

Florida Humanities Speakers Directory



Engaging Speakers



Compelling Topics



Thought-provoking
Discussions



Pedro Medina

Author

Pedro Medina León studied Literature at Florida International University and is an award-winning writer, speaker, and editor. He is the author of the acclaimed novel *Varsovia* (Florida Book Award 2017), *Mañana no te veré en Miami*, and *Marginal and Tour: una vuelta por la cultura popular de Miami*, and coeditor of the anthologies *Viaje One Way* and *Miami (Un) plugged*.

Programs Available

Our Man in Miami

The East Coast Railway, the railroad of Henry M. Flagler, opened Miami to the rest of the world. Before that, the land south of Palm Beach was inhospitable. Built between 1906 and 1912, the railway was called the eighth wonder of the world.

The Vice of Miami during the 80's

Miami in the early '80s had the highest murder rate in the country and was the center of drug cartels populated by immigrants from Latin America's lowest strata, no longer the peaceful old-age spa. But on September 28, 1984, Miami Vice debuted on national television and reinvented the city in popular imagination.

Celebrities Who Leave a Legacy: Jim Morrison, Bob Marley & Cassius Clay

Miami's connection to some of America's biggest celebrities and pop culture icons: the beginning of the end of the band The Doors was in Coconut Grove; Bob Marley's transcendental relationship with the city; the Miami Beach monument dedicated to an African American was for Muhammad Ali.

Books & Libros: The Great Novel of Miami

The reality of Miami told through fiction and the debate over the "great novel of Miami," focused on works in English and Spanish: *8th Street* by Douglas Fairbairn, *Miami Blues* by Charles Willeford, *Continental Drift* by Russell Banks; *Miami [UN] Plugged* and *Viaje One Way: Snow in Miami* by Juan Carlos Castillón, and *Extremo Occidente* by Juan Carlos Castillón.

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Program Format:

• Virtual

Need to reach Florida Humanities? For Grants, contact Lindsey Morrison at lmorrison@flahum.org, for Florida Talks, contact Lisa Lennox at lennox@flahum.org. For more information about the Florida Humanities Speakers Directory, visit <https://floridahumanities.org/speakers>.

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