

Memorandum



Date: April 12, 2022

To: Chair and Members
Art in Public Places Trust

From: Michael Spring, Director
Department of Cultural Affairs

Subject: Trust Resolution No. APPT 22-16 / Richard G. Medlock: *Wishing Stone*,
Deering Estate, 1999

Trust Resolution No. APPT 22-16

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROPOSAL CONTRACT WITH RICHARD G. MEDLOCK IN THE NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$1,500.00 FOR A RESTORATION PLAN FOR COLLECTION ARTWORK "WISHING STONE" LOCATED AT THE DEERING ESTATE (FROM ART IN PUBLIC PLACES REPAIR AND RESTORATION FUNDS).

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve a Proposal Contract with artist Richard G. Medlock in the not-to-exceed amount of \$1,500.00 for a restoration plan for collection artwork "Wishing Stone" located at the Deering Estate.

Background

Wishing Stone, is the only earthwork in the County's public art collection, installed in 1999 by Miami-based artist Richard Medlock at the northern edge of the boat turning basin at Deering Estate, a property of Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS). *Wishing Stone* consists of two large-scale fabricated stones on which cycles of nature, scientific ratios and mathematical equations are subtly referenced in the imagery inscribed on top of the two stone surfaces. A "bench stone" serves as a seating element on land and the "tide stone" is sited in the shallow coastal waters. The rhythm and fluctuation of the tides creates an ever-changing effect as the waters ebb and flow over and around the tidal stone. During high tide, the tide stone is all but obscured by incoming waters. During low tide, the relief carving is revealed as it releases captured water through evaporation. *Wishing Stone* is designed to encourage visitors to stop and observe the mangrove colony and waters of lower Biscayne Bay, creating a magical place for contemplation.

Designed to be revealed and submerged in the tidal waters, the solid rock components of the work require ongoing specialized maintenance that cannot be performed by the staff at the Deering Estate. The work, last restored by the artist in 2014, was recently identified by the Deering Estate staff as needing a complete maintenance treatment and replacement of the artwork's signage with a durable solution that could withstand the extreme outdoor conditions of this artwork.

In response to the Deering Estate's request, APP staff recommends a comprehensive approach that will ensure the long-term care of the work and accommodate its extreme exterior conditions. APP staff recommends engaging with the artist to develop a proposal and cost estimate for the following scope:

1. Procure and install appropriate signage potentially in bronze or other durable material and placement of the signage.

2. Develop a maintenance manual for Deering Estate staff to perform regular care of the work and monitor its condition on an annual basis.
3. Develop a long-term care plan outlining procedures for performing thorough maintenance service on the work in 5-year cycles and establish a process for performing the service by the artist and/or his designee.
4. Perform restoration of the work.

Upon receipt and review of the artist's proposal, APP staff will make a recommendation to the Trust for execution of the complete scope of work.

APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT2-16 authorizing a Proposal contract with Richard G. Medlock in the not-to-exceed amount of \$1,500.00 for a restoration plan for collection artwork "Wishing Stone" at the Deering Estate.