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 26-92 / Gabriel Soomar - Appointment to the Professional Advisory Committee

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Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-92

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF GABRIEL SOOMAR 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 Gabriel Soomar to the Art in Public Places Professional Advisory Committee (PAC.)

Background

On November 10, 2026, a meeting of the Art in Public Places Trust Executive Committee convened to review a pool of candidates to the Art in Public Places Professional Advisory Committee (PAC). Committee members serve a two (2) year term with up to 3 consecutive terms. Two (2) current members, Wanda Texon and Marie Vickles, will be reaching their term limits in December of 2026. 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.

Upon careful review and discussion of the pool of candidates, the Art in Public Places Trust Executive Committee and APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-92 appointing Gabriel Soomar to replace PAC member Marie Vickles to the Art in Public Places Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) and amending the roster of this 11-member committee as follows:

1. Dejha Carrington
3. Maggy Cuesta
4. Melissa Hunter Davis
5. José Carlos Diaz
6. Leslie Goldberg
7. Jennifer Inacio
8. Chana Sheldon
9. Dainy Tapia
10. Karen Grimson
11. **Gabriel Soomar**

Enclosure: Credentials



Gabriel Soomar holds a Master of Architecture and a Master of Design Studies from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, and a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Miami School of Architecture, where he currently serves as a lecturer. In his teaching, Soomar develops experimental design studios and seminars that integrate body, sound, representation, and spatial theory, emphasizing research-driven practice and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Gabriel is a transdisciplinary designer, creative director, cultural worker, and educator whose work explores how design can register identity, culture, and collective imagination. His practice synthesizes emergent media, cultural analysis, and material experimentation to navigate slippages between pasts, presents, and futures within Black Atlantic spatial imaginary. His design and research contributions have been widely published and exhibited internationally, including at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, Museum of Modern Art, New York as part of Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America, and the 2023 Venice Architecture Biennale, The Laboratory of the Future, curated by Lesley Lokko. His work engages sound, architecture, and spatial practice as vehicles for collective memory, cultural transmission, and public encounter; he continually seeks to expand the cultural and social impact of architecture.

In addition to founding and serving as Creative Director of SALT, Soomar is Creative Director of Studio Barnes. His recent projects include HOLD, a semi-permanent public art installation commissioned for the Wallach Garden at the Radcliffe Institute, Joy Riding, a bespoke sound system with Studio Barnes for the 2025 cycle of Exhibit Columbus, and numerous site-specific installations and research-driven exhibitions across the United States. He is currently working on a custom sound system and an accompanying montage film for the Green Haven Project in Overtown. Soomar is the Senior Curatorial Fellow at the Bakehouse Art Complex appointed in January of 2026. As Senior Curatorial Fellow, Soomar will participate in occasional reviews, panels, lectures, workshops, and special initiatives, and will serve as an intellectual and creative resource to artists, curators, and institutional leadership.