

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 25-54 / Adrienne Arsht Center of the Performing Arts
/ Professional Artist Services Agreement for Conservation of Collection Artwork
Water Scores

Trust Resolution No. APPT 25-54

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH THE ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN THE NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$40,000.00 FOR CONSERVATION AND REPAIR SERVICES OF ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COLLECTION ARTWORK *WATER SCORES* BY ANNA VALENTINA MURCH (FROM ART IN PUBLIC PLACES TRUST REPAIR AND RESTORATION FUND)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in the not-to-exceed amount of \$40,000.00 for Conservation and Repair Services of the Art in Public Places Collection Artwork *Water Scores* by Anna Valentina Murch.

Background

Water Scores is an integrated work of art by late British visual artist Anna Valentina Murch completed in 2007 as a monumental water feature that visually links the Dolores and Sanford Ziff Ballet Opera Hall and the John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall in the Adrienne Arsht Center of the Performing Arts. Composed of rich layers of travertine marble and curvilinear benches, the piece forms a "collar" of flowing water around the elliptical Plaza for the Arts, creating a contemplative outdoor area where the sound of water on stone is a subtle reminder of the center's proximity to the ocean.

In March of 2024, the facility's maintenance team informed APP staff of potential damage to the fountains. The center had been monitoring their utility bills and noted that their water consumption was very high. As part of their initial assessment, they stopped the normal operation of the fountain, limiting its functioning to major events, and confirmed that the reduced activation also resulted in lower water bills. At a follow-up meeting and site visit, APP staff noted that the lack of running water was causing organic debris to accumulate and decompose, staining the marble fountain surfaces, and that most of the exposed silicone seals for the inlets and outlets were deteriorated or in some cases gone.

Given the artist's death in 2014, the lack of an artist's designed and or estate, and the importance of this integrated work to the County's Public Art Collection and the Arsht Center's architectural legacy, APP staff with concurrence from the Arsht's leadership team, suggested that

the center assume implementation responsibility for the long-term care of the fountains to include repairs, refurbishments, and conservation of the artwork in coordination with APP staff and subject to the approval of the Miami-Dade Art in Public Places Trust. Funding for day to day care of the fountains would remain the financial responsibility of the Arsht while major repairs and equipment upgrades would be paid with funds set aside in the APP Conservation Trust Fund at the onset of the Performing Arts Center construction project.

As the Art in Public Places Trust's designee for the long-term care of *Water Scores*, the Arsht will execute required maintenance and repair services in an efficient manner that is well coordinated with the center's complex performance schedule and the strict security policies that limit access to the building's infrastructure. All proposals for major work to be paid from the APP Conservation Fund will be reviewed and approved by APP staff prior to the execution of the work.

Proposals received with initial needs assessments performed on the current conditions of the fountain indicate a cost of approximately \$40,000.00 for the testing and immediate cleaning and repairs of the structural marble elements and main water pipes, with the potential for additional costs to be identified and negotiated based on further inspection and findings. Requests for increases to this base budget will be presented to the Trust for consideration and approval as needed.

APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 25-54 authorizing a Professional Artist Services agreement in substantially the form attached with the Adrienne Arsht Center of the Performing Arts in the not-to-exceed amount of \$40,000.00 for conservation and repair services of the Art in Public Places Collection Artwork *Water Scores* by Anna Valentina Murch.