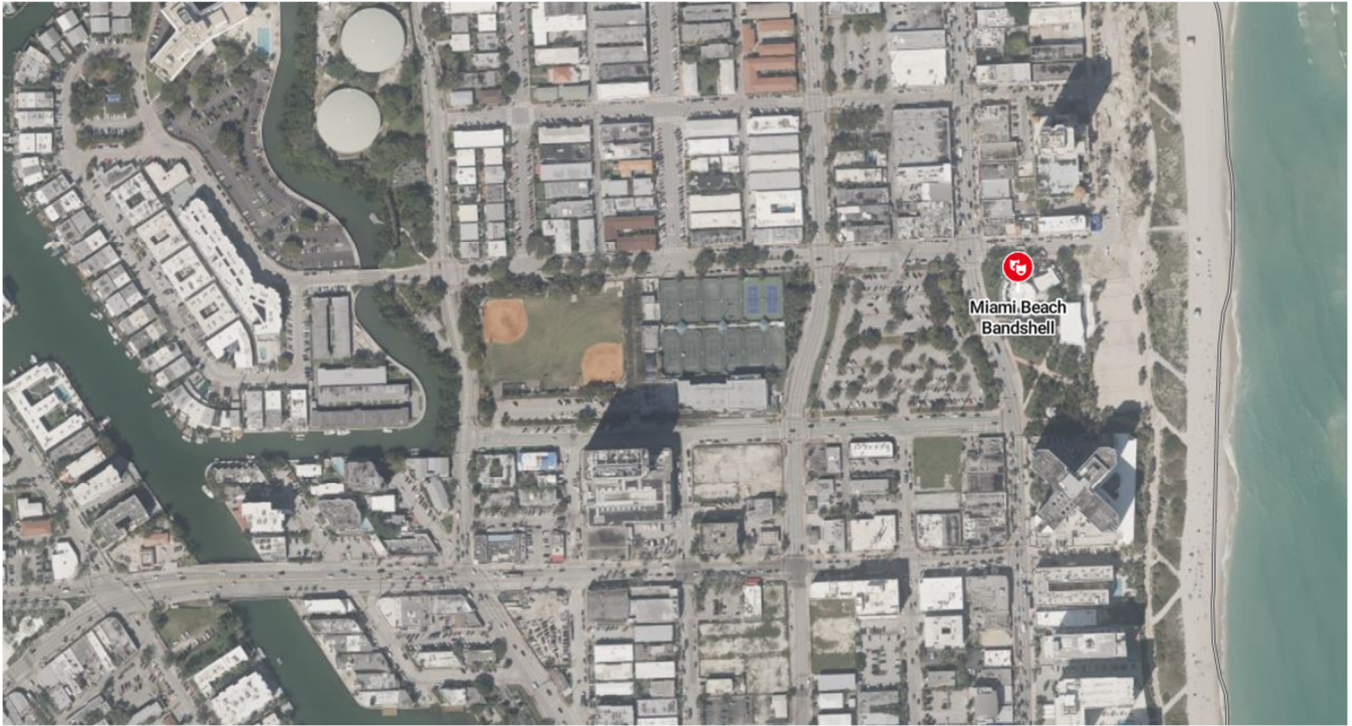
This report considers the historic survey and evolution of the Miami Beach Bandshell, initially known as the North Shore Community Center and more recently as the North Beach Bandshell, is a historic venue located within the North Shore Historic District, in Miami Beach Florida. It is renowned for its architectural significance and its role in Miami Beach's entertainment history. This report has been prepared for the City of Miami Beach Historic Preservation Board in preparation for a project that encompasses proposed additions and renovations to the existing Miami Beach Bandshell facility.

The proposed project designed by Song + Associates includes a two-story addition facing 73rd Street (north side) which will house much-needed “back-of-the-house” spaces in support of the bandshell operations. These spaces will include production staging / storage areas and a redesigned covered loading dock on the ground floor as well as administrative offices, dressing rooms and support spaces on the second floor. The new addition will be accessed via a stair and an elevator with a direct connection to the existing backstage areas on the east side of the bandshell. There will also be an exterior entrance to the new ground floor spaces accessible from the existing tower # 2 bandshell entry area.

A secondary (south side) expansion will provide much-needed support spaces for the existing food service operations. These will include dry food storage, walk-in cooler and freezer as well as a bar area with storage serving an expanded open café patio around the existing tower # 1. Additional improvements will be the relocation of the trash and recycling enclosure away from 73rd Street and further to the south along the existing service drive. Lastly, the project will include a fabric canopy cover over the west edge of the stage to improve weather protection for this area.

Including available documentation (previous projects) and graphic information of the surroundings collected during site visits; this report shows the history and evolution of the original building and venue, subsequent modifications as well as the analysis of the existing conditions.

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Aerial View, 2024



Historical Summary

The project site is in the North Shore Historic District. Bandshell is located on a property belonging to the City of Miami Beach that houses other buildings; within Bandshell Park, facing Collins Avenue to the west, 73rd Street to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, adjacent to Unidad Senior Center to the southeast and the southern portion of Bandshell Park facing 72nd Street.

Original Amphitheater and Facility 1961

Designed by prominent architect Norman Giller in 1961, the Bandshell stands out with its geometric interpretation of Miami Modern architecture. Giller, a leading figure in the MiMo style, also has several of his works featured on the National Register of Historic Places. Historians Randall Robinson and Eric Nash described the Bandshell as "a futurist take on a Roman Amphitheater."

From its inception, the venue gained national attention, notably serving as the winter home for "The Mike Douglas Show" during the 1970s. The venue underwent several transformations over the decades. In the 1960s and 1970s, apart from the televised events, it hosted ballroom dance nights popular among local seniors. By the 1980s and 1990s, the Bandshell had evolved into a rental facility for various promoters.



View of the audience at the main venue.

Subsequent Modifications

Bandshell Facility Improvements 2009 - 2011

The City of Miami Beach's Planning and Parks Departments undertook a series of major facility renovations since 2009. A project by BEA Architects designed the renovation for the addition of dressing rooms at the rear of the original building (east), and other upgrades to the facility. Improved the interior configuration by adapting existing baths to ADA and adding a chair lift at the south entrance, making the building accessible. Provided treatment to the exterior walls. Extended the stage, providing an additional deck to increase the existing performance area. Additionally, the project implemented sound treatments features and furnished new electronic infrastructure for the lighting system, hang points, etc.

In 2015, the Miami-based Rhythm Foundation assumed the management of the Bandshell from the city. Since then, programming has flourished, featuring over 100 events annually, including concerts, movies, dances, and various special events.

Central Canopy 2019

New 70" diameter fabric canopy, including structural, drainage and electrical support at the existing structure. Retractable canvas canopy with single steel mast, solar-powered photovoltaic lighting at perimeter; lighting protection. New swale retainage storm drainage system.

Miami Beach Bandshell Added to National Register of Historic Places 2022

The Miami Beach City Commission designated the bandshell as a local historic site on Oct. 27, 2021.

The Bandshell is the last surviving structure of its kind in Miami Beach, with three other similar structures having existed in the post-World War II era. Recognizing its historical and architectural value, the Bandshell was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2022. The City of Miami Beach highlighted the Bandshell's importance in a press release, emphasizing its role in entertainment and cultural programming for future generations.

After extensive renovation by the city, the Bandshell is now poised to cater to the next generation of Miami Beach residents and visitors.

Rear Canopy 2024 (Ongoing)

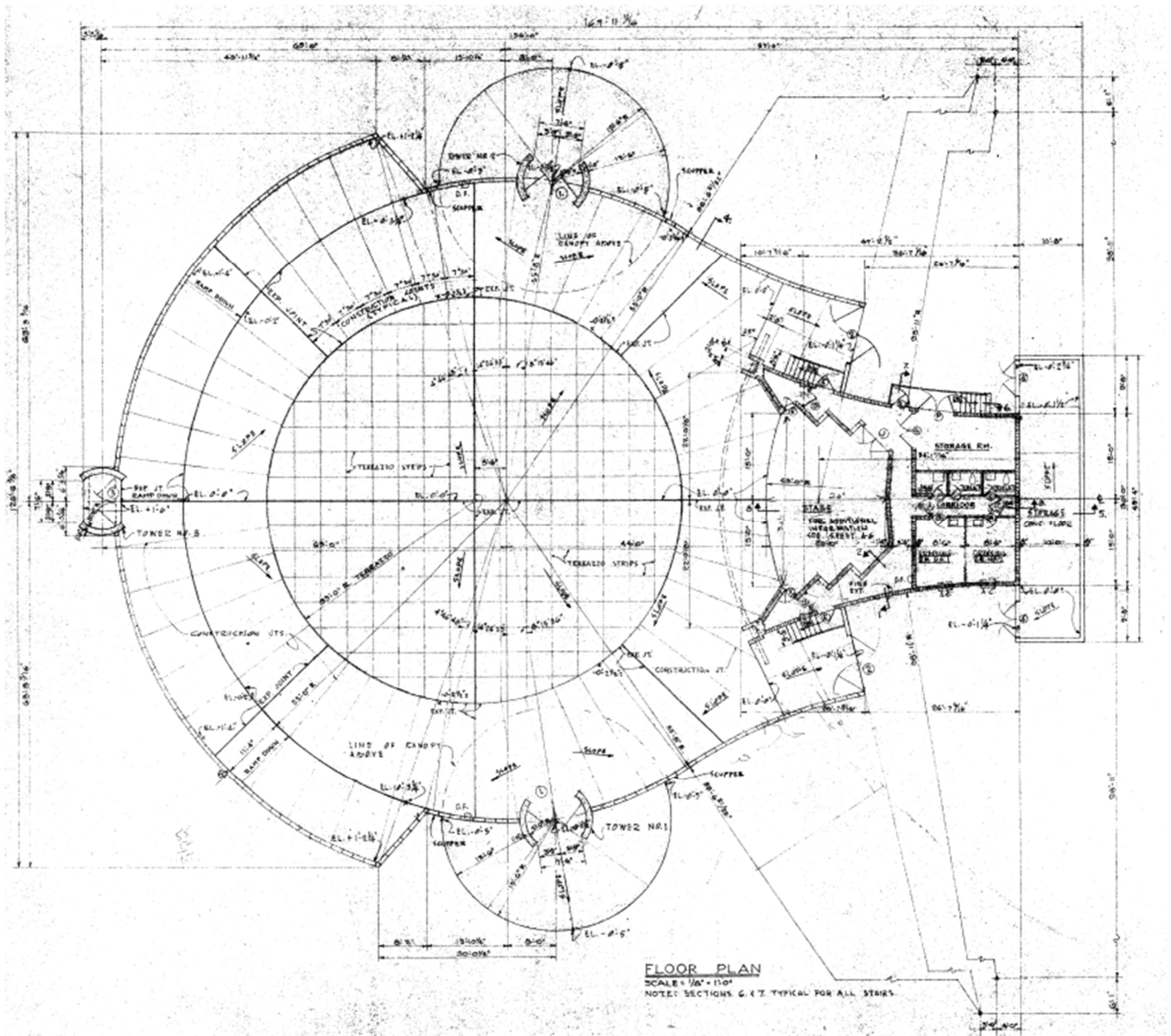
Add 2,500 S.F. rear canopy over the existing elevated seating platform.

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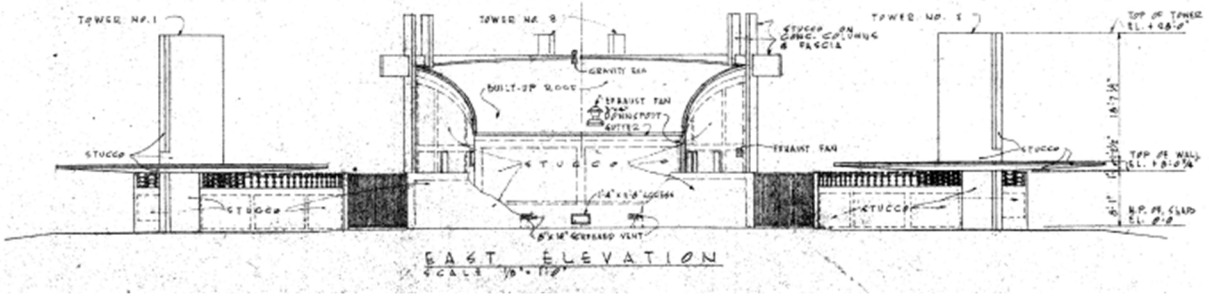
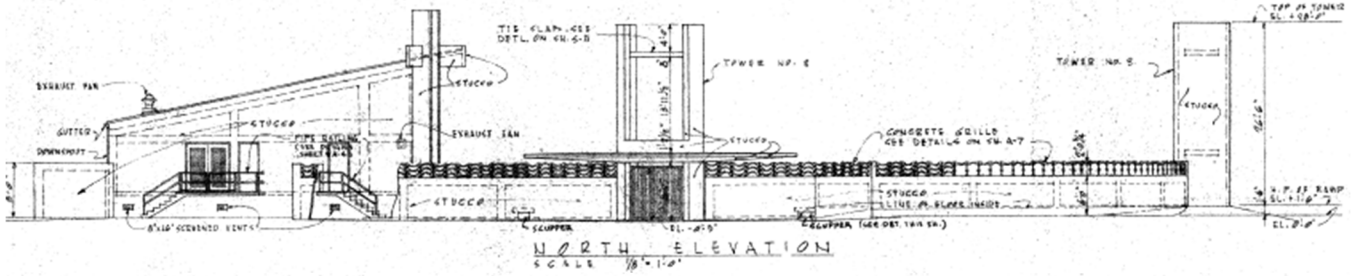
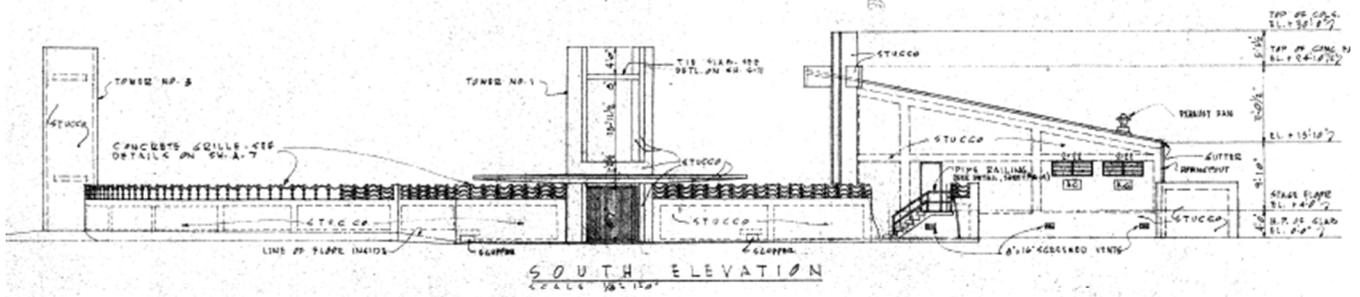
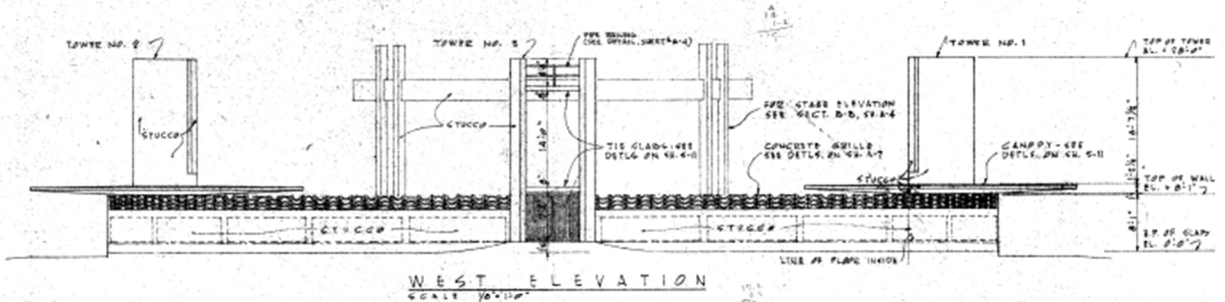


Building Data – Evolution of the original building in the site

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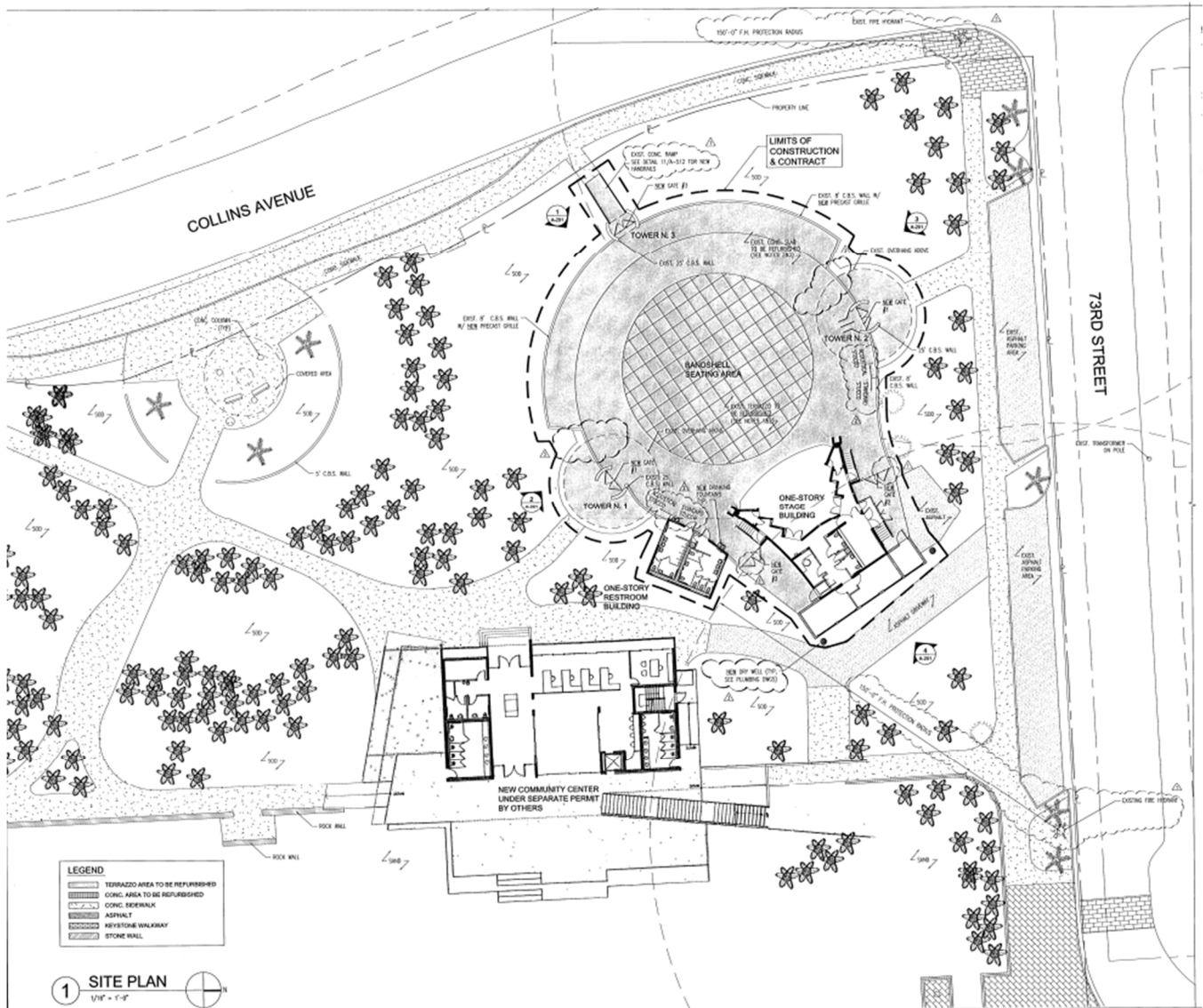


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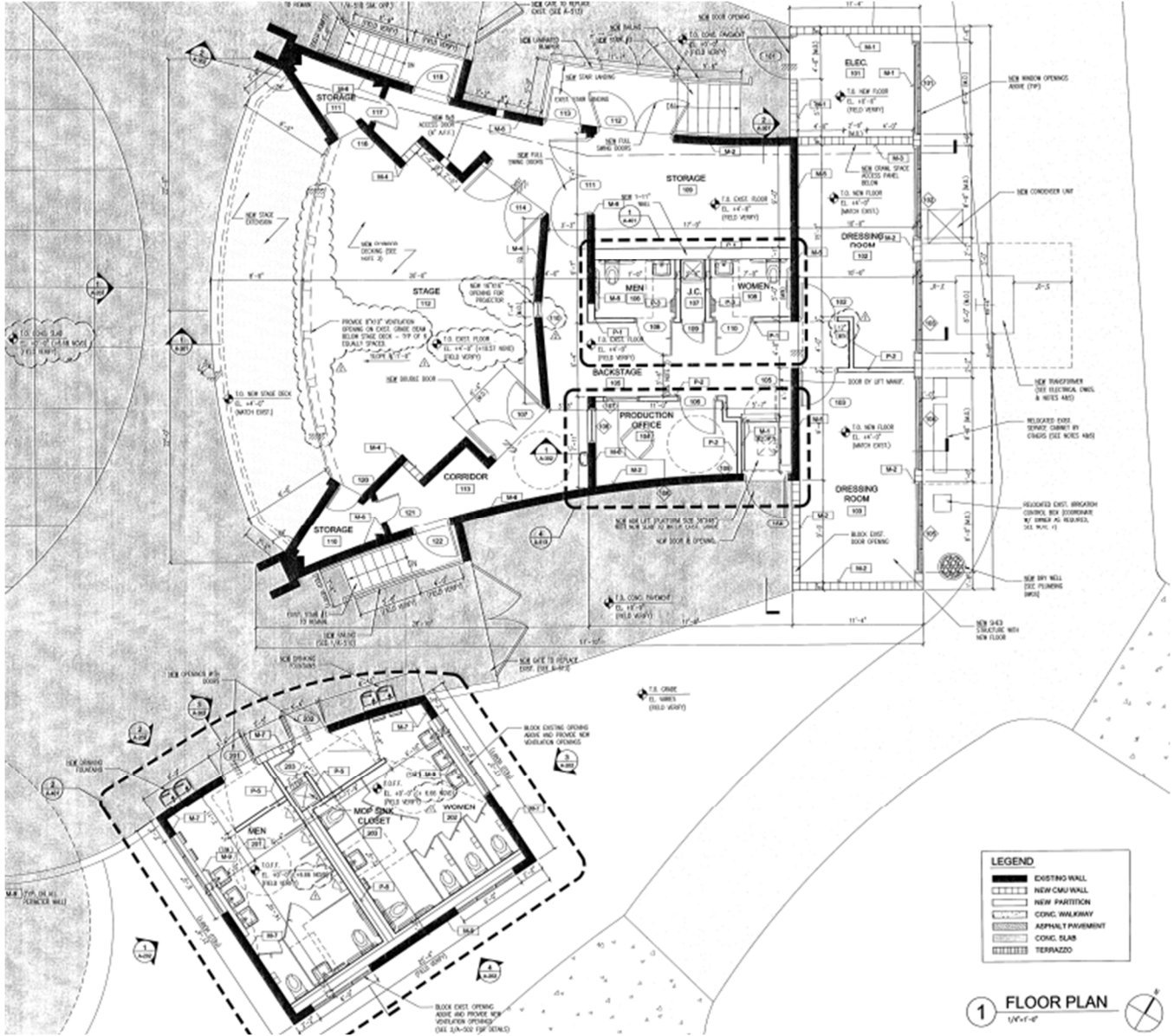


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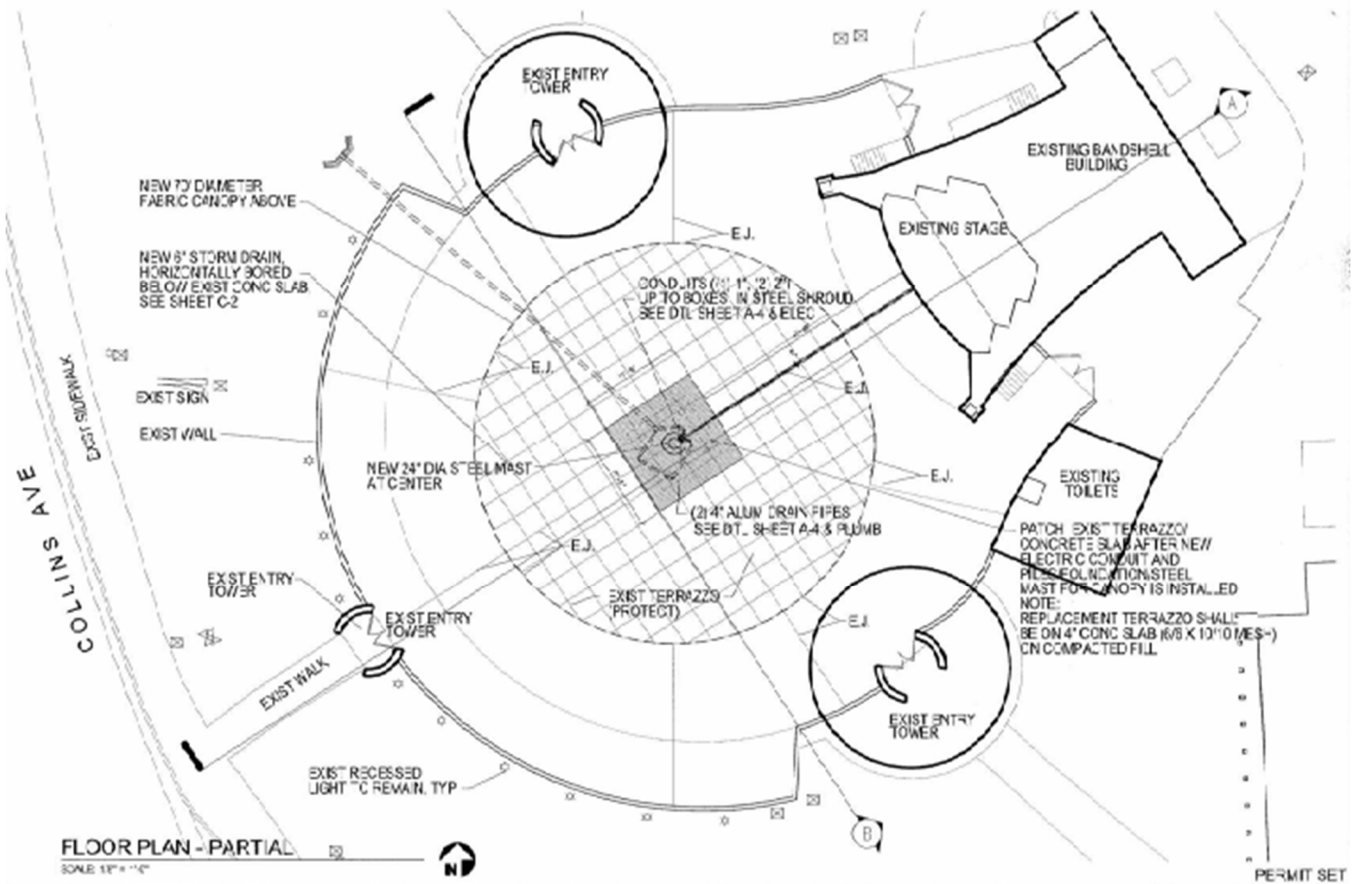
North Shore Park
Bandshell Facility Improvements – Permit # B0903661



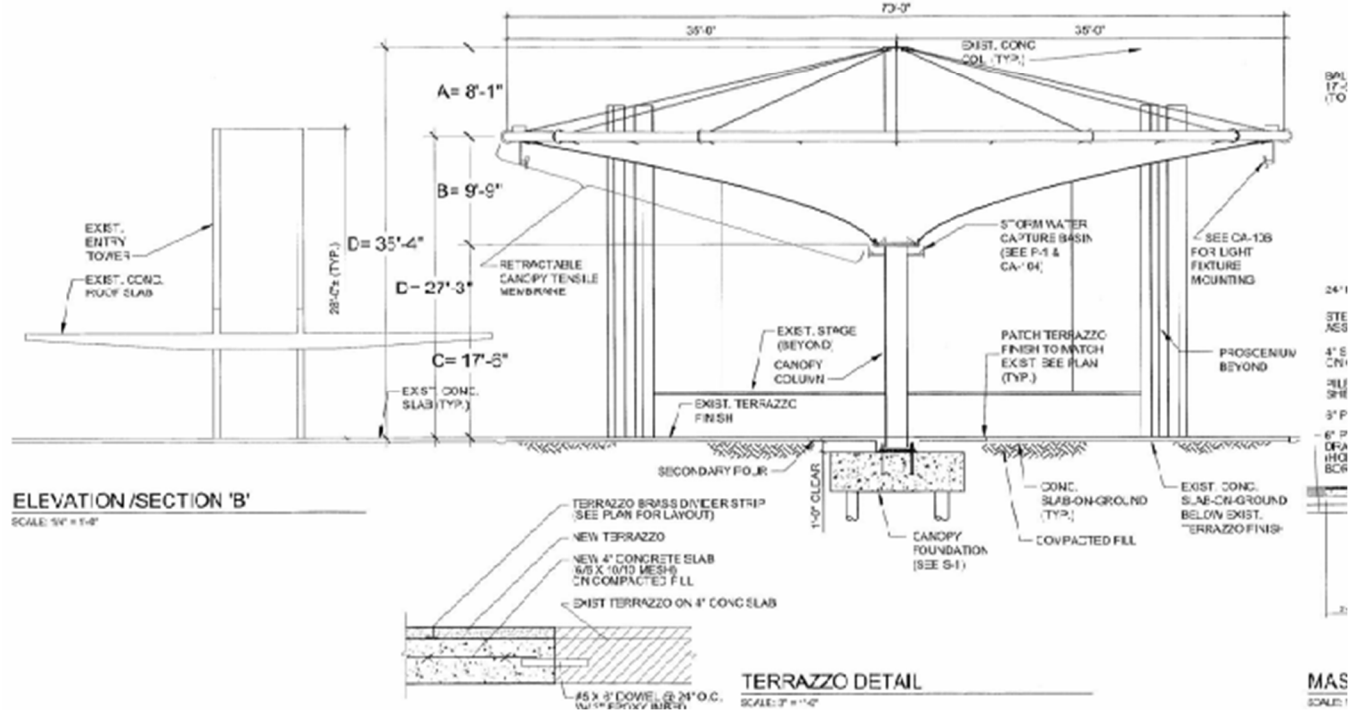
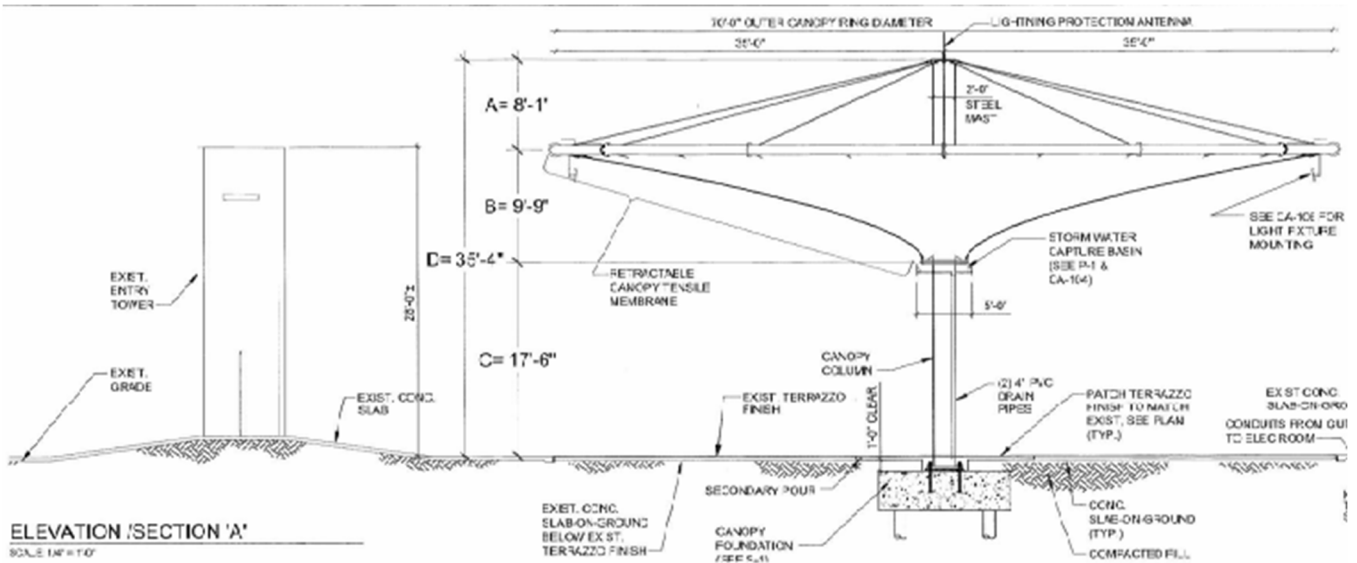
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 6, 2022

Miami Beach Bandshell Added to National Register of Historic Places

— *The historic amphitheater was designed by renowned architect Norman Giller* —

Miami Beach, FL – The Miami Beach Bandshell — an outdoor amphitheater that is as much known for its geometric expression of Miami modernist architecture as it is for hosting national television audiences and showcasing local talent — has been added to the prestigious National Register of Historic Places.

Designed by noted Miami Beach architect Normal M. Giller and opened to the public in 1962, the venue served as the winter home of “The Mike Douglas Show” during the 1970s, drawing big names like Jackie Gleason, Burt Reynolds, Milton Berle, K.C. and the Sunshine Band, singer-composer Bobby Goldsboro and comedian Foster Brooks among others.

“The bandshell is the last surviving structure of its kind in Miami Beach out of four that once brought entertainment to the post W.W. II generation,” explained Miami Beach Mayor Dan Gelber. “Now that the city has completed an important renovation to the complex, the bandshell is well positioned to welcome another generation of Miami Beach residents and visitors with top-notch entertainment and cultural programming.”

The register represents the official list of the nation’s historic places worthy of preservation in recognition of their importance to local communities. The Miami Beach City Commission designated the bandshell as a local historic site on Oct. 27, 2021.

Originally known as the North Shore Community Center and more recently as the North Beach Bandshell, the property is located within Bandshell Park on Collins Avenue between 72 and 73 streets adjacent to the beach and Atlantic Ocean at 7275 Collins Ave. in the city’s North Beach neighborhood.

The Rhythm Foundation took over management of the Bandshell from the city in 2015. Since then, programming has blossomed with over 100 events per year, including music concerts, movies, dance and other special events. A newly revamped website (www.MiamiBeachBandshell.com) has more information about their upcoming 35th anniversary season schedule.

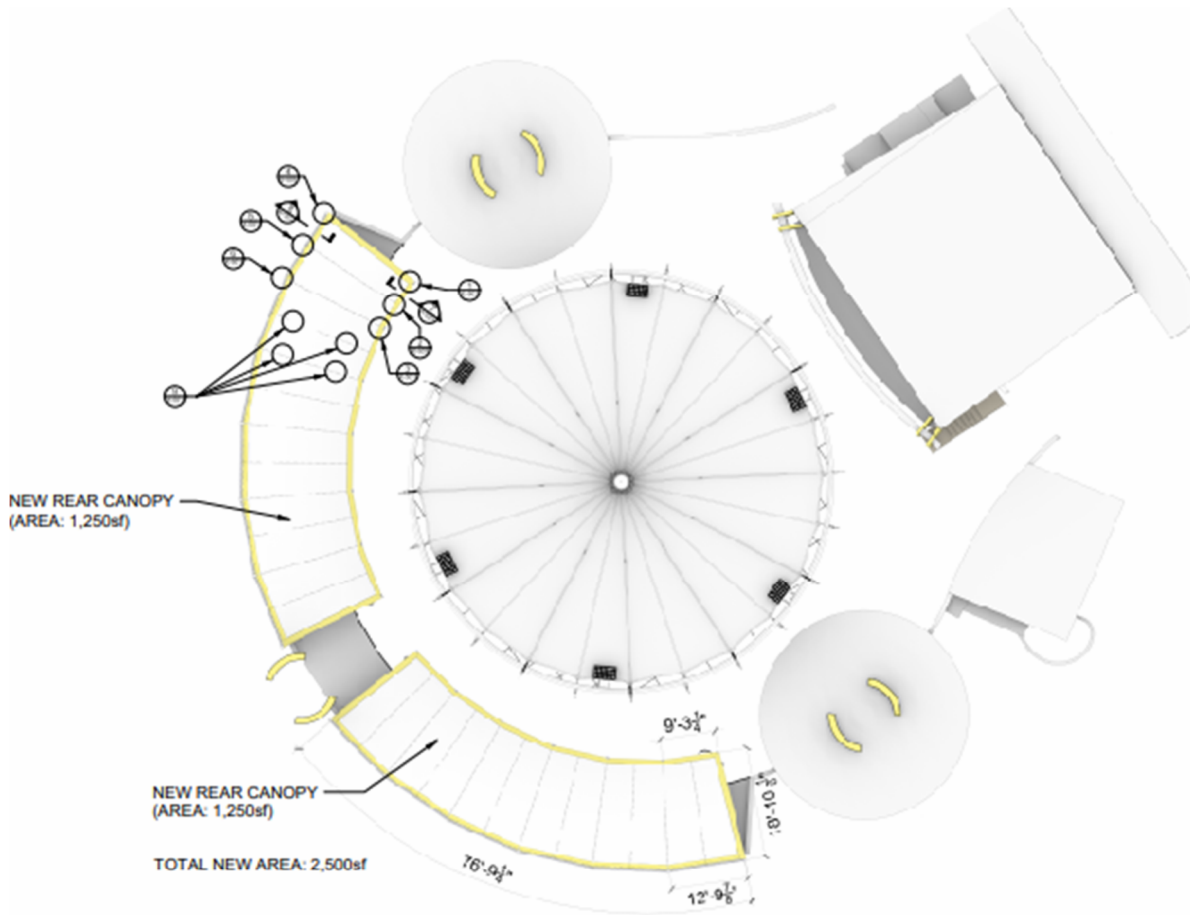
“In the design of the North Beach Bandshell, Giller’s work is characterized primarily by simple shapes, mostly circles and curves. The venue space itself is roughly circular, and each of the bandshell’s two public entrances in the tower structures are covered by large cantilevered disk-shaped canopies,” according to submission documents. “The towers serve to support the canopies. Giller wrote that he ‘placed these wide canopies rather low, so that people walking

under them are aware that they are entering an enclosed space. In contrast, those leaving the protection of the canopies immediately find themselves in view of the expansive sky.”

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Miami Beach Bandshell Rear Canopy – Permit # BPI2328133 (Ongoing)

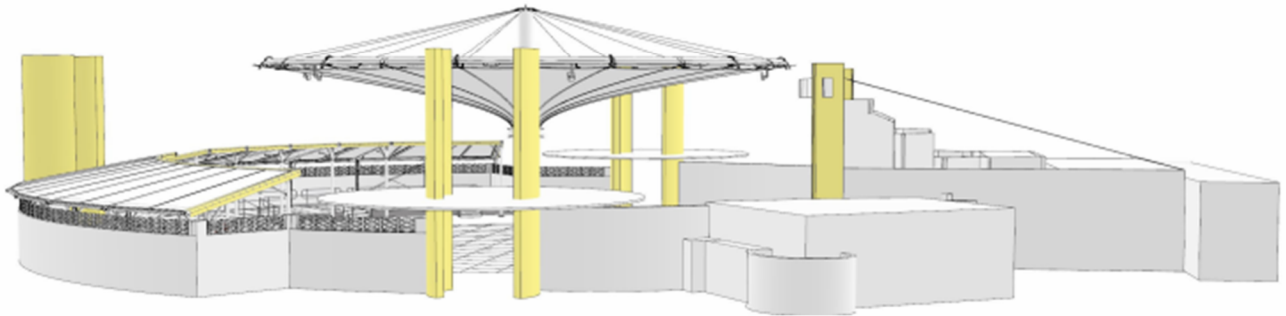
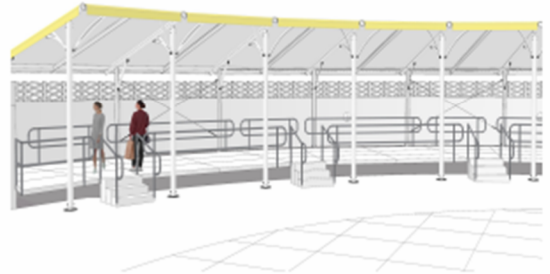
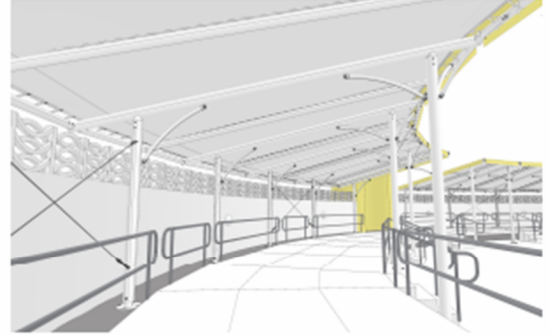
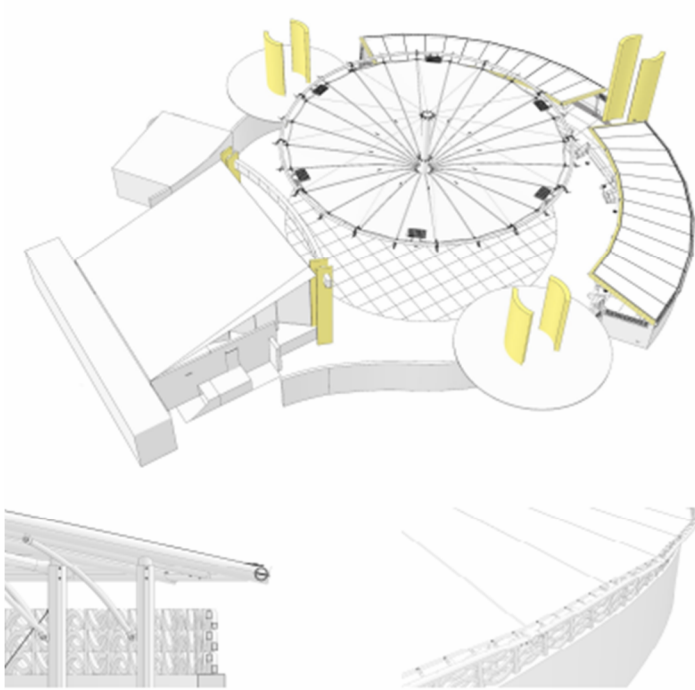


MIAMI BEACH BANDSHELL - ROOF PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



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Context Photos

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Corner of Collins Avenue (north) and 73rd Street
Commercial, medium intensity (CD-2) – Mixed use entertainment (MX-E)



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73rd Street - Mixed use entertainment (MX-E)



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Corner of 73rd Street and Collins Avenue (south)



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Collins Avenue and Bandshell Park



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Collins Avenue and Bandshell Park

East view from Unidat Senior Center – Service drive (rear, of Bandshell)

