

Memorandum



Date: February 11, 2025

To: Chair and Members
Art in Public Places Trust

From: Marialaura Leslie, Director
Department of Cultural Affairs

Subject: Trust Resolution No. APPT 25-09 / Doucet Collectables, LLC – Culmer Apartments Phase I / Addendum I

Trust Resolution No. APPT 25-09

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 \$212,500.00 FOR PHASE II – FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICES FOR THE CULMER APARTMENTS PHASE I ARTWORK PROJECT (FROM MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – ATLANTIC PACIFIC COMMUNITIES 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 \$212,500.00 for Phase II – Fabrication and Installation Services for the Culmer Apartments Phase I artwork project.

Background

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on November 10 and 12, 2022 to review design proposals from a group of fourteen (14) Miami-based artists for a combined series of public art opportunities for Phase I of the Culmer Place development project, a public-private partnership between developer Atlantic Pacific Communities and the Miami-Dade County Department of Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD). This development will comprise two hundred and thirty-nine (239) units in two buildings, as well as a community center and pool. Building A will consist of one hundred and twenty (120) units in a 7-story building on the vacant parcel of land in the center of Culmer Place. Building B will consist of one hundred and nineteen (119) units in a 7-story building along with a 153-space parking garage on the southeastern quadrant of Culmer Place campus. The development will be equipped with solar and thermal features.

Opportunities for public art related to the Phase 1 of the development included, but were not limited to, artist-designed fencing, garage cladding, hardscape within the paseo and green areas, site-specific artworks for the pool deck and adjoining community center, and recurring functional elements that repeat among various buildings. The PAC recommended Miami-based artist Morel Doucet to create a series of monochrome base relief tiles using three-dimensional (3D) modeling and original molds. The tiles would be based on his sculptural practice of ceramic works featuring

elements of sea life and portraiture, highlighting issues of climate gentrification, migration, and displacement affecting Black diasporic communities.

On November 22, 2022, through approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 22-54, the Trust authorized a total budget allocation of \$250,000.00 for Doucet's artwork and a Professional Artist Services Agreement in the initial amount of \$37,500.00 for Phase I - Design Development for the project. In this process, the artist opted to transition from ceramic to a more durable resin-based material and accepted the client and APP teams' recommendation to develop a design for the façade of the new pool house.

Doucet's final design proposes a dynamic tile installation for the front exterior façade columns of the Culmer Pool House entrance, drawing inspiration from the resilience of the Black Maroons and the untamed beauty of the Florida Everglades. The 6" x 6" tile composition features a rich palette of pinks, creams, and earthy tones, accented with black, white, gray, and Rosso marble. The design reflects the Everglades' shifting landscape—a place of refuge and resistance, much like it was for the Black Maroons who sought freedom in its dense terrain. Their legacy of self-sufficiency, cultural fusion, and deep connection to the land is echoed in the intricate patterns and organic flow of the tilework. By weaving together history, nature, and artistry, this installation transforms the Culmer Pool House entrance into a meaningful tribute to those who shaped Miami's past while celebrating its evolving future.

APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 25-09 authorizing a Addendum I to the Professional Artist Services Agreement with Doucet Collectables, LLC (lead artist, Morel Doucet) for a total amount of \$212,500.00 for Phase II – Fabrication and Installation of the Culmer Apartments artwork project.