



Michael Walsh Begins Term as Chair of the Coral Gables Community Foundation

CORAL GABLES, FL – January 19, 2024 – The Board of Directors of the Coral Gables Community Foundation is pleased to welcome Michael Walsh as its Chair for 2024 and 2025. Walsh has served as Chair Elect since he was voted to the position at the close of 2021 and he has served in leadership roles on the Board of Directors since being elected to join in 2017.

Walsh is a Wealth Manager and Principal at Evensky & Katz/Foldes Wealth Management in Coral Gables. Evensky & Katz has been a long-time, major supporter of the Coral Gables Community Foundation, making more than \$1M in grants through The Evensky & Katz Charitable Fund.

The new leadership was received officially by Coral Gables Mayor Vince C. Lago as the Community Foundation’s Directors gathered at the Thesis Hotel rooftop.

Walsh fills the position of Chair after the successful term of Venny Torre, Founder and President of Torre Development in Coral Gables. The Community Foundation has experienced considerable growth and notable accomplishments over the past several years including implementing a Strategic Plan, awarding 185 Scholarships worth \$807,000 and 85 Community Grants worth \$390,500; bringing the ‘Moon Over the Gables’ event showcasing UK Artist Luke Jerram’s ‘Museum of the Moon’ to Ponce Circle Park; expanding the staff from three to five employees; and moving into a new home in the historic Fewell Building in the cultural heart of the city.



Prior to joining Evensky & Katz, Walsh was a financial analyst with Summit Financial Resources and a graduate assistant at Texas Tech University. Before joining the Texas Tech staff, Michael was a charitable consultant in New Jersey where he helped raise over \$12 million dollars in planned and current gifts for non-profits around the greater New York area. He also is a board member of The Prologue Society, a literary group which fosters interest in and understanding of the history and culture of all peoples and nations.

Coral Gables Community Foundation's Board recently expanded with the addition of new directors

- [Erin Dowd](#), Corporate Director of Government & Community Relations at Baptist Health South Florida
- [Danielle Gonzalez](#), Real Estate Shareholder at Greenberg Traurig Focused on Commercial Real Estate Law.
- [Dr. Alyssa Herman](#), a Coral Gables dermatologist and skin-cancer surgeon
- [Maria Fernanda Mejia](#), a veteran chief executive of a fortune-200 firm
- [Laura Rossi](#), a Senior Vice President, Head of Investor Relations & Sustainability for Amerant Bank, an annual corporate sponsor of the Foundation

Board members continuing to serve include Chair-Elect Michael McCarthy; Immediate Past Chairman Venny Torre; Secretary Elizabeth Parnes; Treasurer Kaiser Ahmed; Community Giving Committee Co-Chairs David Olazabal and Ashley Cusack; Scholarship Committee Chair Matthew Meehan; Directors Bill Bonn; Sissy DeMaria-Koehne; Chris W. Erickson; Eric Gros-Dubois, Esq.; Adriana Verdeja; Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz, Esq.; John Harris; Liz Parnes; Dr. Sadia Raja-Alfonso; Aura Reinhardt; Scott J. Richey and Peter Zubizarreta; Ex-Officio Members Wayne Eldred and Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson.

ABOUT CORAL GABLES COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



The Coral Gables Community Foundation, founded by community leaders in 1991, inspires impactful philanthropy through charitable funds and programs using local knowledge, expertise and trusted relationships. The Foundation, through its discretionary, donor-advised and scholarships funds, provides grants to local nonprofits, scholarships to deserving students and has supported issues within the Foundation's focus areas: Education, Arts & Culture, Historic Preservation & the Environment, and Social & Health Services. Learn more at www.GablesFoundation.org.