

Memorandum

Date: September 8, 2026

To: Chair and Members
Art in Public Places Trust

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

Subject: Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-54 / Reginald O'Neal, Rainbow Village Phase I / Proposal Contract

Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-54

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROPOSAL CONTRACT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH REGINALD O'NEAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 2,000.00 FOR THE RAINBOW VILLAGE PHASE I HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (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 Proposal Contract in substantially the form attached with Reginald O'Neal in the amount of \$2,000.00 for proposal development services 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 back 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.

Among the presenting artists, the PAC recommended re-engaging with Miami-based artist Reginald O'Neal to further develop his proposal concept derived from his personal experience,

neighborhood memories, and local histories of the original Rainbow Village apartments where the artist was raised and lived. The artist proposed a sculptural enclosure based on the proportions and architecture of the original development; the artist's vision was to create a contemplative architectural folly and seating area which would allow visitors to experience a framed view of the sky and appreciate its unique atmospheric conditions. The artist also proposed to create a gradient painted mural on the inside walls of the courtyard, reflecting the sky at dusk. The PAC voiced safety concerns regarding the enclosed nature of the sculptural installation and suggested that the artist revisit the idea to ensure residents and visitors can access and experience the work without visual barriers.

APP staff recommends approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-54 authorizing a proposal contract in substantially the form attached with Reginald O'Neal in the amount of \$ 2,000.00 for for the Rainbow Village Phase I Housing Development project.