# Miami as Ground Zero Research Internship Position Description:

The Office of Civic and Community Engagement invites students to participate in *Miami as Ground Zero: Tracing The Magic City's Environmental History and Future*. This project, funded by the Mellon Foundation, explores how local communities have experienced environmental change and highlights the efforts South Floridians have made toward promoting conservation and sustainability. We examine how urban growth and development have impacted the natural landscape, and how policy decisions and planning outcomes have led to transformations of our regional environmental conditions. Through traditional public history methodologies such as archival research and oral history, and technological tools including data visualization and GIS mapping for a digital exhibit and timeline, this project aims to connect local history and heritage with current efforts to promote environmental awareness and stewardship.

This internship will involve research and writing that you will develop under the guidance of CCE graduate assistant/s. The student(s) selected will be part of the project on a volunteer basis, where they will develop a range of research skills. Students interested in environmental questions, Miami history and culture, and/or careers in museums and libraries should consider applying. Interns are expected to commit 5-7 hours/week to this project.

**Opportunities for student engagement:**

- Conduct background research on interviewees for upcoming oral histories
- Research existing oral histories of historical environmental figures to identify compelling segments to feature in a digital exhibition for our project
- Compile background research on leading historical figures in the South Florida environmental movement
-Translate existing oral histories from Spanish and Creole to English/Review Spanish/Creole translations for accuracy

Interested students should contact the Graduate Assistant for Office of Civic and Community Engagement (pxp691@miami.edu ) for further instruction on how to apply, and start your onboarding.

**About the Office of Civic and Community Engagement:**

The University of Miami Office of Civic and Community Engagement (CCE) promotes teaching and research strategies that translate academic knowledge into real-world problem-solving skills to address society's most pressing issues. Our mission is to enhance campus-community partnerships by leveraging the academic resources of the university to work collaboratively with community partners around community-identified needs. We connect students, faculty, and community organizations together to foster civic responsibility and positive social change in our local, national, and global communities. Our goal is to promote a model of engagement based on a culture of collaboration and an ethic of reciprocity, recognizing the importance of knowledge co-creation and diverse forms of expertise. For more information about the Office of Civic and Community Engagement, visit: www.civic.miami.edu.

**Research opportunities available are listed below**

**Option 1: Conducting Background Research on contemporary environmental figures for our oral history collection**

Students will be conducting background research on contemporary environmental activists, political leaders and members of the larger community in South Florida. This research will be valuable to the CCE team for conducting interviews with these figures, and you may have the opportunity to sit on some interviews. Sources you can use for interviews include Google searches, UM library's databases, community organization publications/websites, newspapers, etc.

**Option 2: Research on key historical figures**

Students will research and write biographical profiles of key historical figures in South Florida environmental history. The profiles should be written for a general audience while highlighting their impact on the history of conservation, natural resource stewardship, environmental policy, and/or natural history in Miami. Students will be provided with an existing list of key figures. They will conduct research to develop a chronology of the person's life and career as it relates to understanding the environmental campaigns, legislation, or conservation efforts with which they were involved. We have robust bibliographies of primary and secondary sources from which the students could draw to develop these profiles

**Option 3: Research existing oral histories of historical environmental figures to identify compelling segments to feature for our project**

Students will listen to existing oral histories of historical environmental figures in South Florida. They will produce summaries of these interviews, and identify relevant quotes for our physical and digital exhibition.

**Option 4: Translate existing oral histories from Spanish and Creole to English**

We invite native Spanish and Creole speakers to help us translate existing oral histories of Miami residents who have shared their experiences and memories of South Florida's ecologies.