

Memorandum



Date: November 12, 2025

To: Chair and Members
Art in Public Places Trust

From: Ashlee K. Thomas, Interim Director
Department of Cultural Affairs

Subject: Trust Resolution No. APPT 25-58 / Martha Schwartz / Addendum I to Contract for Artwork Assessment Services

Trust Resolution No. APPT 25-58

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ADDENDUM I TO PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH MARTHA SCHWARTZ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (LEAD ARTIST MARTHA SCHWARTZ) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000.00 FOR ADDITIONAL CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT SERVICES FOR THE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COLLECTION ARTWORK "36TH STREET WALL" (1996) LOCATED AT THE GROUNDS OF THE MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (FROM ART IN PUBLIC PLACES REPAIR AND RESTORATION 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 Martha Schwartz Landscape Architecture (lead artist Martha Schwartz) in the amount of \$3,000.00 for additional conservation assessment services for the Art in Public Places Collection Artwork "*36th Street Wall*" located at the grounds of the Miami International Airport.

Background

In 1996, artist Martha Schwartz, in collaboration with design consultants of the Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD), completed one of Miami-Dade County's most iconic and recognized integrated work of art "*36th Street Wall*." The artist ingeniously combined color glass and sunlight to enliven the mile-long sound attenuation wall along NW 36th Street corridor at the northern boundary of the Miami International Airport. Separating the airport from two adjacent neighborhoods, the wall was constructed of precast concrete panels ranging in height from 20 to 35 feet. The artist was then challenged with the task to make a concrete barrier wall that was visually pleasing to area residents and passersby while serving as a functional barrier between the airport and the residential area. The successful design was further complemented by the addition of gently rolling berms of green grass that create a wave-like shape at the base of the extensive work.

At a recent collection verification meeting of the airport's public art inventory, APP was informed by MDAD Maintenance personnel of potential damage to some of the color portholes embedded in the pre-cast wall. APP's review of original 1996 collection records and a further conversation with the artist and her studio team, revealed that airport consultants had taken the liberty to replicate the artist's artwork intent on an adjacent barrier wall built shortly after the completion of the original artwork scope. Though the artist is not seeking retribution nor pursuing legal action to correct this wrong, she did express an interest to perform a condition assessment of the original work and to provide APP with an updated maintenance and care plan to ensure the longevity of this important integrated artwork.

On July 9, 2024, the Trust approved Resolution No. 24-42, authorizing a contract for \$10,000.00 with Martha Schwartz Partners (led by artist Martha Schwartz) to conduct an assessment, create a condition report, and develop a comprehensive maintenance and conservation plan.

As part of the logistical planning for the site visit and assessment, APP staff identified several unforeseen site conditions that required additional expenses not included as part of the original scope of work. These additional costs included the rental of an articulated boom lift with a qualified operator to safely access the oversize work in its entirety over uneven ground conditions, the rental of an escorting van to access the airside portion of the work, and a specialized crew to assist the studio representatives in performing the thorough inspection.

APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution APPT 25-58, authorizing an Addendum I to the Professional Artist Services agreement in substantially the form attached with Martha Schwartz Landscape Architecture (lead artist Martha Schwartz) in the amount of \$3,000.00 for additional conservation assessment services for the Art in Public Places Collection Artwork *"36th Street Wall"* located at the grounds of the Miami International Airport.