

FYI Miami: March 3, 2020

Written by [Miami Today](#) on March 3, 2020

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CONSTRUCTION STARTS SOAR: The value of new building permits in South Florida in January was 36% higher than in January 2019, Dodge Data & Analytics reports. The total value was more than \$1.1 billion, about 70% of which was new residential construction starts. Residential starts increased 72% in value from the level of January 2019, while nonresidential starts fell 8%. The report covers Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties.

MAKERS LAB FUNDED: The Mitchell Wolfson Sr. Foundation has given Miami Dade College \$12 million to enhance a state-of-the-art Makers Lab on the Kendall Campus. The lab is described as "a creative, problem-solving space where ideas take physical shape." The college cites involvement of digital art, theater, ceramics, jewelry, sculpting, architecture, robotics, engineering and technology disciplines. The lab "is equipped with high-precision industrial tools that make it easy to produce an accurate prototype, model or replica of virtually any object," the college said in a release. The expectations is that students will work across disciplines and that lab staff will link with local high school academies to share resources and experiences.

SCHOOL TERM LIMITS: A proposal that would impose eight-year term limits on county school board members is ready for consideration by the full Senate. The proposal cleared the Senate Rules Committee on Monday. The full House last month passed its version of the proposal. If the Senate goes along, the issue would go to voters in November because it would require changing the state Constitution.

GRANT TO SPARK SMALL BUSINESS: After receiving a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the City of Miami has partnered with the John Hopkins University Centers for Civic Impact for a community engagement plan aimed at helping current and aspiring small business owners. The effort would help streamline the process for opening a business in the city, as well as addressing the needs of potential business owners. Miami was chosen along with Charlotte, Philadelphia and San Jose.

SPOTIFY TO WYNWOOD: Streaming music service Spotify has leased about 20,000 square feet in Wynwood. The offices will be in The Oasis in Wynwood, a 72,000-square-foot mixed-use building due to open late in the year on North Miami Avenue between 23rd and 24th streets. The building is to include the office space leased to Spotify, 17,000 square feet of retail, a 35,000-square-foot courtyard that's to feature an outdoor food hall, a stage with live music and an outdoor bar, and a 75-foot-tall rotating tower to feature art installations. Carpe Real Estate Partners is the project owner.



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