



A NEW BEGINNING

Miami local
Dennis Scholl
takes on a
new role that
just might
revolutionize
the city's artistic
community.

By Sari Anne
Tuschman

Talk about having a vision. Thirty years ago, an artist named Ellie Schneiderman felt that Miami was lacking good places for artists to work, so she created several studio spaces on Lincoln Road in Miami Beach, eventually scraping together enough money to put a down payment on three buildings on the then all-but-deserted thoroughfare and hoping perhaps to revitalize the neighborhood. ArtCenter/South Florida became well-known among artists in need of critical work space, and as the years passed, Lincoln Road indeed became the bustling retail hub it is today. Cut to 2014, when developers approached the ArtCenter's board of directors and offered to purchase one of the buildings—for a stunning \$88 million (the organization still operates out of one of the others).

Today, thanks to a strong stock market, this small cultural institution's endowment has grown to nearly \$100 million. But the ArtCenter isn't done seizing opportunities, which is why it asked Dennis Scholl—the esteemed Miami art patron, collector and former executive at the Knight Foundation—to usher the organization into this exciting new chapter as its president and CEO, a role he stepped into this past September.

“Dennis is a visionary,” says Kim Kovel, chair of the ArtCenter's board. “He sees a blank wall or an open space and immediately has hundreds of ideas on what to do with it. The ArtCenter is that blank wall. We were a struggling community arts nonprofit that was suddenly transformed into one of the best-endowed cultural organizations in Florida. We needed a leader who could activate our resources for the benefit of the arts in Miami, and Dennis has the skills we needed.”

Of the game-changing sale of the building, Scholl says, “The board felt like it was a significant ►

