

Welcome To

Little Santo Domingo

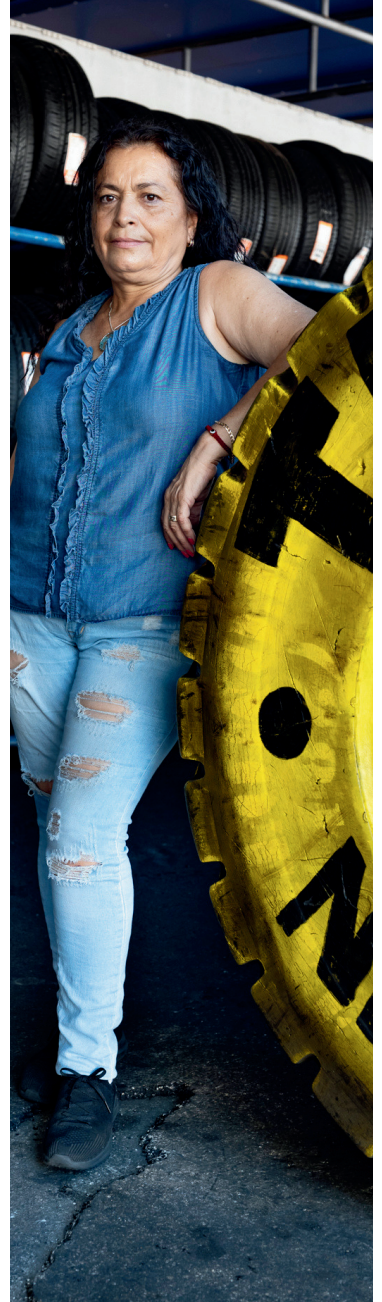
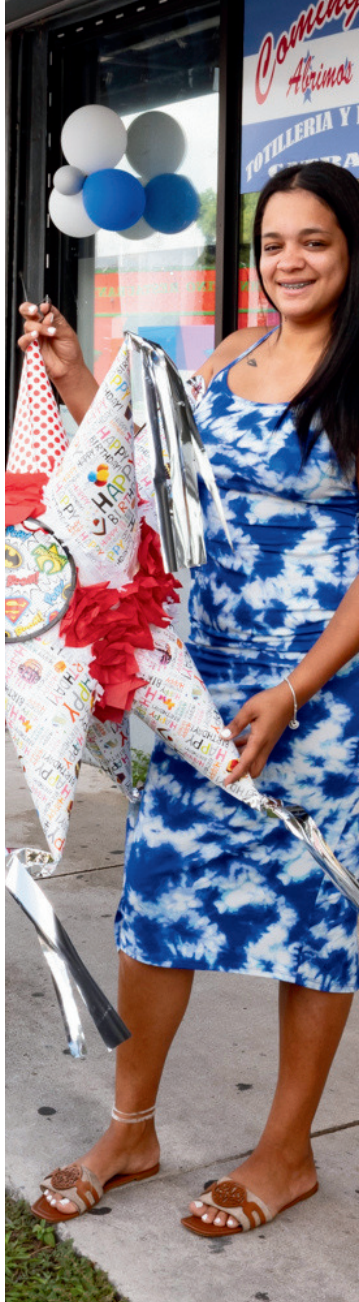


This year, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Allapattah's Little Santo Domingo one of *America's Most Endangered Historic Places*. A bright, bustling neighborhood in northwest Miami-Dade County, it's where generations of Dominicans have laid down roots and launched American dreams. Like so many immigrant enclaves across the nation, though, the area is now at risk of becoming extinct, as development and gentrification have already begun to wipe away homes, shops and historic structures. Yet what's at stake—and precisely what's worth preserving—goes far beyond buildings, beams and concrete. On the line is a vibrant community filled with industrious immigrants whose entrepreneurial spirit built a commercial corridor that today helps fuel our region's economy. Here's a look at the people and places that make this community special, and worth celebrating and saving.



Allapattah is in the crosshairs of real estate developers and speculative investors, arguably at the epicenter of the nation's housing affordability crisis. Two-story commercial structures are routinely torn down to make way for high-rise apartment buildings that boast rents way out of reach for most who currently call Allapattah home. Meanwhile, the price of a single-family home has skyrocketed. This has already led to the displacement of countless families — a dynamic not unique to Allapattah as it is happening in historic neighborhoods across Miami.





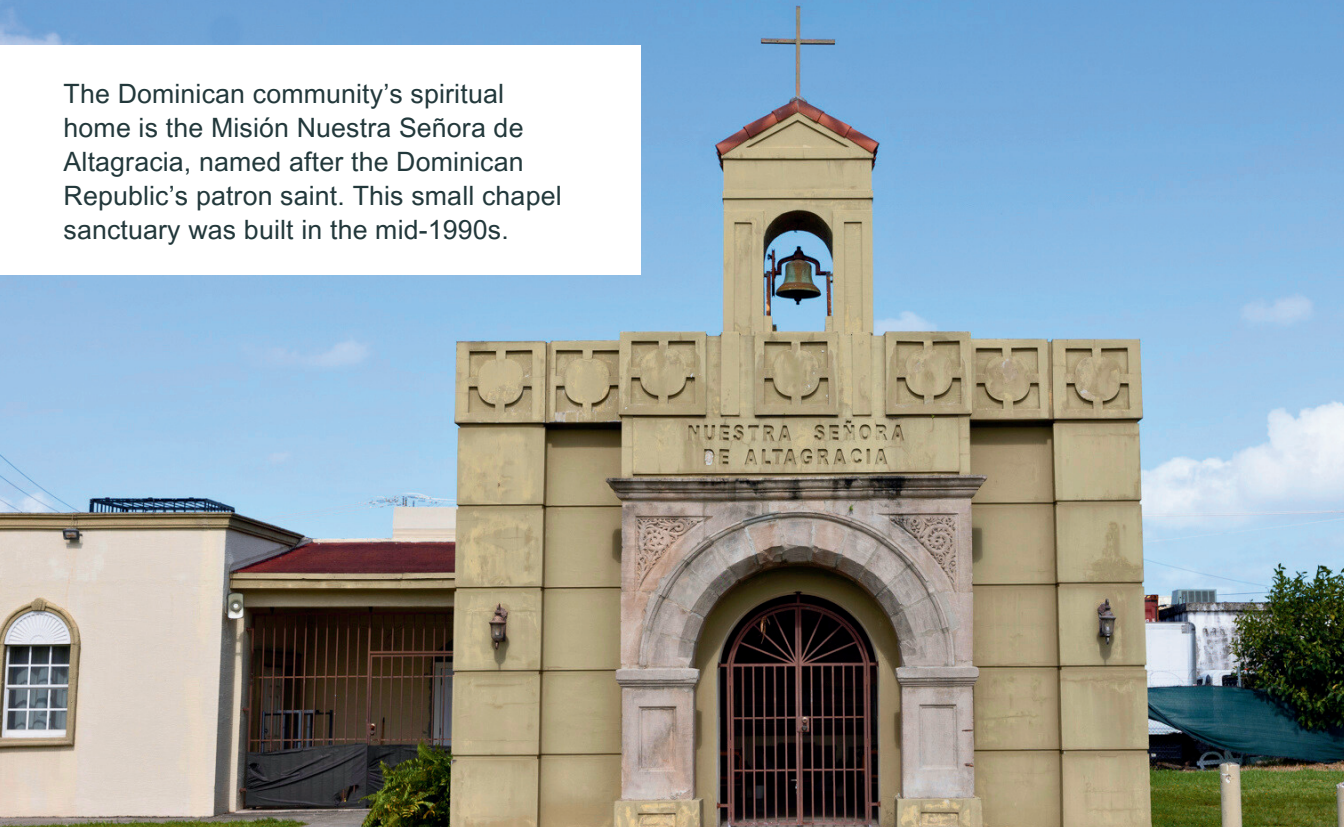
The American dream and spirit of entrepreneurialism is very much alive in Little Santo Domingo. Much of the community's vibrancy and energy comes from the bodegas, bakeries, restaurants and shops that dot the area's main commercial corridor, along Northwest 17th Avenue — but also street vendors selling everything from flowers to fresh fruit. The Allapattah Collaborative CDC, a community-based nonprofit, is working with the neighborhood's small and micro-businesses to help them thrive and preserving the neighborhood's cultural heritage. They provide the business owners with intense and culturally-relevant support that helps them access opportunities for growth. This year, the Collaborative launched an effort to help the small businesses buy their own storefronts.



Little Santo Domingo wouldn't be Little Santo Domingo without its quintessential barbershops and beauty salons, the beating hearts of the community. Much more than places for grooming, these are sacred spots where people come together, offload stress and anxiety, hear about big news and juicy chisme (gossip), and so much more. These businesses are deeply integrated into the community and are thriving enterprises that provide jobs, services, and livelihoods—all while preserving the heritage of Allapattah.



The Dominican community's spiritual home is the Misión Nuestra Señora de Altagracia, named after the Dominican Republic's patron saint. This small chapel sanctuary was built in the mid-1990s.





Colorful murals portraying Dominican culture and history can be spotted throughout the neighborhood. And while many have been there for decades they remain so vibrant that they look as if they were painted yesterday — a testament to the power of community preservation.







At the very heart of Allapattah is Juan Pablo Duarte Park, a leafy, welcoming space where neighbors of all ages gather. Families picnic. Friends catch up. It seems as if there's *always* a baseball game underway — and it doesn't get more Dominican than that! Above all, the park is a place where community spirit is fostered and social ties are strengthened. Ensuring the park is safe, programmed with positive activities and maintained is a priority. For now and for the next generation.