

Memorandum



Date: May 12, 2026

To: Chair and Members
Art in Public Places Trust

From: Ashlee Thomas, Interim Director
Department of Cultural Affairs

Subject: Trust Resolution
No. APPT 26-37 / Appointment to the Professional Advisory Committee: José Carlos Diaz

Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-37

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSÉ CARLOS DIAZ TO THE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC).

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve the appointment of José Carlos Diaz to the Art in Public Places Professional Advisory Committee (PAC.)

Background

On May 12, 2026, a meeting of the Art in Public Places Trust Executive Committee Members comprised of Carol Damian, Chair, Maggie Hernandez, Vice Chair, and Executive Committee Member At Large, Mercedes Lopez Cisneros, convened to review a pool of candidates to the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) due to the anticipated need for membership replacement given the lack of availability by PAC Member Gene Moreno. It was noted that PAC Nominations are received from standing PAC, Trust members, and APP staff. All potential candidates are vetted in advance by APP staff to assess their interest in public art and availability to serve. Pursuant to Section 2-11.15 of the County Code, each PAC member shall serve a two (2) year term and may be reappointed for a total of three (3) consecutive terms.

Upon careful review and discussion of the pool of candidates, the APP Trust Executive Committee unanimously recommended appointing José Carlos Diaz to replace PAC member Gene Moreno.

The Art in Public Places Trust Executive Committee and APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-37 appointing José Carlos Diaz to the Art in Public Places Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) and amending the current roster of this 11-member committee as follows:

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|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Dejha Carrington | 8. Chana Sheldon |
| 3. Maggy Cuesta | 9. Dainy Tapia |
| 4. Melissa Hunter Davis | 10. Wanda Texon |
| 5. José Carlos Diaz | 11. Marie Vickles |
| 6. Leslie Goldberg | |
| 7. Jennifer Inacio | |

Enclosure: Credentials



Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) appointed José Carlos Diaz as senior director of curatorial affairs & chief curator, following a national search. Diaz was selected for his globally attuned, community-focused curatorial vision, and dedication to accessibility, cross-cultural dialogue, and elevating both established and emerging artists—especially those from underrepresented backgrounds. Diaz began this new role at PAMM on October 13, 2025.

José Carlos Diaz is a specialist in modern and contemporary art with extensive experience in exhibition making, programming, and public art projects. Most recently, he worked at the Seattle Art Museum (SAM) as the Susan Brotman deputy director for art. There, he managed the artistic program across three locations, including the Seattle Asian Art Museum and Olympic Sculpture Park. Exhibitions Diaz has curated at SAM include Anila Quayyum Agha: Geometry of Light (2025-26); FriendsWithYou: Little Cloud Sky (2025); Anida Yoeu Ali: Hybrid Skin, Mythical Presence (2024); and Calder: In Motion, the Shirley Family Collection (2023-24). Diaz organized Suchitra Mattai: she walked in reverse and found their songs (2025); a site-specific commission by Diego Cibelli within SAM's historic Porcelain Room (2024-26); and Hokusai: Inspiration and Influence (2023-24).

Prior to this, he was the chief curator at The Andy Warhol Museum from 2016 to 2022. At The Warhol, Diaz curated Paola Pivi: I Want It All (2022); Typoe: Over the Rainbow (2021); Fantasy America (2021); Jordan Eagles: Illuminations (2019); Farhad Moshiri: Go West (2017-18); and the traveling exhibitions Andy Warhol: Revelation (The Warhol, 2019-20; The Brooklyn Museum, 2021-22; Speed Art Museum, 2020); and Becoming Andy Warhol (UCCA Beijing, 2021; UCCA Edge, 2021-22), among others. Before his role at The Warhol, Diaz served as curator of exhibitions at The Bass in Miami Beach and held curatorial positions at Tate Liverpool and the Liverpool Biennial. In 2003, Diaz tenured as a curatorial intern at The Rubell Museum in Miami and launched a nomadic project called Worm-Hole Laboratory. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in art history from San Francisco State University and a Master of Arts in cultural history from the University of Liverpool. Diaz was a 2018 fellow at the Center for Curatorial Leadership (CCL) and currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Association of Art Museum Curators (AAMC).