

Community Background Report

Little Haiti

County

Miami-Dade

Boundaries

North: Northwest/Northeast 79th Street / Little River

South: Northwest/Northeast 54th Street

West: Interstate 95

East: Northeast 4th Avenue / Northeast 2nd Avenue

Community Type

Neighborhood

History

The neighborhood of Little Haiti (French: La Petite Haïti, Haitian Creole: Ti Ayiti), [is situated east of Liberty City, west of Bayside and Morningside, north of Buena Vista, and south of Little River. People began settling near Biscayne Bay, north of the Miami River, following the Civil War. By 1889, a community began to take shape, known as “Motto”. In 1890, a school was opened, and the settlement had several businesses, a newspaper, and port facilities on Biscayne Bay. The community was renamed “Lemon City” in 1893. When the Florida East Coast Railway was extended in 1896, Miami began to overshadow Lemon City. The area only became officially known as “Little Haiti” in 2016, when Miami commissioners voted in favor of designating the area as an official neighborhood, with boundaries overlapping the historic Lemon City and Edison, an adjacent community founded by Bahamians immigrants before Miami existed. Little Haiti’s official neighborhood boundaries were also revised in 2016. Little Haiti is known as a neighborhood of Haitian exiles, and its Haitian French-Creole culture is evident in its place names, its street arts, its small businesses, authentic eateries, and its art, music and theatre venues.

Community Dynamics

According to U.S. 2010 Census and American Community Survey 2015 5-year data, Little Haiti has a population of 33,596, 66% of which are working age from 18 to 64. The average per capita income is \$ 17,248.48, which is much lower than Miami-Dade County’s average per capita income of \$28,823. The population is 23.5% Hispanic and 76.5% non-Hispanic. Furthermore, 24% of the population is White (including Hispanic White), 71.4% is Black, and 4.6% Others. A non-English language is spoken by only 11.6% of the population. Regarding education level, 60% of the population has less than a high school education, which is much higher than Miami-Dade County’s 48.86%. Foreign-born individuals make up 43.5% of the population, out of which

37% are naturalized citizens, while 63% are not U.S. citizens. Of the foreign-born residents, 79% are from the Caribbean, 10.6% are from Central America and 6.4% are from South America.

Business Landscape

Little Haiti's main central strip is Northeast 2nd Avenue. This area has become more culturally and commercially important in recent years. The nearby Wynwood and Design Districts have become popular arts and culture havens, with streets lined with galleries and commercial art storefronts. The whole area, in just a handful of years, has been infused with an artistic energy and an appreciation for high-design and street art. With the development of Wynwood and the Design District, and the increasing prices for space in those areas, Little Haiti and Little River have emerged as an arts haven, as well. The programming at the Little Haiti Cultural Center offers local community initiatives. Located next door, The Caribbean Marketplace was designed by Charles Harrison Pawley in the style of the typical Haitian gingerbread architecture. The Haitian Cultural Arts Alliance has exhibitions and programming, located at 225 Northeast 59th Street.

Commercial property is located along Northeast 54th and 62nd Streets, Miami Avenue, and Northeast 4th Court. These corridors are characterized by businesses such as restaurants, botanicas, hair and beauty shops, music stores, grocers, and automobile repair shops.

Little Haiti contains an industrial center of growing economic importance, becoming one of the major employers in the area and one of the major manufacturing and distribution centers in the city. Light manufacturing and warehouse uses are concentrated in Little River Industrial Park on Northeast 55th Court.

Due to its relatively high elevation above sea level, Little Haiti has become more interesting to developers, along with the neighboring Liberty City.

Little Haiti is served by a variety of public schools: five elementary schools, two middle schools, and two high schools. It also has access to three branches of the Miami-Dade Public Library System: the Lemon City branch, the Edison Center Library, and the Little River Library.

Green spaces are available to the residents of Little Haiti at the Athalie Range Park, the Lemon City Park, and the Little Haiti Soccer Park.

Little Haiti has a Neighborhood Enhancement Team and a wide variety of neighborhood, commercial, and property owners' associations. Addresses and contact information are available in the City of Miami governmental website.

The Little Haiti Service Center is located at the Arthur E. Teele, Jr. Community Center, 6301 Northeast 2nd Avenue.

Transportation

Little Haiti's largest transportation arteries are located at its edges, with Interstate 95 forming the western boundary, Northwest/Northeast 54th Street at its southern edge, Northwest/Northeast 79th Street forming its northern boundary, and Biscayne Boulevard just east of its eastern boundary. Northeast 2nd Avenue is also a main strip.

Miami-Dade Transit bus lines run throughout the Little Haiti neighborhood, notably on Northwest/Northeast 2nd Avenue, Northwest/Northeast 54th Street, Northwest/Northeast 62nd Street, Northwest/Northeast 71st Street, and Northwest/Northeast 79th Street. Little Haiti is also served by the free Miami Trolley.

Reference

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