

Florida Weekly's  
3 May 2017

# 2017 Best

Cheers to these people, places and things that make Southwest Florida so special.



Welcome to [Florida Weekly's](#) Best special section

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This is Florida Weekly's take on some of the best, of course, but also some of the wackiest, most wondrous, obscure, ridiculous and even scandalous people and things that make [Southwest Florida](#) such a great place to live.

Many "best of" publications are filled solely with content that's bought and paid for; that's not our style at Florida Weekly. Yes, our advertisers — the folks who make this piece of Floridian pulp and history you hold in your hands possible — receive shout-outs from us in these pages. It's only fair. But the bulk of our Best section has nothing to do with invoices or ballot-box stuffing.

The nonscientific, non-crowd-sourced process by which we choose our Best winners begins with a brainstorming meeting of our writers and editors. A couple of months later,

after scouring the nooks and crannies of the region and our Florida Weekly archives, this section emerges: page after page of things we praise and applaud, pontificate on and poke fun at.

Herewith, our Best. We had fun doing it, and we hope you have fun reading it. Here's to the Best of Southwest Florida 2017.

# BEST PRESIDENT

**Joyce Owens**

Joyce Owens, principal of Architecture Joyce Owens in Fort Myers, was named president of the Florida AIA (the Florida chapter of the American Institute of Architects) this year, making her the third female president in the state's professional organization's 105- year history. She ran with a message of communicating value and wants to de-mystify her profession for the public.

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