

# Memorandum



**Date:** April 14, 2026

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

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

**Subject:** Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-17 / Maritza Caneca – Jose Marti Midrise /  
Professional Artist Services Agreement

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## **Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-17**

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH MARITZA CANECA IN THE FIXED FEE AMOUNT OF \$ 40,000.00 FOR PHASE I – DESIGN AND PHASE II – FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICES OF THE ARTWORK PROJECT FOR THE JOSE MARTI MIDRISE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (FROM MIAMI-DADE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED URBAN 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 Maritza Caneca in the fixed fee amount of \$40,000.00 for Phase I-Design and Phase II – Fabrication and Installation Services for the artwork project at the Jose Martin Midrise Housing Development.

### **Background**

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on March 26, 2026 to review design proposals from a group of seven (7) artists shortlisted from a Regional Call to Artists for multiple public art opportunities for the new housing development at the former site of the Jose Marti public housing community. This public-private partnership between the Miami-Dade Department of Housing and Community Development and Related Urban Group comprise two (2) separate sites and facilities. The first build known as the Jose Marti Gardens (rebranded as Brisas del Sol II) is a 3-story garden-style building with 36 units and the second build, Jose Marti Midrise (rebranded as Brisas del Sol I), is an 8-story mid-rise building with 110 affordable units and community amenities. The call envisioned commissioning public art inspired by the works of seminal Spanish-Cuban author and activist José Martí and his poem “Guantanamera” famously interpreted by renowned singer Celia Cruz

The PAC unanimously recommended commissioning South Florida-based artist Miami-based artist Maritza Caneca to create a large-scale artwork for the interior of the community room at the new midrise build as part of her ongoing exploration of water, light, and the color blue within architectural space. Through a series of round shapes mounted on a stainless steel grid, the proposed artwork recalls portholes or underwater windows, suggesting a view into a deeper aquatic space.

APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-17 authorizing a Professional Artist Services agreement in substantially the form attached with Maritza Caneca in the fixed amount of \$40,000.00 for Phase I-Design and Phase II- Fabrication and Installation Services of the artwork project for the Jose Marti Midrise (Brisas del Sol I) public housing development.