This document does not provide full disclosure of all material facts relating to the securities offered. Investors should read the offering memorandum and any amendment, for disclosure of those facts, especially risk factors relating to the securities offered, before making an investment decision.
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FEATURED AWARDS, ACHIEVEMENTS and SELECTED PRESS HIGHLIGHTS
Founder & CEO of CGI Merchant Group, Raoul Thomas and The Gabriel Miami Receive Deal of The Year Award by National Association of Black Hotel Owners, Operators and Developers

By Miami Beach Chamber - August 16, 2019
April 30, 2021

POWER LEADERS IN REAL ESTATE

RAOUL THOMAS
FOUNDER AND CEO, CGI MERCHANT GROUP
MIAMI

The pandemic accelerated the launch of CGI's $650 million hospitality fund, which seeks to acquire more than 20 hotels and reposition them under the Hilton brand.

Birthplace: Jamaica
Education: B.S., economics, University of the West Indies; MBA, Nova Southeastern University

Hotest real estate sector right now: Hospitality. The crisis created opportunities and the recovery's promising growth.
A positive result of Covid: It encouraged innovation in sectors that had long been stagnant.

Favorite local getaway spot: The Florida Keys
Favorite book right now: “King of Capital” by David Carey and John E. Morris
Title of my life story: “Audacious & Ambitious: How I Built An Empire”

www.cgimg.com, 786-561-4800

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BACK TO: PRESS RELEASES
CGI Merchant Group, LLC
February 26, 2021

**Morris Brown College Partners With CGI Merchant for Training Program**

CGI Merchant Group CEO Raoul Thomas and Morris Brown College President Dr. Kevin James talk about a new partnership aimed at getting the school accredited again. They speak on Bloomberg Quicktake "Take A Break." (Source: Bloomberg)

February 26th, 2021, 1:54 PM EST
September 1, 2021

Hilton-Backed Hotel Brand Banks on Rising Tide of Social and Environmental Responsibility

Cameron Sperance, Skift  -  Sep 01, 2021  2:30 am

Want to develop a hotel? Think beyond just room revenue. Money talks, and more investors like CGI want to see increased emphasis on social issues and sustainability going forward. So-called ESG is no longer a side thought.

Environmental and social issues are finally getting more recognition in the hotel investment arena, but it all comes down to location.

ESG — or environmental, social, and governance — are increasingly bigger topics of conversation in the financial realm. European hotel investors significantly outpace their peers in other parts of the world when it comes to sustainability-minded projects. U.S. investors lead the world when it comes to investments geared toward equality, Gilda Perez-Alvarado — the global CEO for JLL Hotels & Hospitality — said in an interview with Skift.

Conscious Certified Hotels, newly launched by investment firm CGI Merchant Group and that will operate under Hilton’s various soft brand collections, is the latest example of a hospitality group putting more stock in social issues.

“There’s a consistent investing through our strategies for giving back. This is now taking it on steroids,” said CGI Merchant Group founder and CEO Raoul Thomas in an interview with Skift. “Our studies show that people that have a view to conscious travel and belief around these core values will stay longer in these hotels and pay a premium. Brand loyalty will come very organically and in a very sustainable way that, over time, the giving back is going to be dwarfed by the impact of return.”

CGI’s previously announced $650 million Hospitality Opportunity Fund will go toward acquiring more than 20 assets for the new brand over the next three years. Investors are focused on properties in gateway markets across North America and the Caribbean. Talks about partnering with Hilton on a socially minded hotel collection have been underway for a little more than two years, Thomas said.

Some of the first properties in the Conscious Certified Hotels collection include The Gabriel and Celino South Beach in Miami as well as a hotel in development on the campus of Morris Brown College, one of Atlanta’s historically black colleges and universities. The Gabriel is expected to be the first to open sometime in the fourth quarter of this year.

CLICK TO DOWNLOAD FULL PDF
September 2, 2021

Taking Responsibility for the Future: ESG Goals for Hospitality

CLICK TO VIEW FULL INTERVIEW
A-Rod Swings for the Fences with New Hotel Real-Estate Fund

Former Major League Baseball MVP Alex Rodriguez, now a real-estate mogul, joins a $650 million hotel fund

Baseball legend Alex Rodriguez is teaming with a Miami private-equity firm to invest more than a half-billion dollars in buying or developing hotels at a time when the industry has been ravaged by the pandemic.

The former New York Yankee known as A-Rod said he is joining CGI Merchant Group in its new hotel investment fund, which the firm launched this month. The venture aims to raise $650 million to acquire and develop properties in partnership with Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc. brands. Maverick Commercial Properties, a New York real-estate investment company, will also be part of the venture.

Mr. Rodriguez has been a real-estate investor for many years, going back to his playing days. He founded his own real-estate investment company in 2003, the year before he played his first game for the Bronx Bombers. His Monument Capital Management has made more than $800 million worth of property acquisitions in more than a dozen states, according to its website. Mr. Rodriguez will invest some of his personal money in the hotel fund and help source deals.

He said investing in hotels right now is a way to capitalize on a travel rebound once the pandemic is under control. "We believe we can acquire assets that are strategically positioned to be in the top-performing percentile once restrictions are eased," the 14-time All-Star and 2009 World Series Champion said.

The CGI Merchant fund will look to invest in hotels and resorts across North America and the Caribbean, CGI said, with Miami, Seattle and New York City of particular interest. Raoul Thomas, CGI Merchant’s chief executive, said the fund will avoid large hotels with open floor plans and large banquet spaces. Lodging
CGI HOSPITALITY FUND
ASSETS IN THE MEDIA
Miami Beach Witnesses Surge In New Hotels
December 3, 2021

Miami’s best new hotels for 2021

CLICK TO VIEW FULL INTERVIEW
A New Lifestyle Hotel on Ocean Drive Is Set to Open
ADDITIONAL PRESS HIGHLIGHTS
Hospitality fund that counts A-Rod among investors buys renovated Ocean Drive hotel

132-key hotel will open in the fall under the Curio Collection by Hilton brand
LA Lakers guard, Wayne Ellington, discusses partnering with Raoul Thomas, on a program to help athletes learn more about investments, particularly in real estate.
Take Charge

Quicktake “Charge”
Full Show
09/01/2021 (Video)

September 1st, 2021 11:19AM EDT

CLICK TO VIEW FULL INTERVIEW
August 4, 2021

CGI Merchant Group Buys Oceanfront Celino South Beach Hotel

The hotel will reopen under Hilton’s Gabriel hotel brand this fall

BY JERI EDGERSON AUGUST 4, 2021 3:00 PM

CGI Merchant Group purchased the Celino South Beach, an Art Deco-style hotel on Miami’s iconic Ocean Drive, as part of a $650 million hospitality investment fund that the firm launched in 2020.

The four-building complex, located along the beach at 640 Ocean Drive, sits on the southern end of Miami Beach between 6th and 7th streets, facing Lummus Park. The property holds 152 rooms and a pool.

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BACK TO: PRESS RELEASES

CGI Merchant Group, LLC
July 8, 2021

Once Related’s Coconut Grove office filled up, many tenants looking for space there shifted their interest to his office building at 3480 Main Highway, said Raoul Thomas, CEO of Miami-based CGI Merchant Group. CGI bought the building during the pandemic with 25% of the space available. It’s now fully leased with rents 15% higher than expected when he purchased it last year, Thomas said.

Tenants from the Northeast are signing longer leases than most South Florida companies and spending more on office interior improvements. He’s signed over 10 out-of-market financial firms to deals in Coconut Grove and Coral Gables.

“We bought 300,000 square feet of conventional space over the past two years and we’ve taken massive advantage of that,” Thomas said. “I wish I had more office properties now.”
Morris Brown College Adds Hotel Development Project To Its Campus With $30 Million Investment from CGI Merchant Group

by Savoystaff  |  March 30, 2021

CGI Merchant Group, LLC (CGI), a minority-owned global investment management firm focusing on private equity and real estate, is making a
March 11, 2021

Real Estate Journal: CGI Merchant Group's Raoul Thomas on $650M hospitality fund and other investments

CGI Merchant Group founder Raoul Thomas at the Gabriel Miami.

JOCK FISTICK / SOUTH FLORIDA BUSINESS JOURNAL

By Brian Bandell — Senior Reporter, South Florida Business Journal

Having major investments in hotels, office buildings and coworking operations might seem like a bad idea during the Covid-19 pandemic, but Raoul Thomas and his ability to analyze deals have turned this into a growth strategy for CGI Merchant Group.

The Miami-based company formed a $650 million hospitality fund, with investors including former baseball star Alex Rodriguez, to purchase hotels under the Hilton brand, many of them in distress. It’s looking to buy more offices in suburban markets, where its Nexus Workspaces coworking brand is attracting clients who no longer want to work in crowded city centers.

“Because of my investment banking experience, it allows me to see value where others may see struggle,” Thomas said. “I had the foresight to believe in Nexus and to buy a hotel at 11th Street and Biscayne in 2014 — at a time when you wouldn’t want to walk behind there. I knew Miami Worldcenter and the Signature Bridge were coming.”

Thomas was born in Jamaica; his father a well-known economist and academic, and his mother very creative and charitable. Because of his father’s job, Thomas moved among many countries in Africa and South America as a child.

CLICK TO DOWNLOAD FULL PDF
March 2, 2021

CGI Merchant Group to Convert Morris Brown College Facility Into Upscale Hotel

The firm will also provide financial aid to students, fund future expansion goals and support minority and women-owned businesses in the surrounding community.

By Kelsi Maree Borland | March 02, 2021 at 06:37 AM

CLICK TO VIEW FULL ARTICLE
March 01, 2021

CGI Merchant Group Hospitality Fund To Invest In Atlanta HBCU Morris Brown College With $30 Million Hotel Development Project

Venture Includes Conversion of Existing Campus Facilities into a 150-Key Upscale Hotel and Hospitality Training Complex for Morris Brown Students

NEWS PROVIDED BY
CGI Merchant Group
Mar 01, 2021, 10:15 ET

CLICK TO VIEW FULL ARTICLE
February 18, 2021

MIAMI, Feb. 18, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- CGI Merchant Group, LLC (CGI) — a global investment management firm with a focus on real estate and private equity — recently welcomed Euclid Walker as senior managing director. An investment management veteran with 27 years of experience, Walker is leading strategy and acquisition efforts for CGI's signature Hospitality Opportunity Fund (H Fund) while also managing the firm's additional...
Alex Rodriguez, the former New York Yankees MVP turned businessman, philanthropist and full-time Miami resident, is getting into the hospitality industry.

As part of a joint venture formed with Adi Chugh, founder of the New York-based Maverick Commercial Properties real estate and equity firm, A-Rod will be a platform investor in a $650 million hospitality fund with CGI Merchant Group, a Miami-based investment firm focusing on real estate and private equity.

The fund aims to acquire and develop 20 hotels across North America and the Caribbean over the next three years. It will reposition its hotel acquisitions under the Hilton brand.

Hotels have been particularly walloped by the COVID pandemic. According to Marketwatch, Hilton Worldwide Holdings, which operates 6,300 properties across 118 countries, reported a second quarter net loss of $430 million from net income of $260 million on revenue — an 81% drop from the same period in 2019.

“We’re excited about this venture not only from a financial aspect, where hotels will be sold at a discount due to COVID, but the way in which we operate those hotels,” Raoul Thomas, CEO and founder of CGI, told the Herald.

“There’s a growing demand from consumers who are looking for value beyond the experiences they want to have,” he said. “They want to know where their dollars go, are they making an impact in the communities around the hotels and if the hotel is being a responsible steward of the community and giving back.”

Thomas said one of the side effects of 2020 has been “the social awakening and maturity” of consumers when deciding where to spend their dollars. CGI works with an independent 501(c)(3), the Isabella Alycia Foundation, which focuses on assisting underprivileged male students and single mothers in health, economic and wellness. The hotels created by the new fund would donate a proceed of their revenue to the foundation.

“CGI’s visionary and conscious approach to business has the potential to transform the commercial real estate industry, bringing in untapped voices that can inject new energy and ideas to ignite vast opportunities,” Rodriguez said in a press release. “I’m proud to be involved with a company that is as focused on advancing the communities it calls home, as it is on financial returns.”

Thomas said he expects the new fund to announce its first hotel acquisitions in early 2021.
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