



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 6, 2016

Ludlam Trail Hosts 2nd Annual “Ludlam Lights” Festival and Lantern Parade in South Miami

The Knight Foundation and The Miami Foundation Award \$275,000 for trail's public space master plan

MIAMI – Florida East Coast Industries, in partnership with the Friends of Ludlam Trail and Miami-Dade County, today announced its **2nd Annual “Ludlam Lights” Lantern Parade and Festival** at South Miami High school on Saturday, December 10th at 5pm. The festival will also celebrate the project’s newly announced funding partners, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and The Miami Foundation.

The trail aims to create a continuous bike and pedestrian path, and greenspace that will provide 30,000 residents with a direct link to five schools, six parks, and a 30-mile trail network. Knight Foundation’s contribution of \$250,000 and The Miami Foundation’s \$25,000 match will go directly towards the development of the master plan for the public portions of the trail. Knight will also support a strategy to engage the public around the development of the trail.

“The Ludlam Trail will help to build a more vibrant, connected Miami,” said Matt Haggman, Knight Foundation program director for Miami. “By linking residents and neighborhoods across our community, as well as encouraging recreation and alternative transit, it will provide a new public space for people across our city to engage and make Miami an ever greater place to live and work.”

In just five months, more than 5,000 people have joined to support the Ludlam Trail through volunteerism and events including free movie nights, yoga classes and bike rides sponsored by dozens of organizations like the Miami Marlins, Biscayne Bay Brewing Company, Greenmonkey Yoga, La Carreta, HandsOn Miami and South Florida PBS.

“Support from Knight Foundation and The Miami Foundation only furthers our vision for the Ludlam Trail to transform the South Florida landscape in a meaningful way,” said Peter Rabbino, President of the Friends of Ludlam Trail. “Ludlam Lights is our way to illuminate the project’s benefits for the community.”

The Miami Foundation is the presenting sponsor of Ludlam Lights.

“Running right through the heart of Miami-Dade County, the Ludlam Trail is a community investment set to connect thousands of Miamians and enhance their quality of life,” said Javier Alberto Soto, president and CEO of The Miami Foundation. “Ludlam Lights is a beautiful opportunity to literally shine a light on the need to activate this corridor and public spaces.”



At Ludlam Lights, crowds are encouraged to bring their own decorated lanterns for an illuminated parade and festival along the trail with activities including live music, food trucks, holiday treats and an award ceremony for the best lantern designs at the event site at 6856 SW 53rd Street, Miami, FL 33155.

Ongoing collaborations with key partners for the Ludlam Trail activation event series will continue on into 2017 with programming that will celebrate the neighborhoods along the corridor and the initiative to convert this underutilized land into a public space.

“The success of the Ludlam Trail activation events showcases the community’s desire to come together in this public space,” said Vincent Signorello, President and CEO of Florida East Coast Industries. “We are thankful for partnerships with the Knight Foundation and The Miami Foundation to make the collaborative vision for the trail a reality.”

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About the Ludlam Trail

The Ludlam Trail is the vision of Florida East Industries and Miami-Dade County to transform a 6.2 mile abandoned rail line into a multi-use corridor and model for trail-oriented development that will enhance South Florida’s quality of life; provide a direct link to 5 schools, two transit hubs, 4 public parks and 5 additional greenways; and ultimately provide a direct transportation connection between one of our major urban centers and transit hub to the south at Dadeland and a proposed mass transit connection at N.W. 7th Street near Miami International Airport. Learn more at LudlamTrail.org.

About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Knight Foundation is a national foundation with strong local roots. We invest in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Our goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which we believe are essential for a healthy democracy. For more, visit knightfoundation.org.

About The Miami Foundation

Established in 1967, The Miami Foundation uses civic leadership, community investment and philanthropy to improve the quality of life for everyone who calls Greater Miami home. We’ve partnered with individuals, families and corporations who have created more than 1,000 personalized, philanthropic Funds. Thanks to them, we’ve awarded over \$240 million in grants and currently manage \$285 million in assets to build a better Miami. For more, visit miamifoundation.org.

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