

Memorandum

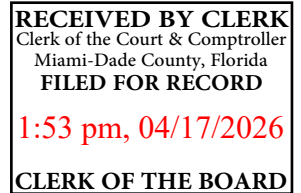


Date: April 17, 2026

To: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava *Daniella Levine Cava*
Mayor

Subject: Mayoral Appointment – Director of the Miami-Dade Public Library System



Pursuant to the authority vested in me under Section 2.02(C) of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, I hereby appoint Lydia A. Lopez to the position of Director of the Miami-Dade Public Library System (MDPLS), effective immediately.

Lydia has more than a decade of experience working in libraries, supporting their success, and delivering essential leadership and core services to our community. Specifically, Lydia has worked for MDPLS for the past five years—most recently serving as Interim Director, a role in which she planned and directed the provision of library services and programs, and managed a \$133 million budget, 800 full and part-time employees, 50 library locations, and a service area that includes nearly 3 million residents. Prior to her appointment as Interim Director, Lydia served as Assistant Director of MDPLS and as a Manager of Library and Legislative and Municipal Affairs. She has also worked in the County Executive Offices supporting the Library, Cultural Affairs, and various other County departments, as well as serving as Assistant Director of Budget & Human Resource Operations for Florida International University's Library System.

Lydia holds a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of South Florida, a Master of Public Administration degree from Florida International University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History from Florida International University. Her resume is attached for your reference.

Please join me in congratulating Lydia on this appointment and we look forward to her continued leadership of our library system.

Attachment

- c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
- Jess McCarty, First Assistant County Attorney
- Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
- Department Directors
- Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
- Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
- Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board
- Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator

Lydia A. Lopez

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305.375.5026 Lydia.Lopez@miamidade.gov

WORK EXPERIENCE

Miami-Dade Public Library System, Miami-Dade County, Miami, FL

January 2026 – April 2026

Interim Director

- Plans and directs the provision of library services and programs to the public for a library system with a \$133 million budget, 800 full and part-time employees, 50 library locations, and a service area that includes approximately 2.7 million residents.
- Provides strategic direction to ensure the effective delivery of library services, including oversight of the activities of 50 library locations, digital learning and creative labs, mobile and remote library service operations, acquisitions and selection of materials and content in print and digital formats, and evaluation of innovative hardware and software platforms and subscription products to improve library access for the public.
- Furthers the mission and leadership role of the Library through involvement in state and national library associations, working groups, and committees that serve to share knowledge and expertise throughout the library profession and that serve to advocate for library legislative and appropriations issues.
- Directs support operations, including the capital improvement program, facility maintenance, real estate and development initiatives, human resources, budget and accounting, and procurement activities.
- Directs marketing and communications efforts and development of programming and outreach activities to increase awareness of the library and to provide a broad range of activities to meet the needs of a diverse population.
- Serves as liaison to the Library Advisory Board and the Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library System, ensuring strong governance, alignment with system priorities, and effective collaboration with nonprofit stakeholders.
- Sustains productive relationships with County, municipal, and elected officials, as well as nonprofit and community partners, to strengthen support for library services.
- Maintains effective relations with the State Library to ensure proper oversight and utilization of grant programs such as State Aid to Libraries, the Public Library Construction program, and the Library Services and Technology Act program; also works closely with nonprofit agencies and other public and private sector entities to create programmatic and funding opportunities that benefit the public.

Miami-Dade Public Library System, Miami-Dade County, Miami, FL

October 2022 – January 2026

Assistant Director

- Managed special projects, countywide initiatives, and policy development, including implementation of the County's No Wrong Door and Thrive305 initiatives; managed the Library's Thrive305 grant program that supports small business development training, worker training, educational programming and educational opportunities for residents; served as primary liaison for the Friends of the Library, the nonprofit that provides funding and advocacy support for the Library; assisted the Director in the day-to-day management of 50 library locations, 700+ employees, strategy and business plan development, and an operating budget of approximately \$100 million.
- Directed, supervised, and managed the development and implementation of the Library's marketing and communications division that is responsible for the department's marketing plan, including creation and dissemination of advertising, media engagements, press releases, social media, management of public records, as well as graphics and print materials to promote library resources, services, and programs/events to residents and community partners.
- Directed and managed library real estate, including management of leases with municipalities, other County departments, and private landlords for use as library locations. This included coordination with

County and external stakeholders on new leases, lease renewals, temporary leases, and planning and development associated with current future library locations. Worked with County Attorney's Office, Real Estate (PIOD) and Risk Management to negotiate and review lease agreements to ensure they comply with County rules, regulations, and standards prior to Board of County Commissioners approval.

- Directed and supervised the Library's Special Collections division, which includes the Library's unique and irreplaceable historical materials, the Permanent Art Collection – that includes approximately 7,000 items, and the digital collection unit.

Miami-Dade Public Library System, Miami-Dade County, Miami, FL

November 2020 – October 2022

Legislative & Municipal Affairs Manager – Director's Office

- Directed, planned, and coordinated departmental agenda items and Board Directives with the Mayor's Office for submittal to the Board of County Commissioners. Reviewed and analyzed legislative items that may impact the department and reviewed with appropriate departmental staff. Met with Board members and staff and the County Attorney's Office on legislative issues.
- Developed departmental strategic goals, objectives, and performance metrics. Monitored and analyzed federal and state legislative items with interest to the Department. Coordinates with state agencies and legislative committees to obtain additional funding for the department.
- Reviewed contracts, agreements, leases and permits to ensure they are in the best interest of the County, conform with policies and objectives, and meet legal and administrative requirements.
- Served as departmental liaison with various Mayor's Office divisions: Constituent Services, Equity & Engagement, and Intergovernmental Affairs; and assists the Director with oversight and management of the Miami-Dade Public Library Advisory Board and the Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library.

Office of the Mayor, Miami-Dade County, Miami, FL

April 2015 – November 2020

Assistant to the Deputy Mayor/Senior Advisor

- Assisted the Mayor's Senior Advisor in day-to-day oversight of departmental portfolio: Department of Cultural Affairs, Miami-Dade Public Library System, and Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department.
- Collaborated and advised portfolio departments on various development agreements, organizational policy and personnel matters, budget, and strategic plans.
- Reviewed, modified, and approved/disapproved legislation and agenda items to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for content and form. Key legislation included Arshat Operating Agreement, Vizcaya reorganization from County department to non-profit, Museum of Science CDT grant to address \$35M fundraising shortfall, and creation of numerous Special Taxing Districts and Community Development Districts.
- Facilitated and/or participated in meetings with and responded to questions from County Commissioners and Commission staff, represented County Mayor's Office at Board of County Commission, Commission Committees and other community, interdepartmental and department meetings. Represented the Mayor's Office at Vizcaya Trust meetings, Library Advisory meetings, as well as the Age Friendly Initiative.

University Libraries, Florida International University, Miami, FL

January 2013 –April 2015

Assistant Director of Budget & Human Resource Operations

- Assisted the Dean and Associate Deans in determining the University Libraries' short- and long-term performance objectives and metrics, as it pertained to personnel and budget matters.
- Directed the human resource functions for all the Department's 110 FTE and 400+ part-time employees by administering the recruitment, hiring, evaluation, retention, and separation practices at the Libraries.

- Served as the Libraries' financial officer, monitoring and facilitating all financial matters for the Department, including planning and management of the Libraries' budgets (\$16M).

EDUCATION

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL – Master of Library and Information Science, August 2022

Florida International University, Miami, FL – Master of Public Administration, April 2015

- *Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in Public Administration, April 2015*
- *Member of Pi Alpha Alpha Florida*

Florida International University, Miami, FL – Bachelor of Arts in Art History, April 2008

- *Graduated magna cum laude*
- *Member of Golden Key Honors Society*

BOARD / COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS & AWARDS

- **Southeast Florida Library Information Network (SEFLIN)**
Board Member, March 2025 – present
- **Florida Library Association**
Library of the Year Award – 2024 & Excellence in Marketing and Public Relations Award - 2024
- **Library Journal**
Movers & Shakers Award: People Shaping the Future of Libraries, March 2023
- **National Association of Counties (NACo)**
Achievement Award for Community ID Program
- **Florida Library Association**
Advocacy & Legislative Committee member, March 2021–present
- **Vizcaya Museum & Gardens Trust, Inc.**
Board Member, Miami-Dade County Mayor appointee, July 2019–present
- **Advisory Board for the Master of Public Administration Program, Florida International University**
April 2016–April 2018