

# CITY OF CORAL GABLES

## --MEMORANDUM--



**FROM:** Mayor Vince Lago

**TO:** The City Commission and City Manager's Office

**DATE:** January 24, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Centennial Celebration: Engagement with International and Sister Cities

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As we continue our centennial celebration commemorating 100 years of Coral Gables, I am pleased to report that our international cities and sister cities have shown significant interest in participating in this historic milestone. Their enthusiastic engagement underscores the global recognition and strong relationships Coral Gables has cultivated over the past century.

### Updates on International Engagement

#### 1. Aix-en-Provence

Aix-en-Provence, one of our sister cities, has officially accepted our invitation to join the centennial celebrations (see attached). They have proposed participating during the French Month celebration to honor the cultural ties between our cities. Notably, the Mayor of Aix-en-Provence has expressed interest in visiting Coral Gables as part of their delegation, further enhancing the depth of this cultural exchange. This visit will provide an opportunity to showcase our city's heritage and strengthen the longstanding partnership with Aix-en-Provence.

#### 2. Invitation to Spanish Royalty

At the suggestion of Karelia Carbonell, we extended an invitation to the Spanish Royal Family to honor our centennial anniversary. This includes Their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain and Their Royal Highnesses the Princess of Asturias and the Infanta Sofía. In a letter sent to my office from the Embassy of Spain on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, there has been confirmation that their attendance is being considered (see attached), and we anticipate receiving confirmation shortly. Should they confirm, their visit would take place between January and April 2025, aligning with the peak of our centennial celebrations.

## Opportunities and Recommendations

These engagements represent significant opportunities to:

- Showcase Coral Gables on an international stage, reinforcing our city's image as a cultural and economic hub.
- Strengthen our diplomatic and cultural ties with key international partners.
- Elevate the centennial celebration's profile, attracting global media coverage and community participation.

I recommend that the City Commission allocate resources to ensure a robust and welcoming program for these distinguished guests. This could include:

- Coordinating special events such as receptions, cultural showcases, and tours of Coral Gables landmarks.
- Collaborating with local organizations, such as the Coral Gables Museum and cultural consulates, to enrich the itinerary.
- Providing accommodations and logistical support to delegations as needed.

## Next Steps

- **Aix-en-Provence:** Begin preparations for hosting their delegation during French Month, including developing a cultural program and finalizing event details.
- **Spanish Royalty:** Monitor communications with the Spanish Royal Family for confirmation and initiate planning for their visit upon receipt.
- **Community Engagement:** Leverage these engagements to promote our centennial celebration to residents and international audiences.

These developments highlight the significance of our centennial celebration not just locally, but globally. I will continue to provide updates as plans solidify and remain available to address any questions or recommendations.



EL JEFE DE LA CASA DE  
S. M. EL REY

Palacio de La Zarzuela  
Madrid, 25 de noviembre de 2024

Señor  
VINCE LAGO  
Alcaide de Coral Gables  
405 Biltmore way  
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA 33134  
(Estados Unidos)

Estimado Alcalde: *querido Alcalde:*

Me complace acusar recibo a la carta que me dirigió el pasado 28 de octubre, en la que tiene la amabilidad de invitar a Sus Majestades los Reyes y a Sus Altezas Reales la Princesa de Asturias y la Infanta Doña Sofía, a visitar la Coral Gables el año próximo con ocasión de su Centenario, y sugiere para ello realizar la visita desde enero hasta el 29 de abril.

Tomamos buena nota de su amable invitación, así como del marco temporal que propone, y una vez despachado con Sus Majestades, con mucho gusto le comunicaré la decisión adoptada al respecto.

Reciba un cordial saludo,

CAMILO VILLARINO

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*La Embajadora de España*

Washington, DC, December 16, 2024

Mr. Vince Lago  
Mayor of Coral Gables

Dear Mayor Lago,

Please find attached herewith a letter, with a courtesy translation, that the Head of the H.M. the King's Household, Camilo Villarino, has addressed to your kind attention.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by a horizontal line and a vertical line.

Ángeles Moreno

--UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION--

Palacio de La Zarzuela  
Madrid, 25 of November of 2024

Mr.  
VINCE LAGO  
Mayor of Coral Gables  
405 Biltmore way  
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA 33134  
(United States)

Dear Mayor:

I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of the letter you sent me last October 28, in which you kindly invited Their Majesties the King and Queen and Their Royal Highnesses the Princess of Asturias and the Infanta Sofia to visit Coral Gables next year on the occasion of its Centennial, and suggested that the visit should take place from January to April 29.

We take good note of your kind invitation, as well as of the time frame you propose, and once I have consulted with Your Majesties, I will gladly inform you of the decision taken in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

(signature)

CAMILO VILLARINO



AIX en PROVENCE

LA VILLE

Aix-en-Provence, le 24 DEC. 2024

**Mister Vince LAGO**

**Mayor**

Coral Gables City Hall,  
405 Baltimore Way  
Coral Gables  
FL 33 134  
ETATS-UNIS

**Sophie JOISSAINS**

Maire d'Aix-en-Provence  
Conseiller Métropolitain  
Aix-Marseille Provence Métropole  
Vice-Président de la Région  
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur  
Ancien Sénateur des Bouches-du-Rhône

Dear Mayor Vince Lago,

As part of the international policy that I have been pursuing for the last three years, I am keen, as Mayor of a city that has undeniable international influence thanks to its strong cultural and economic assets, to relaunch the partnerships that contribute to the dynamism of our region.

In this respect, I was particularly touched by your invitation of 8 November 2024 and I look forward to celebrating the 100th anniversary of Coral Gables with you next year.

This symbolic anniversary is undoubtedly an important historic moment that will leave its mark on your people and your region. And I would be very honoured to take part in a mission that could take place from 25 to 27 February 2025, during the French Month organised in Coral Gables.

This trip will be an opportunity to discover your region, but above all to strengthen the ties between our two cities by creating a new dynamic based on culture and the economy.

I look forward to meeting you, Mr Mayor.