

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

'Things have gotten better for everyone'

NATIVE MIAMIAN EDDY ARRIOLA ON HOW HIS HOMETOWN HAS EVOLVED



NINA LINCOFF

EDDY ARRIOLA

Age: 42

Born: Miami

Residence:
Coral Gables

Current position:
CEO, Apollo Bank

Previous position:
Co-founder and
managing director,
Inktel

Current boards:
InterAmerican
Foundation, Florida
Bankers Association,
gMed, St. Philip's
Episcopal School

Previous schools:
TotalBank, City Year
Miami, Kristi House

Education: B.A. in
history, Boston College;
OPM Program graduate
degree, Harvard
Business School

Currently reading:
"Angle of Repose"
by Wallace Stegner

'Miami is something that is celebrated now and is very cool,' Eddy Arriola says.



Even when it comes to his reading material, Apollo Bank CEO Eddy Arriola is thinking about banking, business and innovation. At the time of this interview, Arriola was reading "Exponential Organizations," which considers how technology can and has been used to accelerate growth.

This makes sense, considering Apollo Bank's accomplishments over the last five years.

The Miami-based financial institution was originally formed in 2001 as Union Credit Bank, but was acquired by Apollo Bancshares in 2010 and renamed Apollo Bank in 2011. Between 2012 and 2014, Apollo Bank has more than doubled its assets – to \$463.8 million from \$209.3

million – and almost tripled net loans and leases – to \$320.9 million from \$118.9 million.

Arriola has helped usher the bank through its growth, and is looking forward to the future. As a native Miamian, he's also been around to witness the growth of the city in which he works, lives and plays.

Were you born and raised in Miami?

I'm one of the few. It was very different then ... Miami was still searching for its identity. I had the good fortune of being able to travel, because I played sports or my family would go on vacation, and ... [the] immediate reaction to "Miami" was almost always negative. They would either comment on the crime or about Hispanics. I realized that Miami was different, and ... I felt that I had to defend it. [During] high school and going away to play sports, I would get into arguments about Miami and have to defend my heritage and my community.

Did you anticipate those negative opinions of Miami would change?

I was too young and it didn't seem like things were going to get better, so it would be something I would have to deal with and fight about for the rest of my life. But things have gotten better for everyone, although it can still be an issue.

Do you have siblings? I have four siblings. I'm No. 2 of four boys, and the fifth is a girl. We're all basically four years apart, more or less.

What was it like growing up? It was great. I loved being part of a large family because we always had other kids around. We had a home that was welcoming of other kids. Either my friends were sleeping over or my brothers' friends were sleeping over ... It was great because our pool of friends was always expanding.

Your children are growing up in Miami. How is their experience different?

It's different ... for a bunch of reasons. Miami is something that is celebrated now and is very cool. They have a great deal of pride in where they're from. They both go away to summer camp and, when they say they're from Miami, it's the cool place to be from.

Has anything in Miami's development surprised you?

How we've been celebrated worldwide for our arts. That's something we've always wanted and aspired to.

What do you like to do with your kids?

My son is in a rock band. Our family loves music, and that's something that we share. We'll break the rules to

see live music. I took my son to go see the Black Keys during midterm week because 20 years from now, he won't remember the midterm and whether or not he got a B or an A, but he will remember that his dad took him to the Black Keys concert and we had an amazing time. Tonight, my daughter and wife are going to see Adam Levine and Maroon 5.

What other hobbies do you have?

We cook and listen to music and spend time together and watch all the popular television. My son and I watch "The Walking Dead" and my wife and I watch "Downton Abbey." Second is, as often as I can, I run. I live right by UM, so I run around Coral Gables. I read a lot, all day, every day and I'm an addictive book buyer. Ever since my kids were little, [I've said] I will never say no to buying books ... or music. We've never regretted spending money on concerts. I have three lifetimes' worth of books. I had to start bringing books to work because we were running out of storage at home. I figured my business books made sense here.

- Nina Lincoff