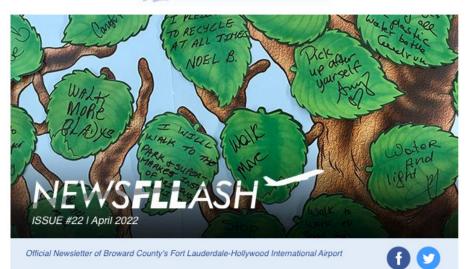
#### Welcome to NewsFLLash Issue #22

In this edition: Western Air of Bahamas readies for its U.S. debut; FLL hosts Earth Day festivities, Honor Flights return after pandemic hiatus, BCAD opens new Credentialing Center, and more.







Mark E. Gale CEO/Director of Aviation Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL)

### A Message From the CEO

Welcome to NewsFLLash edition No. 22. During April, the Broward County Aviation Department (BCAD) opened its new Credentialing Center inside Terminal 1, marked Earth Day at FLL with plant giveaways and eco-friendly pledges from travelers, and participated in community outreach events to promote airport happenings.

On April 18, a federal judge in Florida <u>overturned</u> <u>the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's</u> <u>face mask mandate for public transportation</u> and transportation hubs, resulting in lifting the mask requirements for FLL. The new ruling also applies to sister government agencies Port Everglades and Broward County Transit.

In late April, Scandinavian carrier <u>Norse Atlantic</u> <u>Airways</u> launched ticket sales for its first U.S. flights and inaugural transatlantic service between Oslo, Norway, and Fort Lauderdale starting in June. Norse officials have also voiced interest in operating from FLL to other European cities in the future.

For first-quarter (1Q) 2022 (January through March), FLL welcomed 7.69 million travelers, a 38% increase in passenger traffic versus the same

quarter in 2021, and only 22% fewer people than in 1Q 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, FLL is rapidly recovering from the pandemic, and we project passenger traffic to reach 90% of 2019 levels by the end of this summer.

We hope you keep tuning in monthly to monitor our progress and learn about the exciting new projects on the horizon at FLL.

Happy springtime.

Mark

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## The Sky's the Limit

#### March passenger traffic recap

FLL served 3.06 million passengers in March, a 32% increase from the same month in 2021.

The airport welcomed 2.51 million domestic travelers during the month, marking a 22% uptick from March 2021. Meanwhile, the number of international visitors jumped by 113% to 548,051.

March's monthly passenger volume was only 17% percent less than the same month in 2019 before the pandemic hit.

### View FLL Statistics



### Western Air Debuts in May

#### FLL is carrier's first U.S. scheduled commercial route

Bahamian carrier Western Air <u>is scheduled to touch down at FLL on May 19</u> with its inaugural daily service from Nassau's Lynden Pindling International Airport. Western Air plans to operate its FLL-NAS route with 50-passenger Embraer ERJ-145LR aircraft. The airline will serve FLL travelers from Terminal 1.

Founded in 2001, Western Air is considered the largest privately-owned airline in The Bahamas. The airline also operates flights between Nassau and other destinations in the island chain, including Freeport (Grand Bahama), Marsh Harbour (Abaco), Georgetown (Exuma), and Bimini, among others.

#### More About Western Air



### **Emergency Exercise Volunteers**

BCAD is seeking volunteers from the surrounding community for its upcoming "Operation Nightingale" emergency response training exercise set for 11PM-4AM on June 24. During this event, volunteers will act in roles such as airport employees, passengers, and family members. If you are interested in participating, please <u>register</u> by May 23.



## **Earth Day Festivities**

BCAD employee donates homegrown plants

To mark Earth Day 2022, the airport's Guest Experience Team hosted events in Terminals 1 and 3 to promote FLL's environmentally-friendly programs and invite travelers and employees to make personal conservation pledges.

Peter Medaglia (center), a customer service representative in BCAD's Credentialing Office, donates 150 plants from his garden as event giveaways, while FLL provided reusable water bottles and other tokens.

"My theory is that good gardeners make good conservationists," said Medaglia, whose Earth Day plant giveaway has become a tradition for him over the years at various jobs he has worked. "I used to have a farm and landscaping business, so I love Florida's growing climate. It's a natural greenhouse."

Some of the plant species Medaglia nurtured at home before sharing them on April 22 with airport guests and employees were crotons, coleus, Asiatic lilies, dianthus, caladiums, and petunias.

"It makes me happy to see people learn how to take care of Mother Earth," Medaglia noted. "The act of making a plant grow is the act of having hope in the future."



Guests pledge ways to protect the earth's natural resources.



An airport employee posts her 'leaf' pledge on the Tree of Life.



## **BCAD Touts FLL Projects**

#### Updating FDOT staff at Mobility Expo

On April 19, BCAD Planning personnel provided key updates to Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) staff about existing and future projects at FLL and North Perry Airport during the FDOT District Four Mobility Expo in Fort Lauderdale.

Other exhibitors interacting and sharing information at the expo included Broward County Transit, Kimley Horn and Associates, and Port Everglades. Approximately 50 to 75 FDOT staff members attended the outdoor showcase from 10AM to 1PM.

Participating BCAD staff included William Castillo, Evaluation and Planning Manager; Ria Mohammed, Program Project Coordinator, Sr., and Michael Wanko, Airport Consultant.

FLL Master Plan Update



## Honor Flight South Florida Returns

#### First flight from FLL since the pandemic

More than 70 U.S. military veterans arrived at FLL on Saturday, April 9, at 8PM via Spirit Airlines Flight 1945 as part of the first Honor Flight of South Florida (HFSF) event at the airport since the pandemic.

Onboard the special flight from Washington, D.C. were four World War II veterans, six Korean veterans and 65 Vietnam veterans. There were 38 Army, 15 Air Force, 14 Navy, and eight Marine veterans on the flight representing the different branches of the U.S. military.

This flight was HFSF's 24th mission to D.C. The non-profit organization has saluted nearly 1,800 veterans since its first flight in 2013. In 2019, FLL partnered with HFSF and Spirit to host four roundtrip Honor Flight missions from Fort Lauderdale to the nation's capital to enable U.S. veterans to visit their respective war memorials.

Honor Flights



## **FLL Marks World Health Day**

As part of <u>World Health Day</u> commemorations, Kadiana Heslop, BCAD Guest Experience Senior Program Coordinator, participated in a City of Sunrise expo on April 7, featuring several vendors, local agencies, and medical offices specializing in healthcare for seniors.

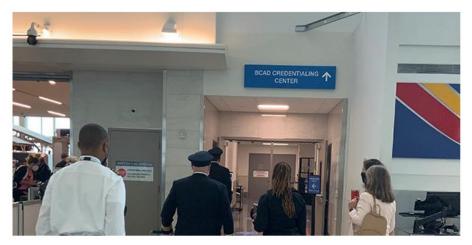
During the event, which ran from 9AM to Noon, Heslop promoted FLL's <u>Airport</u> <u>Ambassadors</u> volunteers program and distributed FLL promotional items to attendees visiting the airport's booth.



### **Airport Ambassadors Wanted**

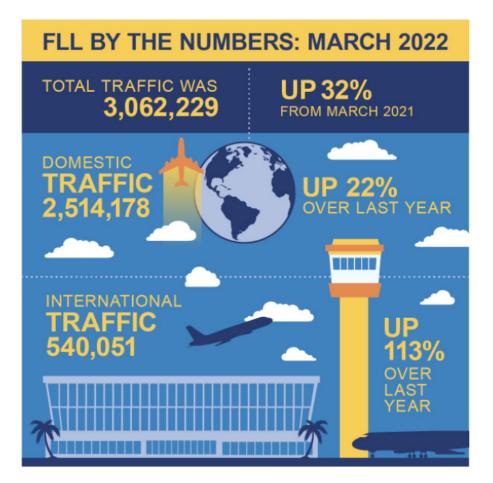
Have you ever visited a place, and the one thing that stood out the most was the smiling face that welcomed you or the pleasant encounter you had? Airport Ambassadors are goodwill diplomats making a positive impression on the millions of passengers traveling annually through FLL.

Volunteers are a vital part of the Aviation Department's commitment to SUNsational customer service. In addition to our ambassadors outfitted in red, members of the <u>FLLAmbassaDogs</u> and Americans with Disabilities Act Access Committee programs are also valued volunteers. For more information or to apply to become an Airport Ambassador, visit the Community section of <u>fll.net</u>.



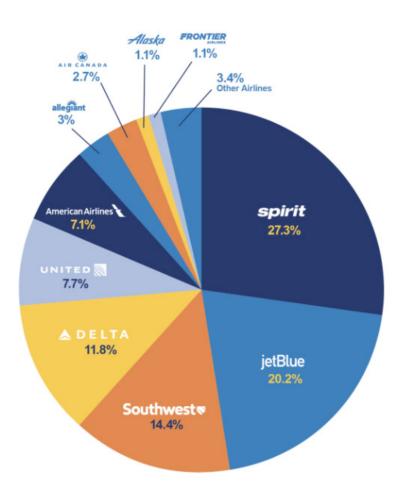
# **Credentialing Center Opens**

BCAD's new Credentialing Center is now open and serving FLL employees and tenants from a more spacious and centralized home on the fourth floor of Terminal 1 (T1). The entrance to the center is between the T1 security checkpoint and the Southwest Airlines ticket counter.



## Top 10 Airline Market Share

Year-to-date: March 2022





## **Stay Connected**

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