

# 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 26-26 / Loan Agreement, Sam Gilliam “*Darted Again*” 1975, to the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University

---

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING A LOAN AGREEMENT WITH THE PATRICIA & PHILLIP FROST ART MUSEUM AT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FOR THE MIAMI-DADE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COLLECTION ARTWORK “*DARTED AGAIN*” BY SAM GILLIAM (1974-1975) FOR EXHIBITION AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES FROM APRIL 15 THROUGH OCTOBER 20, 2026.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve the loan of the following artwork:

Sam Gilliam

*Darted Again, 1974-1975*

Acrylic, oil, and dye pigments on collaged, flat, mounted canvas

51" x 96"

to The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University for the exhibition “*Invitation to Openness*” and related educational purposes from May 2 through October 11, 2026, for the loan period of April 15 through October 20, 2026.

### Background

On March 2026, APP staff received a formal letter from Natalia Zuluaga, Chief Curator of the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University requesting a loan of APP collection artwork “*Darted Again*,” by Sam Gilliam, 1975, for inclusion in the forthcoming exhibition *Invitation to Openness*, on view from May 2 through October 11, 2026.

*Invitation to Openness* will be co-curated with Graham Eng-Wilmot, and considers the potential, aesthetics, and ethics of cocreation through the lens of music. Structured as a listening room and site of observation, the exhibition centers around artists and musicians whose commitments to collaborative practice have shaped expansive cultural networks. It brings together sonic works by landmark jazz collectives and experimental practitioners—from the 1960s to the present—and visual works that extend these inquiries into material and spatial form.

Artist Sam Gilliam (b. 1933, Tupelo, MS) was a pioneering American abstract artist deeply influenced by jazz and he frequently spoke about its role in shaping his practice. In his studio, he listened closely to jazz players such as Ornette Coleman, John Coltrane, Dizzy Gillespie, and Thelonious Monk—musicians whose experimental approaches to sound helped define the liberatory aesthetic of the period. Gilliam drew a direct parallel between his paintings and Coltrane’s “sheets of sound,” describing

a compositional approach that moved fluidly across the surface rather than adhering to fixed structures. He also aligned his practice with the embodied, performative qualities of jazz, remarking that “jazz leads to the acrobatics of art.” Within the context of *Invitation to Openness*, Gilliam’s *Darted Again* offers a compelling formal and conceptual parallel to the exhibition’s focus on collaboration and improvisation. Its segmented structure and recomposed surface echo the iterative, collective processes of experimental music, while also extending the exhibition’s inquiry into how systems (visual, sonic, and social) are shaped through acts of assembly and exchange.

The requested loan period would be April 15 through October 20, 2026, including time for shipping, installation, and deinstallation. The exhibition will be accompanied by interpretive materials and public programming, including lectures and performances, contributing to ongoing scholarship and public engagement around the themes of collaboration, improvisation, and artistic exchange. As the borrowing institution, the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum will assume responsibility for all costs associated with the loan, including professional art handling, packing, transportation, and insurance coverage, in accordance with museum standards and APP requirements.

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University (FIU) is a free, Smithsonian-affiliated academic art museum located on FIU’s Modesto A. Maidique Campus in Miami. Founded in 1977 and housed since 2008 in a 46,000-square-foot landmark building, the museum is dedicated to presenting art that fosters curiosity, dialogue, and cross-cultural understanding. Its permanent collection of nearly 6,000 works includes American printmaking, photography, Pre-Columbian objects, and modern and contemporary art from the U.S., Latin America, and the Caribbean. The Frost hosts rotating local and international exhibitions, offers broad educational and community programming, and serves as a cultural bridge for both FIU and the wider South Florida community.

The criteria of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs’ Art in Public Places program when considering a collection loan includes: 1) the benefit of the scholarly research and commentary on the work, such as with an exhibition catalogue; 2) the opportunity to broaden knowledge about the APP program; 3) the satisfaction of terms of the loan including that the borrower cover all costs of shipping by a professional art handler at the approval of APP, insurance of the work during the loan period, conditional reporting before and after all points of transit by a certified entity, appraisal, documentation, and other requirements as requested by APP; and 4) that the artwork be on loan for a relatively short period of time.

APP staff recommends the approval of Resolution No. APPT 26-26 authorizing a loan agreement for APP collection artwork Sam Gilliam “*Darted Again*” 1974–75, to the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University for the exhibition *Invitation to Openness* and related educational purposes for the loan period of April 15 through October 20, 2026. A loan agreement will be executed by both parties upon Trust approval of this loan request.

**Enclosure:** Letter of Inquiry, Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University.