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 26-69 / Carlos Luna – Residences at Palm Court / Professional Artist Services Agreement

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Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-69

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH ARTIST CARLOS LUNA IN THE NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF $240,000.00 FOR DESIGN, FABRICATION, AND INSTALLATION OF THE ARTWORK PROJECT FOR THE RESIDENCES AT PALM COURT DEVELOPMENT (FROM MIAMI-DADE HOUSING ANC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED URBAN 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 Carlos Lune in the not-to-exceed amount of $240,000.00 for Design, Fabrication, and Installation of the artwork project at the Residences at Palm Court Development project.

Background

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on August 27, 2026 to review design proposals from a group of six (6) South Florida artists shortlisted for multiple public art opportunities for the Residences at Palm Court project a public-private partnership between Miami-Dade Housing and Community Development and Related Urban Development Group. Located in the West Little River neighborhood, Residences at Palm Court will replace 191 existing public housing units with 316 new mixed-income and mixed-use apartments, including a new 5,000 square foot Jessie Trice Community Health Clinic. The development aims to enhance the site's density and improve the quality of life for existing residents. The Jessie Trice Community Health System has been serving Miami-Dade County since 1967 and is the first federally qualified health center in the State of Florida and 5th in the nation. As one of Miami-Dade County's preeminent community healthcare centers, the new clinic will provide new and existing residents with immediate access to quality healthcare options, as well as serving the broader community. Medical staff will include physicians, dentists, and nurse practitioners. Other amenities will include a dog park, community garden, fitness center, and game room. Opportunities for public art included functional features for the Zen Garden including, but not limited to, seating and shading elements and free standing sculptures with varying scales, as well as an opportunity for siting of a large-scale work at a prominent viewpoint to vehicular traffic of residents and visitors entering the facility.

Thoughtful discussion among PAC members with input from the client teams led to the recommendation of Cuban-American artist Carlos Luna to pursue his proposal *Florerito* for the welcome sculpture opportunity, greeting residents, visitors, and those arriving at the community health center. The figure, drawn from the idea of a small decorative vase or person who holds flowers, exists between object, character, and symbol. Its vessel-like body recalls pre-Columbian ceramics and popular artistic traditions, while its expressive and subtly enigmatic face reflects Carlos Luna's distinctive visual language. At once human and totemic, *Florerito* communicates cultural continuity, shared identity, and a sense of belonging. The polished stainless-steel surface is essential to this experience. As viewers approach, they see themselves and the surrounding landscape reflected across the artwork.

APP staff recommends approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-69 authorizing a Professional Artist Services agreement in substantially the form attached with Carlos Luna in the not-to-exceed amount of $240,000.00 for the design, fabrication, and installation of the artwork project for the Residences at Palm Court Housing Development.