

# 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 24-37 / Morel Doucet / Civil and Probate  
Courthouse / Addendum I

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## **Trust Resolution No. APPT 24-37**

RESOLUTION APPROVING ADDENDUM I TO THE PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH DOUCET COLLECTABLES, LLC (LEAD ARTIST MOREL DOUCET) IN THE FIXED FEE AMOUNT OF \$126,000.00 FOR PHASE II - FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION OF THE ARTWORK PROJECT FOR THE NEW CIVIL AND PROBATE COURTHOUSE PROJECT (FROM MIAMI-DADE INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT PUBLIC ART FUNDS)

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve Addendum I to the Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with Doucet Collectables, LLC (lead artist Morel Doucet) in the fixed fee amount of \$126,000.00 for Phase II - Fabrication and Installation of the artwork project for the Civil and Probate Courthouse project.

### Background

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on January 25 - 27, 2023 to review design proposals from a group of seventeen (17) artists shortlisted from a national Call to Artists for a combined series of public art opportunities for the Civil and Probate Courthouse, located in Downtown Miami on NW 1st Avenue between Flagler Street and NW 1st Street. This public/private development will serve the Civil and Probate Divisions of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, the Clerk of Courts and other related court partners including administrative services, court-related programs, court support functions, and facility management services. A very special project with great community significance, the new courthouse will functionally replace the existing iconic Miami-Dade County Courthouse which has been in service since the 1920s. The project includes twenty-four (24) floors, forty-six (46) finished jury courtrooms and one (1) additional shell space for an additional four (4) jury courtrooms including fifty-nine (59) secure parking spaces. The courthouse is designed to be a significant landmark.

Opportunities for public art included, but were not limited to, large-scale site-specific artworks for the main lobby including durable wall applications and suspended sculpture, terrazzo flooring in targeted areas such as security screening, main elevator lobby, 4th floor café, ceremonial courtroom, jury pool holding room, and site-specific artworks for a designated feature wall at each of the 12 typical waiting rooms and the ceremonial courtroom. Exterior opportunities included exterior screening system and applied artworks to enhance the FPL utility area and ADA access ramp. In addition to the funding for commissioned work, funds were set aside for acquisition of two-dimensional original works of art for installation within conference room, department lobbies,

and public corridors with the intent to create a unique Miami-Dade County Civil and Probate Courthouse Artbank Collection.

After careful deliberation and input from the client teams, APP Trust members, and APP staff, the PAC unanimously recommended the commissioning of Miami-based artist Morel Doucet to pursue a large-scale installation of framed mixed media artworks in a grid for the feature wall of a designated courtroom waiting room.

On April 11, 2023, through approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-23, the Trust authorized a total budget of \$180,000.00 for Morel Doucet recommended artwork commission and the approval of an initial \$54,000.00 contract to facilitate the artist's design development services. The artist has completed Phase I - Design and it has been approved by the client team: "Tropical Symphony: Sunset Serenade in Paradise." This expansive mixed-media installation, spanning approximately 30 feet in length and standing at 8 feet in height, skillfully blends diverse artistic elements to present a luxurious portrayal of tropical leaves and the vibrant colors found in Miami's lush tropical scenery, creating a tranquil and welcoming ambiance amid the frequently tense legal proceedings. The artwork will be meticulously crafted on 4-5 large wooden panels, employing diverse painting techniques such as watercolor and ink and will be hung directly onto the waiting room wall. Metal leaves and flowers protruding a maximum of 4" from the wooden panels will also be installed in some areas. The choice of medium adds depth and texture, enhancing the overall visual experience. The wooden panels serve as a robust canvas for the intricate portrayal of the tropical paradise, ensuring durability and longevity. In addition, there will be a few additional small works for other places in the Courthouse part of the same series.

Given the substantial completion of the artwork's design development, APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 24-37 authorizing Addendum I to the Professional Artist Services Agreement with Doucet Collectables LLC. (lead artist Morel Doucet) in the fixed fee amount of \$126,000.00 for Phase II - Fabrication and Installation of the artwork concept for the Civil and Probate Courthouse project.