

# Memorandum



**Date:** March 19, 2024

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

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

**Subject:** Trust Resolution No. APPT 24-09 / Joyce Billet– Village of Casa Familia Ph I / Professional Artist Services Agreement

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## **Trust Resolution No. APPT 24-09**

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH JOYCE BILLET STUDIO LLC (LEAD ARTIST JOYCE BILLET) IN THE FIXED FEE AMOUNT OF \$48,750.00 FOR PHASE I - DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE VILLAGE OF CASA FAMILIA-PHASE I ARTWORK PROJECT (FROM MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY ACTION AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT – CASA FAMILIA AND ATLANTIC PACIFIC COMMUNITIES 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 Joyce Billet Studio LLC (lead artist Joyce Billet) in the fixed fee amount of \$48,750.00 for Phase I – Design Services for the Village of Casa Familia-Phase I project.

### **Background**

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on February 15, 2024 to review design concepts from a national shortlist of eight (8) artists invited to propose for the first phase of the new Village of Casa Familia, a multiphase development planned by the non-profit Casa Familia, Inc. (CFI) on a county-owned site. This first phase comprises 50 housing units in two 3-story buildings and an 11,000 square foot community center with amenities such as a basketball court, pool, community rooms, as well as outdoor recreation areas. The development will serve individuals who qualify for the voluntary services offered, including those individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities that affect social and cognitive abilities such as language, communication, learning, self-care, mobility, interpretation of social cues, among others. Casa Familia, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation formed in 2015 to address a need for a systematic change in supportive housing options for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), including autism, down syndrome, traumatic brain injury, and other related disabilities, in South Florida and beyond. Opportunities for public art were focused on an exterior garden of the facility, which could include an artist-designed sensory garden, kinetic sculpture, participatory installation, water feature, seating elements and or landscape-based artworks.

After careful deliberation and feedback from the client team, the PAC unanimously recommended commissioning Miami-based artist Joyce Billet for her proposal *Forces of Nature*, which incorporates various approaches to activate the sensory garden including shade structures, stand-alone sculptures, seating elements, and a water feature, all derived from her ongoing body

of work engaging forms found in nature. Composed of painted laser-cut metal and reflective acrylic/or fiberglass fragments, this installation of sculptures invites viewers to think about how we interact with one another, our environments, and ourselves. The canopy serves as a meeting point for members of the community to socialize, rest, and enjoy the sights and sounds of the garden around them. Providing a shady retreat, the fiberglass canopy takes the form of the cutouts in nature that can be seen across the artist's work (inspired by the motion of water, patterns of leaves, etc.). The canopies are envisioned to be integrated with benches, also made from fiberglass, cast from wood with textured surfaces that provide a tactile experience when utilizing the seating area. The legs of the benches will take shape in the form of tree trunks which not only provide support for those seating and relaxing on the structure but will also house living plants (inviting green elements, symbolic of restfulness). The proposal concept also incorporates a shallow water element that takes a similar form from the canopy and its many fragments – once again reminiscent of the forms present in nature.

Based on a total artwork budget allocation of \$195,000.00, APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 24-09 authorizing a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with Joyce Billet Studio LLC (lead artist Joyce Billet) for Phase I – Design Development Services in the fixed fee amount of \$48,750.00 for the new Village of Casa Familia – Phase I project.