

Memorandum



Date: March 10, 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 26-07 / Thom Faulders – MIA Garages Façades /
 Professional Artist Services Agreement

Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-07

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH THOM FAULDERS STUDIO IN THE FIXED FEE AMOUNT OF \$300,000.00 FOR PHASE I – DESIGN AND PHASE II- FABRICATION AND INSTALLATON SERVICES FOR THE MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GARAGES FAÇADE PROJECT (FROM MIAMI-DADE AVIATION DEPARTMENT 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 Thom Faulders DBA Faulders Studio in the fixed fee amount of \$300,000.00 for Phase I-Design and Phase II – Fabrication and Installation Services for the Miami International Airport garages façade project.

Background

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on March 4th and 5th, 2026 to review design proposals from a group of nine (9) artists shortlisted from an International Call to Artist for the implementation of an artist-designed cladding and or façade treatment for all three garages at Miami International Airport. This major collaboration between the Miami-Dade Aviation Department and Art in Public Places is envisioned to transform the garages infrastructure into a monumental and iconic work of art. The call described opportunities that included, but were not limited to, custom-designed metal applications to façade and painting of support metal, custom screens, three dimensional sculptural elements, applied light-based artwork and or video projection mapping, kinetic artwork, and or interactive media.

The commissioned artist would be responsible for the development of construction documents in conjunction with the selected Miami-Dade Aviation Department consulting team and for overseeing the fabrication and installation of the two separate scopes of work that make up the whole project. The artwork portion of the work has a target budget of \$25 million inclusive of the artwork treatment itself, design and consulting fees, samples, mockups, testing, structural support, electrical and or lighting elements, mesh work, screening components, etc. A separate budget, pending to be determined upon design completion, will cover modifications to the existing garage buildings including the reinforcement, if any, of the concrete structure, stucco and or surface repairs, painting, lighting, electrical, and signage or anything else to maintain the safe operation of the garages.

At the conclusion of the presentations, the PAC received feedback from the client team and completed their individual scoring of each artist's proposal per the evaluation criteria established for the project. The tabulated results narrowed down the top (4) finalists in order of priority to: Giles Miller, James Carpenter, Juergen Mayer H., and Thom Faulders. The PAC unanimously recommended bringing these results to the Art in Public Trust for their review and approval of the final order of commissioning priority.

The current total of APP's funding commitment for the artist's design and oversight of the garage project implementation is \$750,000.00. APP staff recommends releasing 40% of this amount for Phase I – Design Development and adding future APP funds based on project progress and demands for the artist's direct involvement in the fabrication and installation of the work. APP staff will further address the logistics of the artwork implementation with the MDAD team and its consultants to determine the most efficient and cost-effective approach to fund and deliver a top quality artist-designed façade treatment and related infrastructure.

APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-07 authorizing a Professional Artist Services agreement in substantially the form attached with Thom Faulders DBA Faulders Studio in the initial amount of \$300,000.00 for Phase I-Design and Phase II-Fabrication and Installation Services of the Miami International Airport Garages artwork project. Total funding for the final artwork will be defined per APP staff negotiations with the Miami-Dade Aviation Department. The Trust recommended commissioning "AIRplace MIA" by California-based artist and architect Thom Faulders. An original concept featuring overlapping arrays of parabolic shapes echoing the biomorphic forms of palm tree fronds. Created from a multi-layer system of painted aluminum in a white finish, the work's vertical arrays varied in size to create an organic rhythmic pattern and intersecting geometries. Incorporating a lighting scheme, "AIRplace MIA" evokes this profound spatial agility by merging the terrestrial with the aerial. Its artistic skin takes inspiration from Miami's international status: one that is high energy, open and diverse, and radiant with natural light.