

Memorandum



Date: July 09, 2024

To: Chair and Members
Art in Public Places Trust

From: Marialaura Leslie, Director
Department of Cultural Affairs

Subject: Trust Resolution No. APPT 24-40 / Jessy Nite – MIA British Airways Lounge / Professional Artist Services Agreement

Trust Resolution No. APPT 24-40

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH JESSY NITE, LLC (LEAD ARTIST JESSICA KENNEDY) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$145,000.00 FOR DESIGN, FABRICATION, AND INSTALLATION OF THE ARTWORK CONCEPTS FOR THE NEW BRITISH AIRWAYS LOUNGE PROJECT AT MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (FROM MIAMI-DADE AVIATION DEPARTMENT PUBLIC ART TRUST FUNDS)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with Jessy Nite, LLC (lead artist Jessica Kennedy) in the amount of \$145,000.00 for design, fabrication, and installation of the artwork concept for the British Airways Lounge project at the Miami International Airport.

Background

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on June 20 & 21, 2024 to review the proposal concepts from a group of seven (7) Miami-based artists shortlisted from an Invitational Call to Artists for interior works for the new British Airways Lounge at the Miami International Airport. Opportunities for public art included installation or wall-based artworks, stand-alone sculpture or suspended artworks intended for placement at a large glazed area facing the airfield, text-based artwork(s) to activate “Look up” moments at key locations such as three (3) custom planters proposed for the casual and formal dining rooms, and a floor mosaic at the entrance to the lounge.

After careful discussion and input from the client teams, the PAC unanimously recommended awarding the full commission to Miami-based artist Jessy Nite to fully develop various concepts to create a cohesive installation throughout the lounge. A multidisciplinary artist, Nite specializes in interactive, experiential, and site-specific installations, often using text, typography, geometry, and illustration techniques to affirm a sense of place. The primary recommendation was to explore Nite’s concept for the “Look Up Planters.” This concept proposes a series of surface mounted elements which at eye level read as abstract forms in varying shades and heights of red glass blocks, with a subtle illumination from within. However, upon viewing the works from the reflected mirror ceiling above, the abstract shapes reveal a text message. The final text selection will be developed collaboratively with the client team, at the intersection of Miami-based vernacular

phrases, British wit, and the wonder of travel. The PAC also recommended the activation of the focal area by the large glass window with a suspended textile work made from paracord or other durable textile material, using the artist's signature and complex handmade knotting techniques.

Based on program funding and the accelerated timetable for the completion of this new facility, APP staff recommends an artwork budget allocation of \$145,000.00 and a single phase implementation contract combining milestones and deliverables that allow for the completion of the artwork project in tandem with the construction schedule.

APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 24-40 authorizing a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with Jessy Nite, LLC (lead artist Jessica Kennedy) in the amount of \$145,000.00 for design, fabrication, and installation services of the artwork concepts for the new British Airways Lounge Project at Miami International Airport.