# Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

**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 26-82 / Giles Miller Studio – MIA Central Terminal Redevelopment – CTR2 / Professional Artist Services Agreement

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**Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-82**

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH GILES MILLER STUDIO (LEAD ARTIST GILES MILLER) IN THE AMOUNT OF $315,000.00 FOR PHASE I – DESIGN AND PHASE II-FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICES OF THE CENTRAL TERMINAL REDEVELOPMENT CTR2 GRAND LOBBY PROJECT AT MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (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 Giles Miller Studio (lead artist Giles Miller) in the amount of $315,000.00 for Phase I-Design and Phase II – Fabrication and Installation of Services of the Central Terminal Redevelopment CTR2 Grand Lobby project at Miami International Airport.

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 was 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 PAC tabulated results and evaluations of the nine (9) artists presentations 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 and to consider all (4) artists as lead candidates to receive direct commissions for other new monumental public art at the airport.

One such opportunity involves the redevelopment of the Central Terminal connecting the three (3) different levels of this old terminal with the newer North and South Terminal buildings. Under the design leadership of Bermejo Ajamil, the proposed terminal will feature a multi-level grand

lobby that opens to visually connect the expansive Concourse Level with the Third Level interconnector walkways. Discussion with MDAD's design consultants led to identifying multiple architectural and functional features of the new spaces that could be successfully achieved as public art opportunities. One such element is an off -the-shelf louver solution proposed to create a canopy-like experience above the Check-In Ticketing System. This portion of the project, if designed concurrently with the final construction documents, would benefit from potential construction credits and the ability to have infrastructure built-in and bid as part of the overall project construction scope.

With design development for this first phase nearing completion, the APP program would benefit from quickly engaging with an experienced artist to take advantage of these complex integrated expansion opportunities. With concurrence from MDAD and the project's design team, APP staff through approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-31 invited artist Giles Miller to accelerate the development of a proposal concept for the Central Terminal Redevelopment project focusing on the opportunity of the Ticketing Lobby Louvers and the potential to design a suspended and or complementary sculpture to connect the artist's design louvers with the grand lobby space.

On October 26, 2026, the artist's team presented their preliminary concept called *"The Journey of Water"* for a two-part installation including the Ticket Lobby Sculptural Canopy and the Grand Hall Mezzanine suspended sculpture that fills the open ceiling volume. The proposed canopy, extending over 400 linear feet over the ticketing machine, provides shade while creating dynamic shadows and dappled light that transforms a practical space into an immersive landscape experience. The complementary suspended sculpture is proposed to be experienced from both inside and out of the terminal creating a distinctive sense of identity at MIA for this grand architectural gesture. For this specific component, the artist proposed three different configurations all inspired in the shimmery qualities of water reflections at sunset in the Everglades National Park.

Given the enthusiastic feedback received from members of the Aviation Department Arts Council and the project's design team, APP staff recommends engaging the artist in a design contract to fully develop the concept for the designated area. Based on current estimate of APP contributions generated by the design and construction of the terminal redevelopment, APP suggests an initial allocation of $ 1,250,000.00 to this commission and approval of an initial design contract for $315,000.00. The construction project may offer cost savings to the artist's work by including some of the artwork infrastructure needs in the base building design and by swapping required functional elements with artist's furnished work. Contingent on successful negotiations of contractual credit, these savings would be made available to the artist to complement and or enhance the proposed artwork budget.

APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-82 authorizing a Professional Artist Services agreement in substantially the form attached with Giles Miller Studio (lead artist Giles Miller) in the amount of $315,000.00 for Phase I- Design and Phase II – Fabrication and Installation of the Central Terminal Redevelopment CTR2 Grand Lobby artwork project at Miami International Airport.

Ticket Lobby Sculptural Canopy

A functional intervention in the space, providing shade while creating dynamic shadows and dappled light.

A highly tactile surface engaging viewers at multiple scales, inviting both close inspection and distant appreciation.

Rippling patterns reminiscent of meandering water.

Transforming a practical space into an immersive landscape experience.

A poetic moment of pause within a high-energy environment.

Celebrating both the Everglades ecology and the dynamic, transitory nature of the airport environment.

Ticket