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**5TH ANNUAL CITY NATIONAL BANK BETTER BEACH AWARDS RECOGNIZE LOCAL REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY LEADERS**

**MIAMI BEACH, FL** (April 28, 2017) - The Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) hosted its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual City National Bank Better Beach Awards on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> honoring influential, trendsetting leaders in the local real estate industry. This event recognized the very best in architecture, design, marketing, restoration, and preservation. The sold out event hosted 300 professionals who gathered at the 1 Hotel South Beach for the luncheon hosted by architect Stephen Park (Partner at 5G Studio Collaborative) and broker David Kurz (Broker/Owner of Kurz Real Estate). The event's title sponsor was City National Bank and additional sponsors were Dominion Builders as well as East of Collins Expediting.

**The complete list of award recipients are:**

**1. EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION**

*This individual and organization has shown excellence in the community.*

- Sabrina Cohen, Sabrina Cohen Accessibility Park

**2. FORWARD THINKING BUSINESS**

*This business has shown leadership and foresight on a topic of importance affecting South Florida's real estate industry.*

- The New Tropic

**3. FORWARD THINKING INDIVIDUAL**

*These individuals have shown leadership and foresight on a topic of importance affecting South Florida's real estate industry.*

- Nick Gelpi, Miami Beach Urban Studios (FIU)
- Jeremy Waks, Debris Free Ocean

**4. GLOBAL GAME CHANGER FOR RESILIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY**

*This award is given to an individual for their thought-provoking leadership within the real estate industry.*

- Caroline Lewis, The CLEO Institute

**5. HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS**

- Oceanside Hotel - Platinum
- Plymouth Hotel - Gold
- The Betsy-Carlton Hotel - Silver

**6. INNOVATIVE ARCHITECTURE AWARD**

- Villa Soninha (residential) - Platinum
- Louver House (residential) - Gold
- Nike (commercial) – Platinum (tie)
- The Betsy-Carlton Hotel (commercial) – Platinum (tie)

## **7. INNOVATIVE DESIGNER AWARD**

- DOA - Platinum
- Commonwealth - Gold
- Lolo's Surf Cantina - Silver

## **8. BETTER BEACH CITIZEN AWARD**

- Jonathan Plutzik - Platinum
- Sandor Scher - Gold
- Ceci Velasco & Mike Palma - Silver

## **9. MOST INNOVATIVE METHOD OF MARKETING AWARDS**

- Frances Alban, Alban Communications

## **10. 2016 RISING STARS: REAL ESTATE AGENT**

*Last year, the event subcommittee launched a new category to recognize the efforts of new agents or "Rising Stars." Miami Beach Agencies hand selected their best new agents and over the course of the year, these finalists competed amongst themselves. The winner from the 2016 class displayed the initiative to immerse themselves into the real estate industry, to go above and beyond the minimum requirements, and has excelled amongst their peers.*

- Sari Libbin, Douglas Elliman

## **11. 2017 RISING STARS: REAL ESTATE AGENT**

*The new class of rising stars, listed below, will compete this year and a winner will be announced at the 2018 City National Bank Better Beach Awards. The winner from the 2017 class will have taken the initiative to immerse themselves into the real estate industry, have gone above and beyond the minimum requirements, and have excelled amongst their peers.*

- Scot Drucker, COMPASS
- Amparo Munoz, Alba International Realty
- Eric Morales, Kurz Real Estate
- Diego Palomo, Douglas Elliman
- George Schechter, COMPASS

## **12. RISING STARS: REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY AT LARGE**

*Within the first 24 months of their real estate career, these winners hit the ground running and have taken the initiative to immerse themselves into the Real Estate industry. They go above and beyond the minimum requirements and excel amongst their peers.*

- Lester Ealey
- Zachary Eisner
- Alexander Karry

For information about the Miami Beach Chamber, visit [www.miamibeachchamber.com](http://www.miamibeachchamber.com).

### **About Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce**

The Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce was formed in 1921 to promote the economic well-being of Miami Beach's citizens, to improve the quality of life for the entire community, and to communicate the view of the business community on major issues of public policy.

### **About City National Bank of Florida**

Headquartered in Miami, City National Bank (CNB) is the financial institution to which Floridians have turned for more than 65 years. With more than \$5 billion in assets, CNB is one of the largest financial institutions based in the state. City National Bank is one of the most liquid and best capitalized banks in Florida and is rated 5 stars "Superior" by BauerFinancial. CNB was voted Best Community Bank, Best Business Bank, Best Bank for Commercial Real Estate, Best Bank for Jumbo Loans and Best Private Bank by the readers of the Daily Business Review. The South Florida Business Journal named it Business of the Year in 2013 and Community Bank of the Year in 2013 and 2011. CNB offers a diversified portfolio of financial products and services at 26 convenient banking centers from Miami-Dade County to the greater Orlando area.