

# Memorandum



**Date:** May 12, 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 26-35 / Accession of Artwork Donation: “*Invisible Tree*” by Fernanda Froes

## **Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-35**

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ACCESSION OF “*INVISIBLE TREE*” BY FERNANDA FROES TO THE MIAMI-DADE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COLLECTION PURSUANT TO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 1-3, GIFTS TO THE COUNTY, AND THE MIAMI-DADE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROCEDURES MANUAL 358.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve the accession of “*Invisible Tree*,” by artist Fernanda Froes to the Miami-Dade Art in Public Places Collection pursuant to Administrative Order 1-3 Gifts to the County and the Miami-Dade County Procedures Manual 358.

### Background

The Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) and The Underline, a private nonprofit organization entered into an operations agreement for the construction and maintenance of a linear park along the Metrorail portion starting North at the Brickell Station and ending South at the Dadeland South Station. The partnership also resulted in the creation and adoption by the APP Trust in 2020 of a procedures manual for how artwork is commissioned and installed within and along The Underline.

On July 24, 2025, a meeting of the Art in Public Places Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) convened to review The Underline’s interest in commissioning a new work by Miami-based artist Fernanda Froes for The Underline’s Rain Garden and to donate the work to Miami-Dade Art in Public Places Collection. Ms. Froes proposal, *Invisible Tree* evokes the arching shapes of mangrove trees and invites users to climb the structure. With a proposed footprint of 6x6x6 ft, the painted aluminum sculpture will feature white structural forms inspired by the prop roots of the red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*), a native species that plays a crucial role in South Florida’s coastal ecosystems. The proposed project would be funded by The Underline and permanently installed at a site approved by DTPW with oversight by APP staff. The PAC unanimously recommended the development of the proposal and installation of the final work with APP staff oversight in conjunction with DTPW and The Underline.

With Trust approval of the PAC Minutes in August 2025, The Underline gave a notice to proceed for the artist to design and fabricate the sculpture for future placement at a prominent location in Phase 2 that would be visible to both park users and vehicular traffic waiting to engage at an intersection. As of May 2026, the artist confirmed the artwork’s readiness for the site, triggering the collaboration between APP and The Underline staff to oversee the permitting, site preparation, and installation of the new sculptural.

APP Staff recommends that the Art in Public Places Trust approve APPT No. 26-35 to accession "*Invisible Tree*" 2026 by artist Fernanda Froes to the Miami-Dade Art in Public Places Collection pursuant to Administrative Order 1-3 Gifts to the County and the Miami-Dade County Procedures Manual 358.