

# Memorandum



**Date:** November 12, 2024

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

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

**Subject:** Trust Resolution No. APPT 24-60 / Laura Tanner Graham – Homage to Cielito Lindo / Professional Artist Services Agreement

---

## Trust Resolution No. APPT 24-60

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH LAURA TANNER GRAHAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000.00 FOR DESIGN, FABRICATION, AND INSTALLATION OF THE ARTWORK CONCEPTS FOR THE HOMAGE TO CIELITO LINDO PROJECT AT THE NEW MIAMI-DADE CIVIL AND PROBATE COURTHOUSE (FROM MIAMI-DADE INTERNAL SERVICES 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 Laura Tanner Graham in the amount of \$30,000.00 for design, fabrication, and installation of the artwork concept for the Homage to Cielito Lindo at the new Miami-Dade Civil and Probate Courthouse.

## Background

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) convened on October 23, 2024, to interview six (6) Miami-based artists invited to explore original ideas based on their creative practices to pay homage to the historic Miami-Dade County Courthouse, also known as “Cielito Lindo”, or “beautiful sky.” This historic building, located at 73 West Flagler Street in Miami was built over four years (1925-1928) and added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in 1989. The facility will soon be functionally replaced by the new state-of-the art Civil and Probate Courthouse, located adjacent to the historic courthouse. *Homage to Cielito Lindo* is envisioned as a special public art project in which an artist, in collaboration with the Office of the Administrative Judges and local historians, creates an original work of art that commemorates and responds to the design features, architecture, history, aesthetics, community associations and historical narratives of the Miami-Dade County Courthouse, also known as “Cielito Lindo.”

The interview process resulted in the PAC’s unanimous recommendation of Laura Tanner Graham to pursue her “collage – like” methodology to create a series of drawings based on photographs that combine the imagery discovered within the archives. Imagery inspired by oral histories will be drawn upon to create complex surfaces that layer disparate visual references on translucent materials, allowing for the presentation of multiple narratives on a single surface. Creating an installation, all imagery and patterns will be hand-drawn, painted, and cut using a single surface – 0.005” double frosted mylar film. Mylar Film is a specialized material widely used in the field of technical drafting and design that is made from durable polyester film. Although the overall aesthetic will appear delicate due to the translucent quality of the material, drafting the

image across three large sheets of mylar ensures that the integrity of the substrate is not compromised with added weight from additional materials. Furthermore, its archival quality ensures longevity and resistance to deterioration over time. The drawing itself will be completed using archival-quality, waterproof ink and gouache.

APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 24-60 authorizing a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with Laura Tanner Graham in the amount of \$30,000.00 for design, fabrication, and installation services of the artwork concepts for the *Homage to Cielito Lindo* project at the new Miami-Dade Civil and Probate Courthouse.