

Developer Moishe Mana plans a city within a city in Wynwood -- four times larger than the Aventura Mall



Things have been very busy inside the white walls of the Mana Wynwood complex.

Here, within what was once the Wynwood Free Trade Zone building, developer Moishe Mana and a team of staffers, consultants, architects, and architecture students have been hammering out the formation of what they hope will be a new realm that will foster creativity, international trade, and affordable living in Miami's rapidly gentrifying Wynwood neighborhood.

The aspiration of this new neighborhood is to forge a nexus of international trade within Wynwood, reverse the trend of artists and galleries departing to cheaper locations (see "[Art Goes Uptown](#)") and, at the same time, attract more creative businesses and individuals to the area.

"You build it, they will come," Mana tells the *BT* in a 30-second interview before being whisked away on other matters. "It's so close to downtown. We are here. We build it. They come here. You know?"

Born in Israel, Mana was in the moving business in New York, reportedly dodging bullets from disgruntled Mafia henchmen, when in the late 1990s he started transforming old buildings into storage spaces, studios, art centers, and galleries.

Manamania

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