

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 26-60 / GeoVanna Gonzalez Studio, LLC / Smather's Plaza / Addendum I

Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-60

RESOLUTION APPROVING ADDENDUM I TO THE PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT, IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED, WITH GEOVANNA GONZALEZ STUDIO, LLC (LEAD ARTIST GEOVANNA GONZALEZ) IN THE FIXED FEE AMOUNT OF \$30,000.00 FOR ADDITIONAL FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICES FOR THE ARTWORK PROJECT AT THE GALLERY AT SMATHERS PLAZA (FROM MIAMI-DADE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - RELATED URBAN PUBLIC ART FUNDS)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approves Addendum I to the Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with GeoVanna Gonzalez Studio, LLC (lead artist Geovanna Gonzalez) in the fixed fee amount of \$30,000.00 for additional fabrication and installation services for the artwork project at the Gallery at Smathers Plaza.

Background

On October 13, 2020, through approval of Resolution No. APPT 20-42, the Trust authorizing a Professional Artist Services Agreement with Miami-based artist GeoVanna Gonzalez in the amount of \$195,000.00 for implementation of the artist's gazebo concept for the new affordable housing facility for seniors (55+) known as Gallery at Smathers Plaza. This public-private partnership between the Miami-Dade Housing and Community Development and the Related Urban Group aimed to build 139 apartment units and a new 3,000 square foot community center to serve all residents of this seniors-only apartment building in the Little Havana neighborhood.

In 2022, the artist, in close collaboration with the project's construction team and APP staff completed the construction of the monumental, cantilevered gazebo structure and all required building components to make the gazebo a useful and functional space for the community. However, the green components as originally envisioned in the artist's recommended proposal could not be realized prior to the project's opening and within the remaining commission dollars. Given the artist's limited availability due to other project commitments, APP staff suggested holding off on the artist revisiting the design to allow for the use of the gazebo to inspire the artist in designing a signature element that would make the built structure recognizable as a significant work in the artist's body of work.

After several attempts to reinstate this final phase of the project, the artist has completed a revised concept that meets her artistic vision for the project and utilizes the remaining commission budget. The proposed enhancements include painting the existing raw concrete structure for a clean and seamless finish, the fabrication of two powder-coated metal screens

featuring frosted glass elements and the design and fabrication of two complementary seating elements to encourage gathering and interaction of the residents at the gazebo. These combined features aim to transform the existing structure into a cohesive and recognizable work of art by the artist.

On September 3, 2026, at the request of the development team, the artist and APP staff presented the proposed concept to the residents and management team at a community meeting. The concept was enthusiastically received and confirmed the community's interest to add seating for social gathering. Prior to painting the gazebo and installing the new elements, APP staff identified several structural issues that need to be repaired including floor cracks in the cementitious terrazzo and spalling stucco in the soffit and columns. To round off the artist's remaining budget, APP staff offered to cover up to \$30,000.00 for expenses associated with these structural repairs, the specialty paint materials, and to partially fund the proposed seating. All the work to be performed by qualified subcontractors will be managed through the artist's contract and covered by unencumbered funds in the APP internal contingency for the Smathers Plaza housing project.

APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 26-60 authorizing Addendum I to the Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with Geovanna Gonzalez Studio, LLC in the not-to-exceed amount of \$30,000.00 for additional fabrication and installation services for the artwork project at the Gallery at Smathers Plaza housing development.