

Memorandum



Date: July 15, 2025

To: Chair and Members
Art in Public Places Trust

From: Marialaura Leslie, Director
Department of Cultural Affairs

Subject: Trust Resolution No. APPT 25-36 / Mikyoung Kim Studio, LLC – Zoo Miami Entrance and Ripple Garden / Conservation Contract

Trust Resolution No. APPT 25-36

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH MIKYOUNG KIM STUDIO, LLC (LEAD ARTIST MIKYOUNG KIM) IN THE NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$30,000.00 FOR ASSESSMENT AND CONSERVATION OF THE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COLLECTION ARTWORKS *RIPPLE GARDENS* AT JACKSON SOUTH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL AND *ZOO MIAMI ENTRANCE* AT ZOO MIAMI (FROM ART IN PUBLIC PLACES REPAIR AND CONSERVATION FUNDS).

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with Mikyoung Kim Studio, LLC (lead artist Mikyoung Kim) in the not-to-exceed amount of \$30,000.00 for the assessment and restoration of the Art in Public Places Collection artworks *Ripple Gardens* at Jackson South Community Hospital and *Zoo Entrance* at Zoo Miami.

Background

In 2011, artist Mikyoung Kim completed *Ripple Gardens*, a monumental work of art integrated in the landscape and hardscape architecture of the newly built Jackson South Community Hospital. The artwork combined a series of seating elements, paved pathways, fences, lush plantings, lights, and a misting system to create a welcoming environment for patients, visitors, and hospital staff to relax and refresh in the facility's only open area.

In 2016, the artist completed another integrated work of art, (*Untitled, Zoo Miami Entrance*) for the new and reconfigured main entrance to Zoo Miami. The artwork comprises 7,000 square feet of cementitious terrazzo walkways in 4 different colors, a series of in-ground LED lights, and a misting system installed within the animal sculptures. The work was inspired by the braided stream systems of the Everglades, the native landscape of Miami, and the animal inhabitants of the zoo. The Safari mammal sculptures that march from the parking area to this entrance courtyard arrive at a mist fountain which symbolizes a gathering place for families and a watering hole for the animals.

Since the completion of these two monumental commissions a decade ago, both of our County partner agencies have performed maintenance of varying degrees on these works, some of which have been detrimental to the integrity of the artworks. In the case of *Ripple Gardens*, the hospital's maintenance crews have trimmed and replaced original plant materials with invasive species and have pressure washed the paved pathways and granite benches causing shifting and movement that create unsafe walking and seating conditions. At a recent artwork verification visit to the hospital, APP staff confirmed

the unsafe conditions and observed staining in the granite surfaces, nonfunctioning lighting and misting system, and an overgrown and poorly kept green area.

With regard to the artwork at the Zoo Miami entrance, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces staff has requested a safety assessment of the overall artwork installation claiming that the terrazzo floor is unsafe even though the work was designed and implemented by the artist in compliance with applicable South Florida Building Code and as an integral part of the overall construction of the Zoo expansion project. In meeting with Zoo staff, APP has confirmed that the regular procedure for cleaning and maintenance of the terrazzo surface is inappropriate and that an alternative treatment to the finish of the floor surface needs to be considered as an alternative to the complete removal or replacement of the work. In addition to the terrazzo, most of the original in-ground lights are not working and many are showing rust stains around the edges.

APP staff has discussed these findings with the Mikyoung Kim Studio and they have confirmed their interest and commitment to perform a complete assessment of both artworks and provide a report with written recommendations for conservation and repair that align with the artist's original intent for these works. The proposed budget will cover the artist's service fee, travel expense, documentation, and preliminary services that may be needed from qualified local vendors to perform tests, mockups, and provide equipment and or expertise in support of the artist's assessment activities.

APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 25-36 authorizing a Professional Artist Services agreement with Mikyoung Kim Studio, LLC (lead artist Mikyoung Kim) in the not-to-exceed amount of \$30,000.00 for assessment and conservation services of the APP Collection artworks *Ripple Gardens at Jackson South* and *Zoo Miami Entrance*.