



Carlos Buqueras – Executive Director

With more than 25 years of distinguished Florida port leadership, Port Manatee Executive Director Carlos Buqueras is globally renowned for his visionary achievements in all facets of seaport business development and operations, including containerized, bulk and breakbulk cargos, as well as cruise and ferry industry prominence.

Prior to taking the helm at Port Manatee in January 2012, Mr. Buqueras served 22 years as director of business development at Port Everglades in South Florida's Broward County, responsible for \$100 million in annual port revenue.

Under Mr. Buqueras' dynamic leadership, Port Everglades:

- Doubled its containerized cargo volume, with initiatives in place to propel substantial future growth;
- Advanced such projects as public-private-partnership development of a state-of-the-industry intermodal container transfer facility (ICTF) and major expansion of containerized cargo berth and terminal capabilities, while maintaining environmental stewardship as a priority;
- Earned the distinction as operator of the No. 1 U.S. export foreign-trade zone;
- Increased its cruise business by approximately 70 percent, through landmark long-term agreements with the world's two largest cruise ship companies (Carnival Corp. and Royal Caribbean International);
- Opened the world's largest cruise terminal accommodating Royal Caribbean's Oasis-class ships; and
- Attracted global ferry operator Baleària's entry into the U.S. market.

Mr. Buqueras is serving a four-year term on the Florida District Export Council, to which he was appointed by U.S. Secretary of Commerce John Bryson, and is an active member of the boards of directors of such organizations as the Manatee Chamber of Commerce, Manatee Economic Development Council and Gulf Coast Latin Chamber of Commerce.

He previously was chairman of the Broward Alliance's International Marketing Committee, vice president of Greater Fort Lauderdale Sister Cities International and board member of such bodies as the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors

Bureau's Marketing Advisory Committee, Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, Hollywood (Fla.) Office of Tourism and Florida Atlantic University's International Advisory Board.

Prior to coming to Florida in 1990, Mr. Buqueras spent 10 years with Corning, N.Y.-based Corning Inc. and its predecessor entity, Corning Glass Works, responsible for managing international distribution functions at importing and exporting facilities, developing business and distribution strategies, and enhancing profitability.

Mr. Buqueras is fluent in four languages – English, Spanish, French and Portuguese – and holds a master's in business administration degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University of Madison, N.J.