

Memorandum



Date: June 14, 2022

To: Chair and Members
Art in Public Places Trust

From: Michael Spring, Director
Department of Cultural Affairs

Subject: Trust Resolution
No. APPT 22-28 / Joe Walters, "Animals of Asia" Restoration

Trust Resolution No. APPT 22-28

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH JOE WALTERS IN THE NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$2,750.00 FOR RESTORATION SERVICES OF ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COLLECTION ARTWORK "ANIMALS OF ASIA" AT ZOO MIAMI (FROM ART IN PUBLIC PLACES REPAIR AND RESTORATION TRUST FUND)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the formed attached with Joe Walters in the not-to-exceed amount of \$2,750.00 for restoration service of Art in Public Places Collection artwork "Animals of Asia" at Zoo Miami.

Background

APP Collection artwork, "Animals of Asia," was completed in 2003 by South Carolina-based artist Joe Walters. The artwork, comprising thirty (30) bronze animal figurines indigenous to Asia, was created to portray the animals as archaeological artifacts, symbolizing the timeless beings that served to maintain the environments of Asia. On a recent visit to Zoo Miami to perform an inventory assessment of collection artworks, APP staff learned that eight (8) of the thirty (30) bronze animal figurines had detached from the wall.

The bronze sculptures were individually installed in drywall, reinforced with 3/4" plywood. The zoo noted the sculptures were heavily interactive and popular among young patrons. Due to excess interaction and weight, the sculptures on the lowest rows detached from their original installation points. Zoo staff removed sculptures, noticing one missing sculpture from the group. The seven (7) artworks are currently being stored at APP offices while the twenty-two (22) remain installed in their original location on the wall at the Wings of Aviary building. The remaining artworks need to be removed from the wall to begin major renovations to the area.

Zoo staff informed APP on their current renovation plans to the Wings of Aviary building. The section of the building where the artworks are located is currently closed to the public and it is anticipated to reopen in spring/summer 2023. APP staff has initiated conversation with artist Joe Walters to provide an update on the artworks' condition and renovation plans to the Wings of Aviary building. The artist will be creating a new mold/sculpture for the missing sculpture, and in collaborating with APP, identify a plan of action to restore the artwork to its original intent. The artist's restoration scope of work includes:

1. Request proposal from APP qualified vendor to de-install the twenty-two (22) artworks from the wall in the Wings of Aviary building at Zoo Miami;
2. Pick-up the seven (7) artworks from APP office storage room;
3. Fabricate a bronze sculpture from polymer clay mold created by the Artist;
4. Clean all artworks;
5. Reconfigure the backing and re-installation of the artworks in the Wings of Aviary building; and
6. Provide expertise specific to the artwork intent on issues that may arise during the restoration process

The Artist has designated APP to perform all assessment and maintenance as needed on the Artist's behalf. APP staff will manage the restoration efforts with a qualified vendor from the APP Miscellaneous Contract pool and provide regular updates to the Artist throughout the process of the artwork restoration.

APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 22-28, authorizing a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with Joe Walters in the fixed fee amount of \$2,750.00 for restoration services of Art in Public Places Collection artwork "Animals of Asia" at Zoo Miami.