



Javier Alberto Soto Named CEO of The Denver Foundation

Following nationwide search, current President and CEO of The Miami Foundation to lead Colorado's largest and most experienced community foundation

July 1, 2019 – Denver – The Denver Foundation, Colorado's largest and most experienced community foundation, today named Javier Alberto Soto, President and CEO of The Miami Foundation, as its next leader.

Soto is the sixth chief executive in The Denver Foundation's 94-year history.

Soto will step down from The Miami Foundation at the end of September and assume his new role in October 2019.

Soto's deep and relevant professional experience elevated him to the top of a pool of more than 350 highly qualified local and national candidates. With proven executive management skills, a demonstrated commitment to philanthropy and civic engagement, and experience as a dynamic leader across sectors and communities, he was selected following a nationwide search that was informed by input from Denver Foundation stakeholders, including nonprofit and community leaders, donors, and staff.

"Javier shares The Denver Foundation's commitment to building stronger communities up from the grassroots," says Nita Mosby Tyler, Chair of The Denver Foundation's Board of Trustees and Co-Chair of the CEO Search Committee. "Combined with our deep roots in this community, his varied experience and dynamic leadership will bring new energy, ideas, and a fresh perspective to our efforts to address today's needs and tomorrow's opportunities."

"Javier's leadership skills, experience, and vision align perfectly with the values of The Denver Foundation and our work across Metro Denver," says Betsy Mangone, a long-time Denver Foundation Trustee who co-chaired the CEO Search Committee with Mosby Tyler. "Javier comes to us with specific ideas as well as a hunger to listen and learn from local people and communities. We are confident that his success at The Miami Foundation will enhance his immediate and future contributions to The Denver Foundation."

Over the course of Soto's 10-year tenure as The Miami Foundation's leader, he led the organization through a period of significant growth in assets, ambitions, and aspirations. Soto positioned the Foundation at the center of civic and philanthropic activity in the Greater Miami area. He launched many initiatives including Give Miami Day, which has generated \$47M in donations since 2012. In 2016, he convened Miami, Miami Beach, and Miami-Dade County to submit a successful joint application to The Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Program, which focuses on urbanization, globalization, and climate change in major urban centers. This collaboration resulted in the recent rollout of the Resilient305 Strategy, a blueprint for a more resilient future for the region. He also led the development of key Foundation projects including the "Our Miami Report," a biannual overview of issues that shape the experiences of people in Greater Miami.

Soto has broad influence within the philanthropic sector. In April, he completed a two-year term as Chair of the Council on Foundations, which represents nearly 1,000 philanthropic organizations across the United States and abroad. He is a member of the Knight Foundation's Miami Community Advisory Committee, and he was awarded a Henry Crown Fellowship by the Aspen Institute in 2013. Through many years in the public sector, he served as Chief of Staff to the County Mayor in Miami-Dade County and as a litigator in the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office.

The son of Cuban immigrants, Soto was born in Madrid and moved as a young child to Miami. He graduated from Florida State University with a B.A. in History and Political Science and earned his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. With strong personal ties to Colorado, Soto and his family have visited the Denver area many times and are looking forward to connecting deeply with its history, neighborhoods, and people.

“I am honored to join The Denver Foundation, one of the leading community foundations in the country,” he says. “Greater Miami and Metro Denver are two of the fastest growing large cities in America. Denver has reached an exciting inflection point in terms of population growth, demographic change, and economic development. I’m looking forward to working with The Denver Foundation team and the entire community to build on the Foundation’s long record of driving local solutions and bringing people with divergent perspectives together around common goals.”

Virginia B. Bayless, who has served as The Denver Foundation’s Interim President and CEO since last August, will remain with the Foundation into the fall.

ABOUT JAVIER ALBERTO SOTO: BIO

For the past ten years, Javier Alberto Soto has served as President and CEO of The Miami Foundation – a community foundation using civic leadership, community investment, and philanthropy to improve quality of life in Greater Miami. Javier led the Foundation through a period of significant growth that has positioned the organization as a prominent civic and philanthropic leader in the South Florida community. He has led the development of key Foundation projects including the “Our Miami Report,” a biennial report providing a data-focused picture of Greater Miami’s quality of life, showing the community’s greatest challenges and opportunities. He also launched “Give Miami Day,” a 24-hour, annual online charitable giving event that has raised more than \$47M for over 750 Miami-Dade County nonprofits since 2012. In 2016, Javier convened Miami, Miami Beach, and Miami-Dade County to submit a successful joint application to The Rockefeller Foundation’s 100 Resilient Cities Program, which focuses on urbanization, globalization, and climate change in major urban centers. This collaboration resulted in the recent rollout of the Resilient305 Strategy, a blueprint for a more resilient future for the region.

Prior to joining The Miami Foundation, Javier served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel at Grayling, a multi-disciplinary public affairs firm. He spent part of his career in the public sector, beginning as a litigator in the Miami-Dade County Attorney’s Office and later serving as Chief of Staff to County Mayor Alex Penelas. Javier also worked as a litigation associate at Holland & Knight. He is active on a number of community and professional association boards including the Council on Foundations, America’s Promise Alliance, Knight Foundation’s Miami Community Advisory Committee, and the Orange Bowl Committee. Javier graduated from Florida State University with a B.A. in History and Political Science and earned his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. He is also a 2013 Henry Crown Fellow, a leadership program of the Aspen Institute that engages the next generation of leaders to develop community-spirited and values-focused leadership.

ABOUT THE DENVER FOUNDATION

The largest and most experienced community foundation in the Rocky Mountain West, The Denver Foundation inspires people and mobilizes resources to improve life in Metro Denver. In 2018, the Foundation and its donors awarded more than \$79 million in grants. The Denver Foundation has three roles: stewarding an endowment to meet current and future needs for Metro Denver, working with community leaders to address the core challenges that face the community and managing more than 1,000 charitable funds on behalf of individuals, families and businesses. The Foundation’s current total assets exceed \$900 million. To learn more about The Denver Foundation, visit denverfoundation.org.

To request an interview with Javier Alberto Soto or a member of The Denver Foundation’s CEO Search Committee, please call Laura Bond, Senior Communications Officer, 303.596.7624 (cell), or email lbond@denverfoundation.org.