

Memorandum

Date: January 13, 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 26-01 / Jose Marti Villas: Garden & Midrise Projects
Artist Proposal Contracts

Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-01

RESOLUTION APPROVING PROPOSAL CONTRACTS IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH THE FOLLOWING SEVEN (7) ARTISTS IN THE NOT-TO-EXCEED FEE AMOUNTS AS DESCRIBED BELOW FOR EACH ARTIST:

Regional-based Shortlist

	Recommended Artist	Proposal Fee
1	Maritza Caneca	\$ 1,000.00
2	Nereida Garcia Ferraz	\$ 1,000.00
3	Francisco Lo Castro	\$ 1,000.00
4	Isabel Oliva	\$ 1,000.00
5	Marlon Portales	\$ 1,000.00
6	Jacub Reyes	\$ 1,000.00
7	Carolina Sardi	\$ 1,000.00
	Total Expenditure:	\$ 7,000.00

FOR A TOTAL EXPENDITURE AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$ 7,000.00 FOR THE JOSE MARTI VILLAS: GARDEN & MIDRISE PROJECTS (FROM MIAMI-DADE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT- RELATED GROUP PUBLIC ART FUND).

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve Proposal Contracts in substantially the form attached with the following seven (7) artists in the not-to-exceed fee amounts as described below for each artist:

Regional-based Shortlist

	Recommended Artist	Proposal Fee
1	Maritza Caneca	\$ 1,000.00
2	Nereida Garcia Ferraz	\$ 1,000.00
3	Francisco Lo Castro	\$ 1,000.00
4	Isabel Oliva	\$ 1,000.00
5	Marlon Portales	\$ 1,000.00
6	Jacub Reyes	\$ 1,000.00
7	Carolina Sardi	\$ 1,000.00
	Total Expenditure:	\$ 7,000.00

For a total expenditure amount not-to-exceed \$7,000.00 for the Jose Marti Villas: Garden & Midrise Projects.

Background

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) convened on April 24, 2025, to review the credentials of one hundred and seventy-eight (178) artists who submitted qualifications from a South Florida Regional Call to Artists to participate in the Artist Registry for public art opportunities related to various Miami-Dade Housing and Community Development projects across the County. In response to an influx of new public-private housing developments with fast-track completion schedules, the Art in Public Places program sought to create a broader shortlist of local-based artists who would be grouped in smaller shortlists and invited to develop proposals for specific housing initiatives, including affordable, workforce, and elderly housing with differing construction timelines. On May 13, 2025, the Art in Public Places Trust approved the PAC recommended Artists Housing Registry shortlist of 31 artists who would be eligible for up to (1) year from this approval to participate in various project-specific proposal development opportunities.

This registry has been further expanded with a pool of artists originally shortlisted but not commissioned by the PAC for the Rainbow Village and Courtside Apartments housing projects. However, due to the well-developed proposal concepts and strong credentials of this shortlist, the participating PAC recommended that artists not awarded for full commissions be added to the pool of artists in the current Housing Registry.

Per these initiatives, APP staff suggests a shortlist of seven (7) regional artists to develop proposals for the Jose Marti Villas: Gardens and Midrise projects. This public-private housing development is a partnership between the Miami-Dade Housing and Community Development and the Related Urban Group. The Midrise component is at 154 SW 17th Avenue, Miami FL, 33135 and the Gardens is very close by at 455 SW 16th Avenue Miami, FL, 33135. Both projects offer affordable housing options with Mid-Rise specifically serving the elderly in this Little Havana neighborhood.

Opportunities for public art at Jose Marti Gardens include artist-designed seating or free-standing elements within the northern grass area and gazebo seating area. At the eight-story high, Jose Marti Villas Midrise opportunities for public art include glass mosaic tile installation on the exterior of the facility, two-dimensional artworks applied to the interior areas, highlighting the multipurpose room and leasing office.

APP staff recommends approval of Trust Resolution APPT No. 26-01 authorizing a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with each of the following seven (7) artists in the fixed fee amount of \$1,000.00 each for proposal development services for the Jose Marti Villas: Garden & Midrise Affordable Housing Projects:

1. Maritza Caneca
2. Nereida Garcia Ferraz
3. Francisco Lo Castro
4. Isabel Oliva
5. Marlon Portales
6. Jacob Reyes
7. Carolina Sardi