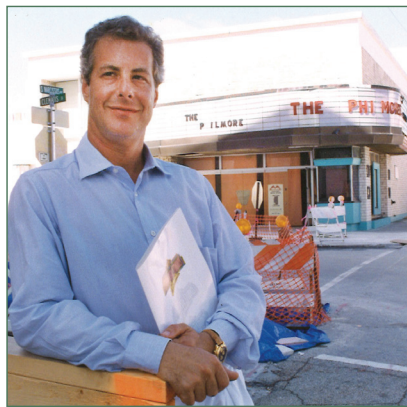


# THE DOWNTOWNERS

West Palm Beach business owners dish about why they're downtown – and why you should be, too!

Meet **Jonathan Gladstone**, West Palm Beach developer and founder of Gladstone Reality, a realty investment firm with unparalleled vision for West Palm Beach's future. After moving to Palm Beach with his family in 1970, Gladstone has worked in Downtown West Palm Beach for more than two decades. Here, he talks about his first purchase, the intimacy of downtown and the constant evolution of the area.



**How I've seen downtown grow:**

"In October 1987, my New York employer, Helmsley Spear, asked me to open a West Palm Beach branch office. Downtown was a great location for my business because the waterfront provided so many development opportunities, so I

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plunged forward. In 1993, I purchased the Florida Theatre (see photo at left) because Nancy Graham was renovating Clematis, and I knew I wanted to be a part of it. My story began by investing in the Florida Theatre, but since then I have recruited several businesses such as BRITT, Ballet Florida, Sloan's, Pizza Girls, Habatat Galleries, Subculture, Liquid, Butcher Shop and many more."

**What makes downtown unique:**

"All of the restaurants bring something unique. This makes it very homey."

**What I love most about downtown:**

"I love all aspects of downtown – the arts, Clematis Street, sailing, dining, concerts, real estate and more!"

**When I love downtown:**

"Every day at 7 a.m., I love racing down Flagler Drive by bicycle."

**Where I eat downtown:**

"My tenant Pizza Girls is now celebrating its 20th anniversary. It's one of my favorites, along with Sloan's Ice Cream!"



**REALTY INVESTOR:** Jonathan Gladstone, President of Gladstone Realty Investment Corp., stands inside one of the buildings he recently purchased in Downtown West Palm Beach.

PHOTO BY JIM BERIAU

**Where I shop downtown:**

"I like to haunt the thrift stores, study new buildings, invent new tenants and usages. I love dealing with every business owner in Downtown West Palm Beach."

**Why you should visit downtown:**

"Downtown in general and

Clematis Street in particular have been organically evolving since they were reinvented 31 years ago. Over the next decade, West Palm Beach will reach toward a population of 1 million. The area continues to grow and change!"

– Elizabeth Stewart



For more information on DowntownWPB and the West Palm Beach Arts & Entertainment District, visit [downtownwpb.com](http://downtownwpb.com)

The next profile in **THE DOWNTOWNERS** series will run on September 12.