

0 SIGHTFUL MOBILIZING MIAMI FOR SEA LEVEL RISE **Embodied Research**

JUNE-AUGUST 2016

amation For A Greater Miami



PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH:

To help The Miami Foundation prioritize policy and action recommendations for local governments to adapt for sea-level rise in Miami; and to develop guidelines for culturallyresponsive messaging to engage residents in advocating for action.

The Process

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01

Thought Leader Interviews Interviews with five Miami influencers

deeply engaged with the issue of SLR



Insights Workshop City officials and influencers

engaged with the issue of SLR come together to learn, share and hone in on solutions.

Distribution of Findings, Next Steps...

Media Audit

Overview of current media related to Miami Sea-Level Rise and Climate Communications



02

5 Embodied Focus Groups

Business Community Frontlines High Risk/Socioeconomically Vulnerable Political Influencers Millennials



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



Top 5 TakeAways

1. We still have an awareness issue.

Many people in Miami don't understand the complexity or scale of the SLR problem. Some due to language barriers; some due to denial or fear; some due to their focus on more pressing needs.

2. We need "the opposite of panic."

People agree that it's unwise to wait to act until disaster strikes. Coordinated communication on what actions are being taken and what is still necessary could improve confidence and increase engagement.

3. Skepticism inhibits action.

Skepticism about the capacity of city/county officials to prioritize this and handle it is high. Economically-vulnerable communities especially, feel disconnected from decision-making. And many feel powerless in the face of entrenched commercial and political interests.

4. Seeing this as an opportunity is motivating.

The idea of taking this as an opportunity to embrace change and become a model "City of the Future" was a popular and motivating meme. Innovation and imagination can thrive in the face of the crisis. The business community, especially appreciated this call-to-action.

5. Water is the problem and the solution.

Protecting the water supply was the policy action of highest priority—something for all to rally around. Water unites Miamians and is a great democratizer. The answer lies in "living with water" in new ways.

Top 5 Communication Recommendations

1. Less doom and gloom.

Tell people what's happening <u>and</u> what they can do about it. A good rule of thumb for messaging is 1/3 "fear" for urgency + 2/3 "hope" to motivate and empower.

2. Have frequent, genuine conversations.

Public meetings, town halls, collaborative decision-making technologies, social media...the more transparent, open, and two-way the conversation, the better. We need unlikely advocates and more inclusive forums to reach more people quickly.

3. Clear leadership and accountability.

Who is doing what? What has been done? What are other cities doing? Who can step up and take charge? People are looking for fearless leadership and trustworthy sources. This must not get mired in political angling and partisanship. We must demonstrate a willingness to rise above pettiness.

4. Engage artists, activists, youth and elders.

Storytelling, art, and self-expression are critical to engaging the public. Hack-A-Thons, public performance, and other creative means of communication are essential to educating and including the whole community effectively. Call on citizens to help solve this!

5. Need a real vision and plan of action.

Where are we headed? The clearer the long-term vision for the city, the more courage and conviction we will see in personal and professional decisions about staying, investing, building a city of the future...



MEDIA AUDIT AND INTERVIEWS



Media

In the news



US|Resettling the First American 'Climate **Refugees'**

New York Times - 3 days ago Isle de Jean Charles in southeastern Louisiana. A \$48 million federal grant h





Nicole Hernandez Hammer Southeast Climate Advocate at Union of Concerned **Scientists**

Javier Soto President and CEO of The Miami Foundation

Thought Leaders



Rebekah Monson Cofounder, WhereBy.Us Cofounder, The New Tropic

Jack Lowell **Executive Vice President** at Colliers International

> Caroline Lewis Founder and Executive Director at The CLEO Institute

DOMINANT

Rational issue

Awareness

Conservative predictions

Lifestyle-preservation Environmentalists

Maps Data-driven stories Blame, us vs. them Isolated impacts Mitigation Worst case scenarios

Activism Sacrifice Apps

EMERGENT

- Moral, ethical issue Activism
- Dire predictions, actual events Sacrifice
- Unlikely voices, politicians, CEOs

Human-centric stories All of us are complicit, atonement Interdependence, cause & effect Regeneration Plans of action







"As a resident of Miami, I'm part of a family and a community, and I'm learning the science. I'm also considering the people aspect. This is about communities as much as it is about my own life," Fletcher said. "I've been working and trying to figure out how we make sure Miami is taking bold action around adjusting and adapting to climate change. How do we get people involved on every level of society — economic, racial, age? How do we get everyone involved?"





How South Florida Is Ignoring The State's Leading Politicians And Taking On Climate Change

In the news



US|Resettling the First American 'Climate **Refugees'**

New York Times - 3 days ago Isle de Jean Charles in southeastern Louisiana. A \$48 million federal grant has been ...

Miami-Dade Could Ask Developers to Pay for Climate Change Costs

BY JESSICA LIPSCOMB

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2016 AT 8:30 A.M.

BY KATHE VALENTINE S MAY 21, 2014 9:18 AM











"The opportunity here is for Miami to be a think tank and experimental ground that can help other cities facing the same thing. This is a service to future generations."

- Caroline Lewis, CLEO Institute

"Don't just tell people 'you're vulnerable." Tell them what they can do!"

- Caroline Lewis, CLEO Institute

"We'll look back 20 years from now and we'll be complicit if we don't act."

-Javier Soto, The Miami Foundation

"Those of us who are doubling down on what we're putting into this city...People think we're sort of crazy."

- Rebecca Monson, The New Tropic

"This is an actual business opportunity if approached the right way."

- Jack Lowell, Colliers International

"The economic impact for communities is the next big aspect of this story. This will affect everyone."

-Javier Soto, The Miami Foundation

"There are big gaps in communication and understanding...Government doesn't understand equity issues. Scientists don't understand financial issues. Low income communities don't understand day-to-day realities of climate change. There is not one shared story about the future of Miami."

> -Nicole Hernandez Hammer, Union of Concerned Scientists

WHAT WE LEARNED IN THE GROUPS

Typical Focus Group





Embodied Focus Group



CLOSE TO ME

ASON WEEKS BIT

FEDR IS RESPONSE

S CANDONES SAUCHAR



THE 5 GROUPS

- **BUSINESS COMMUNITY**
 - FRONTLINES
- ECONOMICALLY VULNERABLE
 - POLITICAL INFLUENCERS
 - MILLENNIALS 20-34 year-old engaged

Business leaders: real estate, hospitality, finance

People who live on the geographic frontline

Community organizers from low income neighborhoods

Community leaders who influence blocks of people

Miamians

WHAT THE SESSIONS LOOKED LIKE

3 HOURS





Where We Stand KINESTHETIC DATA VISUALIZATION

TESTING CONCEPTS THROUGH MOVEMENT. EVERY BODY BECOMES A DATA POINT

 CONVERSATION HAPPENS IN TRANSPARENCY



Brainstorming MAKING MATERIAL RELEVANT



• GROUP CREATIVE EXERCISE: CREATE A CAMPAIGN FOR 4 POLICY PLANS

























I-2 I what can I do to combat feelings of helplessness?

I would like the business Why are folks community to become more 50 complascent? engaged in this discussion As though things to help us think outside the box to develop here? Solutions Who will PAY for this? Hoo? equity! WE-2 SAVE OUR HOW DO WE SHARE IN FO WET T WITH COMMUNITIES BUTTS

"I" I-5 How do I talk to people about climate chang & SCR without causing people to shut down + instead take action?

Willthe County prioritize

What can I do to educate our Community ?

BUSINESS COMMUNITY

PEPAREDNESS, RISK ASSESSMENT

NVESTA

VISION

LACK OF

A SWOTTE ENTERPRISE IN SOLUTION OF SOLUTIO PROSPERITY TOO "ENVIRONNE" OOT

KEEPING MIAMI COMPET

PANIC= COLLAPSE, CHAOS

G.p. T.A.

URSHIP, INNOVATION

ENTO

EFFECT

ON TAXES

OPPORTUNITY

JNYO'S PAVING?

INCENTIVES

IMMEDIATE ACTION ON SLR IS AN INVESTMENT IN MIAMI'S FUTURE

INACTION HAS THE POTENTIAL TO **DEVASTATE US**

WE HEARD...

"Don't feed fuel to the fear."

"I know what should be done. But do I know how it's done? No. It's too complex."

"County gov and 25 separate cities all trying to solve separately. It's so important for our future to bring us all together to talk about this."

"There's nothing more motivating for my clientele than the words capital improvement, infrastructure, and the economic opportunity. The governor loves that. Take out the other words, the reasons why SLR is happening, and replace it with: economic opportunity."

"I can go back and tell the bank, 'They're [Miamians] not in the fetal position under their desks.'"

FRONTLINES



OF INVENTION; EMBRACE THE CHANGE BUREAUCRACY AND DENIAL ARE FRUSTRATING AND DEMORALIZING

WE HEARD...

"We're too deep in it to see it as an opportunity."

"We can't enjoy rain because we are worried a hard fast rain will be in our house. I've had 21 inches in my house and lost everything."

"I won't allow myself to be constantly worried about it. I have to take time to enjoy the water so I'm not always worried. I see enough of that."

"We've got salt water intrusion in my well...mildew growing behind my walls....We are finding the salt water in our ecological habitat and in cultural resources. Daily I wake up, trying to figure out which of 19 problems to address."

"When you look at public opinion polls and what politicians are actually doing, there is a disconnect."

"Individual efforts seem to be more effective then elected officials."

"It's not a Miami discussion...It's the entire Eastern Seaboard....What are we waiting for? We as a country...Are we worth saving?"

WE HEARD...

"We need the opposite of panic because many of us have been dealing with this...I was standing out on the street stopping traffic when the king tide came in... We've been dealing with this. I drive a Bronco and a Jeep because it's part of life....We need solutions...Not panic....Everything we've worked for for a long time... We need a reasoned approach to maintain what we've worked for....Panic leads to conclusions where people are willing to sacrifice community, diversity, character...."

ECONOMICALLY VULNERABLE



AT THE TABLE

POWERLESSNESS THE, WRITING IS ALREADY ON THE WALLS

SEFERENCE Portuge Contractions Contractions

TTP TP ST P

BIGGER

WE HEARD...

"We could be in a Flint situation real quick." (drinking water crisis) "The water isn't at the door yet, but the sharks are already coming." "Water is part of my culture..."

"We need to prioritize the people who have the most need, not the most money."



I WILL SERVE

TOO KNOWLEDGEABLE **ABOUT THE WEAKNESSES** OF THE SYSTEM; CYNICAL

PHON

REAL CHANGE

EADERS'S

CYNICISM

WE HEARD...

"I am concerned that those closest to me don't understand the scope of the problem. We need to ascertain what messaging is relevant to each set of stakeholders. "

"We need political will...We know the solutions but we don't do it."

Cynicism: "Somebody got a contract." "Same people get elected." "Nothing ever changes." "Nothing can happen because of the state government."

"A group of citizens organized to deliver a message... Elected officials are receptive."

"Always better to be proactive than reactive. We're setting ourselves up for a better future. It's cheaper to be proactive."

MILLENNIALS



PROUD OF

CAN THE OLD SYSTEM **ADJUST QUICKLY ENOUGH?**

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UTOPIANISM

WE HEARD...

"Innovation is a social process. this is an opportunity to democratize innovation."

"This city is too 'have and have not'"

"Elected officials don't purposefully pass the buck, but the amount of municipalities makes it confusing. No one knows who to call in the 34 districts... It's easy for people to get ignored, confused, and nothing happens."

"Millennials are leaving regardless of sea level rise. But, that definitely impacts decisions."

"There is hopefulness...forward momentum in what we want Miami to be."


EMBODIED RESEARCH



SLR IS URGENT FOR MIAMI



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SLR AFFECTS MY DAY TO DAY LIFE



SOCIO-ECONOMIC AT RISK



MILLENNIALS



FRONTLINES







I AM CLEAR ABOUT SOLUTIONS AND HOW TO TAKE ACTION NOW

BUSINESS LEADERS



SOCIO-ECONOMIC AT RISK





FRONTLINES



INFLUENTIAL

- 100

THE WORLD IS WATCHING! WHAT WE DO HERE AND NOW WILL INFLUENCE HOW OTHER CITIES DEAL WITH SLR

BUSINESS LEADERS



SOCIO-ECONOMIC AT RISK



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MILLENNIALS

FRONTLINES







SLR PRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BUSINESS AND INNOVATION

BUSINESS LEADERS



SOCIO-ECONOMIC AT RISK





FRONTLINES





I HAVE A VOICE! GETTING INVOLVED WITH PUBLIC LEADERS IS VALUABLE

BUSINESS LEADERS



SOCIO-ECONOMIC AT RISK





FRONTLINES



SEA LEVEL RISE CHANGES MY BEHAVIOR NOW

BUSINESS LEADERS





Nearly all agreed that we'll see impact and need to make significant behavior changes within 10 years.

FRONTLINES



MILLENNIALS

OVERARCHING INSIGHTS



But first, we stil have an <u>awareness</u> issue.

8 INSIGHTS

Cynicism Fenton's Law Don't wait for disaster Living with water Envision the future Come together The 3 C's Only WE questions





Fenton's Law: 1/3 feor 2/3 hope





Living with water...

Come together, right now.



There are only "WE" questions.

Cynicism must be addressed.

Don't wait for CISCISTEI.



Envision the future...literally.

3 C's: Coordinate, Communicate, Celebrate...

EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Prioritize

2. Engaging, motivating language and tactics

PRIORITY #1: PROTECTING OUR WATER SUPPLY



Universally, the threat of contaminated or <u>no</u> fresh water is impactful to citizens.

Water is life and the reason many people in Miami are here.

A basic need that has nothing to do with class or race, something unifying and motivating.

The Everglades is a specific and effective rally point.

CITIZEN PERSPECTIVES

Understand the whole life cycle of water. IDEAS: movies, documentaries, VR films..."Journey of a Drop of Water." People don't understand where our water comes from...can we educate in schools, museums, flyers, newspapers, TV, water bill...

Wetlands protect us, so we must protect our wetlands.

Show animals that are threatened.

No drinking water is no joke. Show shower with dirty / salty water

Make the "Foreverglades"

Don't take water for granted. Hit us on a "gut" level, not intellectual.



PRIORITY #2: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Living with water was a big theme and citizens want to know what this looks like.

Seems to be critical to the future of this city: VISION

Communicating about these initiatives instills confidence and helps people feel secure that gov't is moving on the issue.

The idea of private partnerships and innovation/entrepreneurship opportunities was popular.

CITIZEN PERSPECTIVES

FL natural habitat is our protector: Mangroves can effortlessly adapt to SLR

Unity is the important message, plus consistency and consensus; decisions need to be in more of a coordinated way

Be transparent about costs

Present parks and public spaces + new ones: Preserve green spaces and increase blue spaces.

Living with nature (acceptance) vs. Fighting it back (controlling)



PRIORITY #3: LAND USE AND BUILDING CODE



Most citizens currently feel powerless on this issue...need ideas to bring more engagement and a sense of accountability.

Real estate and development are big industry in Miami and also highly visible.

Sentiment that the development community (and codes governing them) should be proactive on SLR in order to avoid disaster.

Time for resistance is past.

CITIZEN PERSPECTIVES

Wetlands protect us, so we must protect our wetlands. People come together under unified campaign.

Sensitivity - developers are using SLR to push out lower income residents.

All buildings need to be self-sustaining (water and energy)

Not just seawalls, but living with nature.

Building to last 2050. Instagram # for photos of building safer : #tothecode or #2thecode

Look at building codes that encourage innovation (Portland and Seattle)

lower income residents. energy)



PRIORITY #4: INSURANCE SECURITY



Lack of funds is a big threat. Will insurance be there when it's needed?

Potential for panic or economic collapse is clear in business community.

But, few everyday people understand the issue on a macro/systemic level.

Many in poorer communities and also younger people who rent, don't have or think about insurance at all.

CITIZEN PERSPECTIVES

"Personalizes it all for property owners: "Protect your nest egg." Use social media to speak directly to the insurance companies. Demand more timely understandable information from insurance providers. Elected officials must intervene on behalf of the uninsured: It's not ok, and it's not your fault. We need to advocate for solutions. "One big storm could be the end of us."

EMERGENT SLR COMMUNICATION TACTICS

Continued use of technology, apps, VR, and innovations to change the way we engage with the issue.

Hackathons, contests, play spaces, emergency dressrehearsals, art and participation

Enlisting the community and outside experts in the creation of big overall vision and better visualization of data and processes

Creating tools and messaging that serve all citizens in terms of language and distribution...Also genuine events of inclusion and participatory tools.

What is really at risk? How are decisions made? Where does my drinking water come from?

PLAY & IMAGINATION

CLEAR VISION

TECHNOLOGY

EQUITY & INCLUSION

TRANSPARENCY

TECHNOLOGY

As an accurate, interactive and easily updatable source of information.

As a tool for bringing more people into the conversation and decision-making.

Inventions and innovations to solve problems long-term.

Governments are notoriously antiquated in their use of technology and social media, but it is a powerful tool in this case.

Maybe this is what private enterprise can offer: what Uber did for public transportation...





The Mobile Virtual Reality Lab is a nearly \$20,000 project funded by the School of Communication and Journalism. Beginning in Summer 2016, the project provides enhanced digital storytelling opportunities for students and citizens of South Florida. Read the full proposal.

Visualizing Sea Level Rise

JUNE 9, 2016 / TED GUTSCHE / 0 COMMENTS

Starting in Summer 2016, eyesontherise.org member Ted Gutsche will lead a team of four FIU faculty members — including Eyes member Juliet Pinto - in efforts to visualize sea level rise in South Florida via virtual reality.

Production and Storytelling

In 2016-2017, the MVR Lab, in collaboration with eyesontherise.org, is focused on creating stories for South Florida communities that focus on the effects of sea level rise. In addition to initiatives that will produce stories about Coral Gables' immigrant communities, the lab will produce:

 A VR/3D project that introduces users to the interactive and daily experiences of sea level rise, a story that has since been difficult to tell given the "hidden" nature of rising seas in South Florida

 A VR/3D project that examines the architecture and infrastructure of South Florida related to rising seas to promote public, digital communication about future challenges to our built environment

 A VR/3D project that shows users potential water height in some areas of South Florida due to rising waters and absent of massive changes to



Search form

CHANGING SEAS

SEARCH



Have you had your chance to enjoy the beach this summer? #GuyHarvey Credit: Pura Vida Bracelets





WPBT2 South Florida PBS

PLAY & IMAGINATION

Games and apps where you can visualize Miami Rise (digital platform)

Stepping away from the Doom & Gloom we can emphasize new playspaces and the joys of living with water.

Involve people in contests and challenges that change their behaviors.

"Selfies for Sea Level Rise" - these kinds of games can motivate and raise awareness for the issue and solutions.

Start climate change education from an early age with STEM programs, elementary schools

Hackathons engage more people in solutions





How to Teach Climate Change Without Terrifying Your Students

By ROWAN MOORE GERETY + JUL 10, 2016

- SHARE Twitter Faceboo
- Googl Email



Bertha Vasquez overhauled the way she teaches climate change after seeing An Inconvenient Truth in 2007. ROWAN MOORE GERETY / WLRN

CLEAR VISION

A clear vision is needed for people to work towards, to find alignment...

Give people access to apps that simulate risks to your property: if we do nothing, if we do something

Millennials felt fear and helplessness in the face of the near future

Can we involve citizens in the solution? Artists? Students? Innovators?

What does Miami 2050 look like and how are we going to get there?

This, but for more mass audience >>>









EQUITY & INCLUSION

This is no longer the age of top-down decision-making

Tackling this issue could be revolutionary and a real departure from business as usual: through massive community involvement

TRUE EQUITY (not EQUALITY) - giving everyone the same shoe versus giving them the shoe size that fits

EVERYONE has a voice regardless of color, age, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status...

Events and experiences that demonstrate a commitment to these principles

SAVE THE DATE !! CLIMATE WORKSHOP

FREE- RESIDENTS OF ALL LOCAL COMMUNITIES

APRIL 28, 2016

6:30 – 9:00 P.M. – LUDOVICI PARK, FELLER COMMUNITY ROOM 171641 OLD CUTLER RD. PALMETTO BAY, FL 33157

DEAR PTAS/PTSAS,

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THIS <u>SAVE THE DATE</u> TO YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY. AN OFFICIAL FLYER WILL COME SOON FROM THE CLEO INSTITUTE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: CAROLINE LEWIS, CLEO INSTITUTE @ 305.284.0908

TRANSPARENCY

Millennials and other community members want more information and transparent communications in order to make the best decisions

Have a transparency symbol for companies (like B Corp) who are adopting SLR practices

Expose vested interests

Get real about the threat without inciting panic

Simple questions about how the city's systems work: where does our water come from? How long do we have?

Loomio is free and open-source software for anyone, anywhere, to participate in decisions that affect them.





onvinceandconvert.com





COMMITMENTS FROM RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS



PERSONAL PROCESS

Not let fear paralyze me Keep SLR top-of-mind Ask the right questions Educate myself Walk the walk Get on mailing lists Keep positive vision of Miami

AWARENESS

Talking to friends and family Talk to my children Share with groups I belong to Bring it to my neighborhood association Start a dialogue with developers Keep writing about it publicly Use social media to spread word

SOLUTIONS

Educate Democratic candidates Call or write my elected officials Girls camp: have the girls build an app Mock up the app we created here Invite you all to my event Invite you to be on our radio show Talk to Mayor Stoddard to host community gatherings Promote SLR PSAs when they cross my desk

DECISION-MAKER WORK SESSION

June 20, 2016

On June 20, 2016 we held a four-hour work session for SLR decision-makers, policy-makers, subjectmatter experts and communication professionals in Miami-Dade.

We shared insight and gathered additional input to crystallize the findings.

RESPONSES

"Thanks for making this tangible...turning the abstract into concrete. We hear/talk about this a lot. It can get heady and we lose sight of how to act. This was different!!" – Loren Parra, Regional Director, Office of Senator Bill Nelson

"We need media to understand their impact. We need an informed public taking educated action. Without that, the conversation is based on fear and anger and frustration and it leads to inaction." – Andrea Christina Ruiz

"Is SLR a better communication tool and call-to-action than increasing urban temperatures and urban heat? Increasing temperature has mortality and morbidity projections and are an immediate concern because of social justice/social equity. This may be better for gaining political traction and resonance in terms of solutions." –E Bermingham, Frost Science

"Most basic message we need to convey to residents: Ask your elected officials what they are doing on SLR." – Anon

"I really like the visualization today. It helped me connect more to the issue and to the solutions." – Ajani Stewart, City of Miami

COMMON VISION

We envisioned Miami-Dade in 2026...Common themes emerged:

More blue and green spaces

Canals and creative water management

Fewer cars on the road, more public transportation

Raised streets

Evidence of renewable energy: solar panels, water Denser, more sensible urban living (like Europe) fewer people

Acceptance of SLR realities and cooperation on solutions

Tech-enabled communication between citizens and gov't

Communities coming together

Accountability and regular reporting



VOTINGON POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants were asked to do a prioritization exercise with policy recommendations. Each person voted (4 votes) for the most important actions the city can take now. These rose to the top:

- 1.Protection for Our Water Supply (14 votes)
- 2.Support efforts to protect wetlands, mangroves, and other natural resources that provide protection against flooding and storm surges in developed areas (14 votes)
- 3. Urban Heat Islands as a public health issue: extreme heat, vector-borne illnesses...link it to climate change and actions people can take to reduce CO2, etc. (14 votes)
- 4. Use incentives and regulations, assure new development and/or redevelopment is focused in areas of higher elevation (11)
- 5. Encourage collaboration between county governments and private insurance companies to ensure insurance rates will remain fair (9)
- 6.Assure that SLR conditions are being incorporated into land development and building codes (9)





Stuart Kennedy

0 SIGHTFUL

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