Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

`Date: October 13, 2026

To: Chair and Members
Art in Public Places Trust

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

Subject: Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-64 / Nicole Salcedo–Casa Familia Ph 2 and 3 / Professional Artist Services Agreement

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Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-64

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH NICOLE SALCEDO IN THE NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF $205,000.00 FOR PHASE I – DESIGN AND PHASE II – FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICES OF THE FENCE AND GATES PROJECT FOR THE CASA FAMILIA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (FROM THE COMMUNITY ACTION AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND CASA FAMILIA, INC. PHASE 2 AND 3 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 Nicole Salcedo in the not-to-exceed amount of $205,000.00 for Phase I-Design and Phase II – Fabrication and Installation Services for the fence and gates project for the Casa Familia Housing Development project.

Background

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on September 24, 2026 to review design proposals from a group of six (6) South Florida artists shortlisted for multiple public art opportunities for Phase 2 and 3 of the Casa Familia, Inc. Housing Development Project. The development serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities that affect social and cognitive areas such as language, communication, learning, self-care, mobility, interpretation of social cues, and independent living; Autism, Down Syndrome, Prader Willis, & Cerebral Palsy. Opportunity for public art included an artist designed fence for key areas around the facility, the main vehicular entrance, with special focus on three drop off areas to the new buildings. Artists were encouraged to create custom design for fencing that creates an unique bespoke aesthetics, as well as design stand-alone elements that could be attached to a pre-existing picket fence.

Thoughtful discussion among PAC members with input from the client teams led to the recommendation of Miami-based artist Nicole Salcedo to implement her concept *Ocho Semillas*, designed specifically for the Casa Familia Residences to honor the eight founding families of the Casa Familia nonprofit organization. The symbolism of eight seeds, growing within a thicket of plants, represents each family working together to form a community nourished by caretakers and loved ones. The seeds to be fabricated in colored glass are to be framed in bronze botanical forms. The bronze finish complements the existing picket fence and brings warmth to the architecture of whites, blues, and grays. Because the fences face north-south, sunlight passing

through the textured glass will cast diffused, spectral color across the spa water and driveway, adding a layer of magic to the area, giving the feeling of a private, whimsical oasis. The design evolves from the artist's sculptural work *Earth Gate,* and is further inspired by Spanish and Art Nouveau ironwork traditions of intricate botanical patterning and amber glass ornamentation. The artwork elements will be fabricated in metal using waterjet and laser cutting, the same method used on Earth Gate, in UV powder-coated 3/16" aluminum and 3/16" tempered glass. The same motif extends to the monument sign, with two 5' × 7' custom panels, and the perimeter fence will feature botanical forms mechanically fastened to allow pieces to be removed or replaced.

APP staff recommends allocating to this commission the combined artwork contribution of the Casa Familia Phase 2 and 3 and approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-64 authorizing a Professional Artist Services agreement in substantially the form attached with Nicole Salcedo in the not-to-exceed amount of $205,000.00 for Phase I-Design and Phase II – Fabrication and Installation of the Fence and Gates project for the Casa Familia Housing Development project.