

# Memorandum

**Date:** July 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 26-48 / Luke Jenkins - Conservation Support  
Service Contract– *Miami Heliotrope* by Keith Sonnier

## **Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-48**

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH IN BLOOM STUDIO, LLC (LEAD ARTIST LUKE JENKINS) IN THE NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$15,000.00 FOR CONSERVATION SUPPORT SERVICES OF THE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COLLECTION ARTWORK *MIAMI HELIOTROPE* BY KEITH SONNIER AT THE MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (FROM ART IN PUBLIC PLACES REPAIR AND RESTORATION FUNDS).

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve a Professional Artist Services agreement in substantially the form attached with In Bloom Studio, LLC (lead artist Luke Jenkins) in the not-to-exceed amount of \$15,000.00 for conservation support services of the Art in Public Places Collection Artwork *Miami Heliotrope* by Keith Sonnier located at the Miami International Airport.

## **Background**

On November 12, 2025, the Art in Public Places Trust approved the minutes of the Professional Advisory Committee meeting held on October 25, 2025, to review the credentials of artists responding to the Regional Call for the Art in Public Places' Artists' Artists initiative. The PAC recommended a shortlist of ten (10) artists with diverse knowledge and expertise of mediums, processes and fabrication techniques who can assist APP to identify conservation needs for specific Collection works and on a case by case basis be recommended by APP to engage with experts, commission artists and/or their estates, fabricators, conservation consultants, to oversee and execute the repair and maintenance of public art in a variety of mediums.

The criteria for drawing artists from this shortlist will be mainly based on the artist's own visual arts practice and its alignment with the maintenance and repair needs of the artwork in question. The APP initiative intends to expand employment and portfolio development for local artists while strengthening the program's Collection stewardship efforts.

APP Collection artwork *Miami Heliotrope* completed by Keith Sonnier at Miami International Airport in 1994 presents an opportunity for APP to engage a qualified artist from the conservation support registry to assist in the complete refurbishment of the artwork's neon mechanism. For this opportunity, APP staff reviewed the credentials of all artists in the shortlist and selected two (2) artists with practices and expertise that align well with the proposed scope

of work. Following the pre-selection, APP staff conducted in-person interviews and a project orientation meeting with each of the candidates, which resulted in Luke Jenkins being the APP staff candidate recommendation for the implementation of conservation services for this specific collection artwork.

In 1994, the Art in Public Places Trust commissioned internationally known artist Keith Sonnier to create a unique artwork for the Miami International Airport. The installation comprises metal structures, neon lights, transformers, and electrical conduits suspended under the heliport, which work together to transmit and reflect light and color.

To maintain and preserve this artwork, the artist's consultant has reached out to local contractors for estimates to produce As-Built drawings and documentation to be used to bid out the refurbishment of the artwork. This scope of work includes a 3D LiDAR scan, which will be turned into a Level of Detail (LOD) 200 model that accurately illustrates the structural footprint required for the safe design, routing, and installation of replacement transformers and neon tubes to be performed by others. The estimated cost for these As-Builts is approximately \$12,000.00 - \$13,000.00. Once these documents are ready, the artist will secure the best quote from multiple qualified technicians for the artwork refurbishment.

As a general funding principle for this initiative, APP staff is recommending an Artist's Fee equal to 20-25% of the total direct value of the maintenance and/or repair services to be managed through the artist's contract. Deliverables and applicable progress payments for each phase of the work will be reviewed and subject to the approval of APP staff. Any contingency funds allocated to the artist's contracts and remaining after the work may be dedicated to acquiring a work of art from the collaborating artist for APP's Adopt-An-Artwork program.

APP staff recommends approval of Trust Resolution APPT No. 26-48 authorizing a Professional Artist Services agreement in substantially the form attached with In Bloom Studio, LLC (lead artist Luke Jenkins) in the not-to-exceed amount of \$ 15,000.00 for conservation support services of Art in Public Places Collection Artwork *Miami Heliotrope* by Keith Sonnier at Miami International Airport.