

Bicentennial Park

Miami, FL

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Area: Approx. 31 acres
Client: City of Miami
Year Adopted: 2003

For more information, visit doverkohl.com.

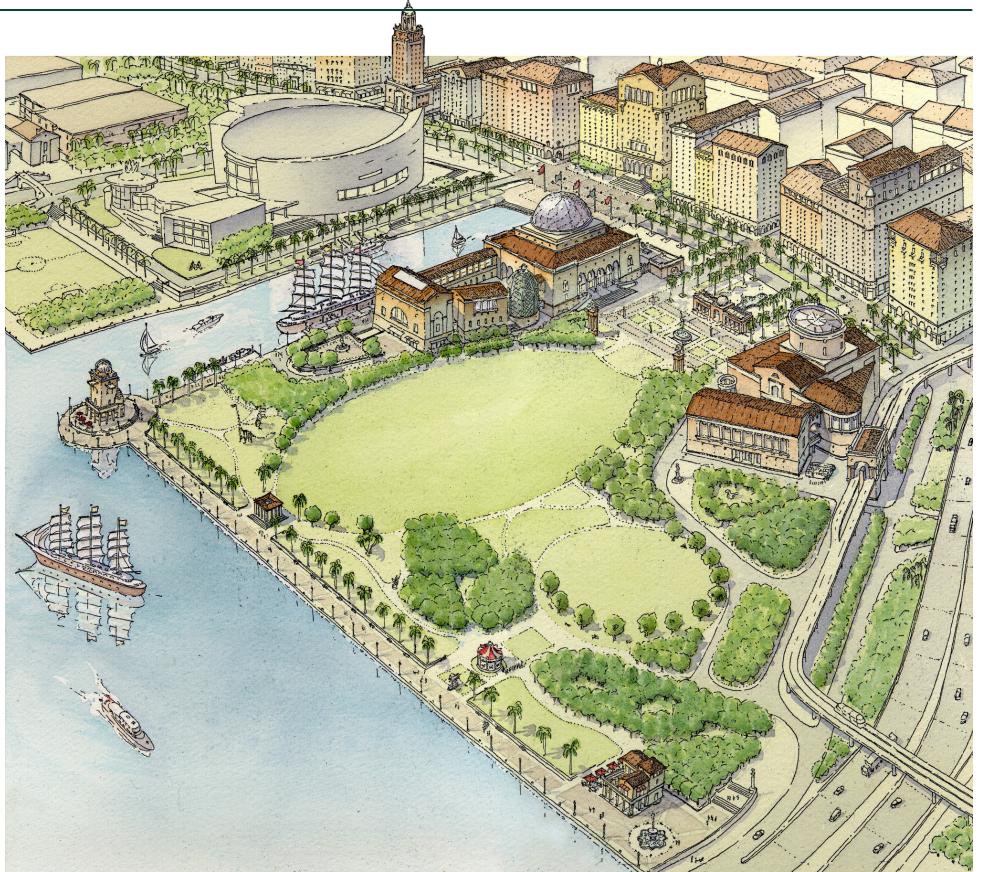


Scenario 1, above, shows few buildings, except for pavillions, within the park. The slip becomes a park edge and buildings along Biscayne Boulevard provide the urban street wall that would be necessary to shape the space. A drawback of this scenario was that the unshielded freeway, I-395, could affect one's enjoyment of the park.

Scenario 2, at right, was the one chosen by the City Commission for further refinement. This scenario shows the Art and Science Museums within the Park, but maintains a view corridor through the center of it. I-395 is partially shielded from view.



Scenario 3 shows a layer of private development that could have lined the slip, funded park improvements, and increased natural surveillance in the park.



The Project

Great public spaces define the image and character of mature cities. In those cities, three inherent qualities appear again and again. First, they are walkable places. Second, their streets and parks are framed by consistently interesting architecture. And third, they have generously proportioned outdoor spaces. Bicentennial Park is the last, best opportunity to create a first-quality public environment on the Downtown Miami waterfront. Museums and their outdoor exhibition grounds will create destinations inside the park. The museums will be placed so as to define the western edges of the park and to give them prestigious addresses and prominence on Biscayne Boulevard. They will also help conceal I-395 from view, while maintaining a wide view corridor of Biscayne Bay between them. The museums' service areas are to be located on the backs of the buildings away from view of the central open space, which is intended for passive recreation, informal play, and special events.

The Process

Dover, Kohl & Partners led a public charrette in 2001 that was attended by almost 400 people, during which citizen planners explored three scenarios. The first was a scenario with very few buildings in the park. The second had a portion of the park set aside for museums and other cultural institutions. The third let private development into the park in order to better define public spaces and fund park improvements. After lengthy public debates by the Board of City Commissioners, the second scenario was chosen and was dubbed, "Museum Park."

Bicentennial Park was the last, best opportunity to create a first-quality public environment on the Downtown Miami waterfront. Museums and their outdoor exhibition grounds are now destinations inside the park. The Perez Art Museum Miami and the Frost Science Museum line the western edges of the park to give them prestigious addresses and prominence on Biscayne Boulevard. They also help conceal I-395 from view, while maintaining a wide view corridor of Biscayne Bay between them.

The museums' service areas are located on the backs and below the buildings away from the view of the central open space, which is intended for passive recreation, informal play, and special events.