



# Steph Sez



Kinga Lampert with Shane and Heidi Battler at the KIPP Miami event.

## **EDUCATION FIRST**

KIPP, a national nonprofit network of public charter schools with a successful track record of educating elementary, middle, and high school students, is coming to our hometown. KIPP hosted a kickoff event to celebrate its arrival and the opening of its first school in Miami. KIPP Miami is part of the KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program.) The chic soiree boasted more than 100 of Miami's sports, education and philanthropic leaders including former Miami HEAT players Shane Battier and Juwan Howard, Kinga and Eddie Lampert, Leslie Miller Salontz and WPLG Local 10 anchor Laurie Jennings at the Design District Garden Building's rooftop to welcome KIPP to South Florida. KIPP Miami is the organization's

first new region to launch in the last eight years and will kick off with an elementary school, KIPP Sunrise Academy in Liberty City. The evening began with welcome remarks by Shane and Heidi Battler, who have provided scholarships for graduating KIPP students for the last seven years. Notables experienced firsthand how KIPP is changing the face of education through comments from KIPP Miami and New Jersey CEO Ryan Hill and KIPP NYC alumna Challanna Lopez and learned about the vision for KIPP Sunrise Academy from the school's founding principal Leyla Bravo.

"We are excited to host this celebration in honor of KIPP's arrival to Miami to operate schools focused on developing students'

knowledge and the character strengths they need to reach their full potential," said Bill Diggs, KIPP Miami Board Chair.

KIPP Sunrise Academy will bring a new model and education alternative to Miami, adding a nonprofit charter school to the urban core, backed by a partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) that will offer leadership development and curriculum resources to District teachers. KIPP Sunrise Academy will open with nearly 200 students in grades K-1.

## **STEPH SEZ SCOOP**

The trio who started Casamigos –George Clooney, Rande Gerber and Mike Meldman – has introduced Mezcal as the