

# Memorandum



**Date:** June 11, 2024

**To:** Chair and Members  
Art in Public Places Trust

**From:** Marialaura Leslie, Director  
Department of Cultural Affairs

**Subject:** Trust Resolution No. APPT 24-29 / Jose Alvarez (DOPA) – Gallery at West Brickell / Professional Artist Services Agreement

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## **Trust Resolution No. APPT 24-29**

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH JOSE ALVAREZ ART STUDIO, LLC (LEAD ARTIST JOSE ALVAREZ (AKA DOPA)) IN THE NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$150,000.00 FOR AN ACQUISITION OF ARTWORK(S) FOR THE GALLERY AT WEST BRICKELL RESIDENTIAL TOWER PHASE (FROM MIAMI-DADE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED URBAN PUBLIC ART FUNDS).

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with Jose Alvarez Art Studio, LLC (Jose Alvarez (aka DOPA)) in the not to exceed amount of \$150,000.00 for an acquisition of artwork(s) for the Gallery at West Brickell Tower phase.

### **Background**

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on May 30, 2024 to review design concepts from a group of eight (8) artists invited to propose from a National Call to Artist for interior and exterior works for the housing development known as Gallery at West Brickell, a public-private partnership between Related Urban and the Miami-Dade Department of the Public Housing and Community Development located in the Brickell neighborhood at 201 SW 10th Street, Miami FL 33130. Opportunities for public art in the building tower included light-based and suspended artworks, screening systems, and applications of two and three-dimensional works and or installations for interior spaces, as well as applications of free-standing artworks for the roof-top pool deck.

After thoughtful deliberation and feedback from the client and APP teams, the PAC recommended acquiring works from South Florida-based Venezuelan artist Jose Alvarez (D.O.P.A.) for placement on the building's 10th floor lounge area. Artworks for potential acquisition included pieces such as "Our Magic Garden (First Movement) 2021 and "I Wish You Were Here" 2020 incorporating handmade paper on mica on wood panel and mixed media materials including acrylic, ink, colored pencil, feathers, and quills in exuberant compositions that radiate energy and life force. Additional works offered included grouping of four pieces featuring a target motif celebrating the vitality of Venezuelan refugees and the diaspora in South Florida and beyond; this work, was proposed for a main focal wall in the club room. Following a trajectory of work that breaks down belief systems into intersecting components of science, spirituality, and mysticism, Alvarez's works feature luminous mica backgrounds, psychedelic patterns, colors, lush floral

imagery and traditional shamanic materials such as crystals and porcupine quills. They appear as hallucinatory portals into other realms.

Based on funding earmarked for the public art at the residential portion of the development project and the artist's preliminary proposal budgets, APP staff recommends a budget allocation of \$150,000.00 for the acquisition of (2) two or more existing works for installation on the tower's 10<sup>th</sup> floor lounge area. APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 24-29 authorizing a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with Jose Alvarez Art Studio, LLC (lead artist Jose Alvarez (aka DOPA) in the not-to-exceed amount of \$150,000.00 for the acquisition of existing artwork(s) for the Gallery at West Brickell Residential Tower phase.