

Memorandum



Date: October 7, 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 25-48 / Stephen Arboite– Heritage Village South / Professional Artist Services Agreement

Trust Resolution No. APPT 25-48

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH STEPHEN ARBOITE IN THE FIXED FEE AMOUNT OF \$ 210,000.00 FOR COMBINED PHASE I – DESIGN AND PHASE II- FABRICATION AND INSTALLATON SERVICES OF THE ARTWORK PROJECT FOR THE HERITAGE VILLAGE SOUTH HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (FROM MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ATLANTIC PACIFIC COMMUNITIES 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 Stephen Arboite in the fixed fee amount of \$210,000.00 for combined Phase I-Design and Phase II – Fabrication and Installation Services of the artwork project for the Heritage Village South Housing Development Project.

Background

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on August 21-22, 2025 to review design proposals from a group of eight (8) artists shortlisted from the Housing Artists Registry for public art opportunities for the first phase of the Heritage Village South housing project, a new 100% multi-family affordable housing development located in Naranja, in unincorporated Miami-Dade County. With 116 units, the project is the first phase of redevelopment of an existing Miami-Dade County-owned and operated public housing complex anticipated for completion in March of 2026. Opportunities for public art include applications to various areas of the building architecture, free-standing sculptures in common spaces to serve as seating or shading elements, artist-designed fencing, as well as applied artworks for interiors.

The PAC unanimously recommended Miami-based artist Stephen Arboite to implement at least two sets of architectural breezeway walls with applied metal artworks. The proposed design draws inspiration from his “Big Good Angel” series, a body of work that delves into ancestral spirituality and the multifaceted layers of ancestral wisdom. Each UV-printed aluminum cutout will serve as a visual conduit, celebrating the presence of ancestral guides, the “Big Good Angels” that influence and protect the community, acknowledging the wisdom passed down through generations. This is expressed in the “Memory” series which evokes the shape of a butterfly, and the “Reflection” series which brings in more figurative elements. The rich surface of the printed metal artworks is derived from the artist’s mixed media collage practice, using unusual materials

such as coffee, fire, and natural pigments to create richly textured surfaces, portraits and motifs. The artist proposed that each of the artwork panels have LED lighting along the backside edge to visually separate the panels from the wall surface.

The total artwork allocation for this first phase of development is \$ 435,822 of which APP staff recommends a budget allocation to Stephen Arboite's commission in the amount of \$210,000.00.

APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 25-48 authorizing a Professional Artist Services agreement in substantially the form attached with Stephen Arboite in the fixed amount of \$210,000.00 for combined Phase I-Design and Phase II- Fabrication and Installation Services of the artwork project for the first phase of the Heritage Village South housing development project.