Memorandum

`Date: November 10, 2026

To: Chair and Members
Art in Public Places Trust

From: Ashlee K. Thomas, Director
Department of Cultural Affairs

Subject: Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-80 / Stereotank, Inc. - Upland Park Playground & Open Area / Professional Artist Services Agreement

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Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-80

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH STEREOTANK, INC. (LEAD ARTISTS MARCELO ERTORTEGUY AND SARA VALENTE) IN THE NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF $ 150,000.00 FOR PHASE I – DESIGN AND PHASE II- FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION OF THE UPLAND PARK PHASE 1 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ARTWORK PROJECT (FROM MIAMI-DADE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS AND TERRA 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 Stereotank, Inc. (lead artists Marcelo Ertorteguy and Sara Valente) in the not-to-exceed amount of $150,000.00 for Phase I- Design and Phase II – Fabrication and Installation of the Upland Park Phase 1 Housing Development artwork project.

Background

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) convened on October 22, 2026, to review presentations from a group of (8) artists invited from a National Call to Artists to create design proposals for the Playground and Open area opportunity for Phase I of the new Upland Park Master Planned housing community; a public-private partnership between Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works and private developer Terra.

Upland Park is South Florida's first master-planned community, all purpose-built for integration with Miami-Dade's major east-west transit corridor. Part of Miami-Dade County SMART Plan, this groundbreaking project utilizes transit-supportive land uses to create ample open space for holistic living and working environments at market rate. Once completed, Upland Park will become the largest Transit Oriented Community (TOC) in Miami-Dade County to date, generating over one billion dollars in revenue for Miami-Dade County from a 90-year development and land lease agreement. The multi-phased development will include more than 2,000 mid-rise and garden-style multifamily apartment units, approximately 282,000 square feet of retail, and about 414,000 square feet of commercial space. Phase One, in its final stage of construction, encompasses a total of 578 multifamily apartments slated for delivery in late 2026.

At the completion of the artists' presentations, the PAC unanimously recommended Miami Beach-based artist collaborative Stereotank, Inc. (lead artists Marcelo Ertorteguy and Sara Valente) to pursue the development of their concept *"Upland Tree Island Playground."* The concept proposes a large-scale sculptural structure rising from the ground and opening into a broad branching

canopy. The structure is intended to feature lighting elements with the design, and utilize durable exterior materials such as natural rubber, gravel, microperforated metal sheeting, concrete, recycled aluminum, composite wood, structural steel, and Glass Fiber Reinforce Concrete (GFRC) cladding. Native plantings and shade trees are proposed for all planters and seating areas serving as borders and protection of this public gathering area from the surrounding surface parking lot. Both the structure and the surrounding landscape are inspired by the tree islands of the Everglades: elevated formations of woody vegetation and dry ground that emerge from the wetlands, creating distinctive habitats that support rich biodiversity by providing refuge, food, and nesting sites for wildlife. Together, the sculptural form and planted landscape reinterpret these ecological formations as a contemporary landscape for play, gathering, and connection to South Florida's living ecological heritage.

Based on the overall APP contribution for the Upland Park Phase I development, APP staff suggests a total allocation of $ 750,000.00 for the commission of this artist's designed outdoor space and the initial release of $ 150,000.00 for the design development portion of the artist's work. APP staff will work closely with the development team to refine the proposed concept into a durable and meaningful artist's design community space.

APP staff recommends approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-80 authorizing a Professional Artist Services Agreement, substantially in the form attached, with Stereotank, Inc. (lead artists Marcelo Ertorteguy and Sara Valente) in a not-to-exceed amount of $ 150,000.00 for Phase I- Design and Phase II- Fabrication and Installation of the Upland Park Phase 1 Housing Development artwork project.