



At the Future of Water Summit in August, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, above center, announced her recent appointment of the County's first-ever Artist-In-Residence Xavier Cortada, right, who focuses much of his work on environmental issues. At left is One Water Strategy Director Hardeep Anand. In the photo below, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava informally deputized all participants to serve as steadfast "water warriors" by having them recite a pledge of service to preserving and protecting our world's waters.

Inaugural Future of Water Summit showcases new vision of resilient management

The first annual Future of Water Summit held in Miami Beach Aug. 8-10 brought together hundreds of water influencers and leaders to develop a unified vision for collaborative water governance that will help ensure a secure, just, and affordable water future for all. Focused on the mission of holistically managing all surface, ground, recycled and stormwater, the Summit convened local, state, and federal partners, non-governmental agencies, service and technology providers, and members of the academic community to leverage existing efforts and jointly formulate a "call-to-action" for a more sustainable, resilient society.



Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava took a creative, proactive approach to uniting hearts and minds behind the powerful, complex work of the Summit with her formal

announcement that Miami-based artist Xavier Cortada has been named as the County's inaugural artist-in-residence. World-renowned for his work, Cortada uses art to tackle important issues impacting the South Florida community, including environmental protection, social justice and cultural influences from his native Miami.

"Xavier's work focuses on some of Miami-Dade's most complex challenges, including climate change, sea level rise, and civic engagement," said Mayor Daniella Levine Cava.

Cortada said, "Through my art, I aim to grow a cadre of creative problem-solvers, driven by empathy and love of community."

To deepen the sense of commitment, Mayor Levine Cava also informally deputized all Summit participants to serve as steadfast "water warriors" by having them recite a pledge of service to preserving and protecting our world's waters.

Another highlight of the Summit's closing ceremonies was the announcement that PBS will create a new documentary on urban water management under the leadership of Tom Landon, director of Instructional Innovation, with the goal of filming and editing the work in short segments for use in classrooms and other public settings.

Following through on the Summit's mission to better inform the public about the importance of viewing all sources as interconnected – be it surface, ground, recycled or stormwater – Miami-Dade County will host the event "Imagine a Day Without Water" at Deering Estate, on Sunday, Oct. 23, under the leadership of One Water Strategy Director Hardeep Anand and Biscayne Bay Officer Irela Bagué, with support from the County's Office of Resilience and multiple Miami-Dade departments.