

# Memorandum



**Date:** March 11, 2025

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

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

**Subject:** Trust Resolution No. APPT 25-11 / Marcus Blake– Wellspring Apartments / Professional Artist Services Agreement

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## **Trust Resolution No. APPT 25-11**

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH MARCUS BLAKE IN THE FIXED FEE AMOUNT OF \$80,000.00 FOR DESIGN, FABRICATION, AND INSTALLATION OF THE ARTWORK FOR THE WELLSRING APARTMENT PROJECT (FROM MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PEOPLE AND INTERNAL OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT 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 Marcus Blake in the fixed fee amount of \$80,000.00 for the design, fabrication, and installation of the artwork for the Wellspring Apartment project.

### **Background**

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on February 20, 2025 to review design proposals from a group of seven (7) artists shortlisted from a regional Call to Artists for a series of public art opportunities at the new Wellsprings Apartment development located in the City of Opa-locka at 14703 NW 27th Avenue, FL 33054. This public-private development consists of a new 99-unit low-income senior housing facility with an access-controlled surface parking lot and several residential amenities including community, computer, and mail rooms. Opportunities for public art included artist-designed tile or durable stencil applications for focal areas of the facility's exterior, works that would enhance the patio area and/or the underside of the covered concrete slab terrace, as well as large-scale installation or two-dimensional artwork for the ground floor lobby.

The PAC unanimously recommended commissioning Miami-based artist Marcus Blake to pursue a scaled-down version of his proposal for a prominent wall in the main lobby using his signature and geometric "Tapenology" approach to add a contemporary design flair inspired by the rich design history of Opa-locka. It was also recommended that the proposed aluminum artwork powder-coated in a golden metallic hue be backlit for a stunning welcoming effect into the building's main lobby. Of the total artwork allocation for commissioning new work at this facility, APP staff recommends a total budget allocation of \$80,000.00 for this artwork commission and the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 25-11 authorizing a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with Marcus Blake in the fixed amount of \$80,000.00 for design, fabrication, and installation of the artwork for the Wellsprings Apartments project.