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 26-83 / Marvin Weeks, Rainbow Village Phase I / Professional Artist Services Agreement

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Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-83

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH ARTIST MARVIN WEEKS IN THE NOT-TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF $150,000.00 FOR DESIGN, FABRICATION, AND INSTALLATION SERVICES OF THE ARTWORK PROJECT FOR THE RAINBOW VILLAGE PHASE I HOUSING DEVELOPMENT (FROM MIAMI-DADE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND HOME TRUST GROUP (HTG) 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 artist Marvin Weeks in the not-to-exceed amount of $150,000.00 for design, fabrication, and installation services of the artwork project for the Rainbow Village Phase I Housing Development.

Background

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on July 23, 2026 to review design proposals from a group of nine (9) regional artists for various opportunities at the new Rainbow Village, a campus of four (4) individual buildings developed through a public-private partnership between the Housing Trust Group (HTG) and the Miami-Dade County Department of Housing and Community Development. These “live–work” units on the Overtown and Wynwood border are envisioned to be developed over four phases, with the first phase including a 7-story building with 310 new apartment units. Opportunities for the first phase included the major exterior facades of the building, and design of wall-based artwork applications and free-standing elements for both the interior courtyards and pool deck.

The development site was the former home of a public housing facility built in 1972 and recently demolished to make room for the significantly larger and more dense housing development featuring top-tier market-quality amenity package designed by award-winning architecture firm Zyscovich, including resort-style pool and a sundeck with cabanas. The client team envisioned that artists would approach the commission opportunities to pay homage to the history and rich cultural heritage of Miami’s Overtown neighborhood since the 1970’s.

After thoughtful discussion with input from the client teams, APP Trust, and staff, the PAC recommended Miami-based artist Marvin Weeks as an Alternate for the Phase I project and a runner up for a Phase II opportunity. Subsequently, Reginald O'Neal, one of the recommended artists for Phase I, declined the commission opportunity, therefore making way for Marvin Weeks to become the third commissioned artist for Phase I of the Rainbow Village development.

With support from the client team, APP staff will work with Mr. Weeks to further develop his recommended proposal rooted in the exploration of tabby concrete, a mixture of natural shells and improvised building materials derived from building techniques in the American South, to create a richly textured wall-based artwork or sculptural element for the facility's interior courtyard. Paying homage to the residents of Overtown including those early Bahamian, Georgian and South Carolina residents that traditionally used natural and "local" elements to build with, Mr. Weeks proposal of tabby concrete engages place and furthers these rich traditions. With family ties to the Overtown area, Weeks' personal memories and interpretation of the vernacular architecture of the original dwellings in Overtown and references of the historic area known as "Good Bread Alley" will also play a role in the final artwork.

APP staff recommends approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-83 authorizing a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with artist Marvin Weeks in the not-to-exceed amount of $ 150,000.00 for the design, fabrication, and installation services of the courtyard artwork project for the Rainbow Village Phase I housing development.