

Memorandum



Date: May 13, 2025

To: Chair and Members
Art in Public Places Trust

From: Marialaura Leslie, Director
Department of Cultural Affairs

Subject: Trust Resolution No. APPT 25-19 / Nina Surel / PS Miami / Professional Artist Services Agreement

Trust Resolution No. APPT 25-19

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH NINA SUREL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$130,000.00 FOR DESIGN, FABRICATION, AND INSTALLATION OF THE ARTWORK PROJECT FOR PS MIAMI AT MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (FROM MIAMI-DADE AVIATION DEPARTMENT AND THE PRIVATE SUITE 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 Nina Surel in the amount of \$130,000.00 for design, fabrication, and installation of the artwork concept for the new PS Miami project at the Miami International Airport.

Background

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) convened on April 17, 2025, to review the proposal presentations of (7) regional artists invited to propose for the new airport-based private facility known as PS Miami at Miami International Airport. PS, formerly known as The Private Suites, is an international company that plans to restore the historic Pan American Airways Regional Headquarters at Miami International Airport as a remote VIP operation for commercial airline flights. The facility will be available to individuals traveling on commercial aircraft seeking private accommodation including suites, private kitchen, executive chefs, and access to amenities such as spa, salon, and gym, and a shared salon and bar. Guests will receive baggage check-in and private TSA service and share private transportation across the airfield and into aircraft.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the PAC unanimously recommended commissioning Miami-based artist Nina Surel for her design concept addressing the two reflecting pools and adjacent vertical surface areas below the central stairwell located in the building's interior courtyard. The murals would incorporate a multi-part natural clay slip-cast and laser-cut ceramic composition, seamlessly integrated with the historical elements of the Pan Am logos and recessed brickwork. For the pools, the artist proposed a design with wave and geometric patterned elements to be cast in molds. The artist's design responds to the 1960s golden era of Pan American Airways and reflects the Art Deco-inspired wave motifs and geometry, mermaids, and adaptable ceramic molding. These elements will complement the facility's original design while introducing a contemporary dialogue. The mermaid is a powerful and multifaceted symbol, reflecting the city's blend of Afro-Caribbean, Latin American, and Mediterranean influences while embodying themes of migration, femininity, and humanity's connection to the ocean.

APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 25-19 authorizing a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with Nina Surel in the amount of \$130,000.00 for design, fabrication, and installation services of the artwork project for the new PS Miami at Miami International Airport.