

# Memorandum



**Date:** November 22, 2022

**To:** Chair and Members  
Art in Public Places Trust

**From:** Michael Spring, Director  
Department of Cultural Affairs

**Subject:** Trust Resolution No. APPT 22-54 / Morel Doucet – Culmer Apartments Phase I / Professional Artist Services Agreement

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## **Trust Resolution No. APPT 22-54**

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH MOREL DOUCET IN THE FIXED FEE AMOUNT OF \$37,500.00 FOR PHASE I - DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE CULMER APARTMENTS (PHASE I) ARTWORK PROJECT (FROM MIAMI-DADE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – ATLANTIC PACIFIC COMMUNITIES 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 Morel Doucet in the fixed fee amount of \$37,500.00 for Phase I - Design Services for the Culmer Apartments (Phase I) artwork project.

### **Background**

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on November 10 and 12, 2022 to review design proposals from a group of fourteen (14) Miami-based artists for a combined series of public art opportunities for Phase I of the Culmer Place development project, a public-private partnership between developer Atlantic Pacific Communities and the Miami-Dade Department of Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD). This development will comprise 239 units in two buildings, as well as a community center and pool. Building A will consist of 120 units in a 7-story building on the vacant parcel of land in the center of Culmer Place. Building B will consist of 119 units in a 7-story building along with a 153-space parking garage on the southeastern quadrant of Culmer Place campus. The development will be equipped with solar and thermal features that contribute to an interest in resiliency and sustainability.

Opportunities for public art related to the first phase of the development included, but were not limited to, artist-designed fencing, garage cladding, hardscape within the paseo and green areas, site-specific artworks for the pool deck and adjoining community center, and recurring functional elements that repeat among various buildings.

After careful deliberation and input from the client teams, APP Trust members, and APP staff, the PAC unanimously recommended the commissioning of Miami-based artist Morel Doucet to create a series of monochrome bas relief tiles using 3d modeling and original molds. The tiles would be based on his sculpture practice of ceramic artwork featuring elements of sea life and portraiture, highlighting issues of climate gentrification, migration, and displacement affecting Black diasporic

communities. Doucet's tile work was proposed to flank the exterior columns along the edge of the pool house/community center. APP staff will work closely with the artist and the client team to expand this original concept to include a border tile as a frieze along the entire edge of the pool.

To achieve this artwork commission, APP staff recommends a total budget allocation of \$250,000.00 and the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 22-54 authorizing a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with Morel Doucet in the initial amount of \$37,500.00 for Phase I - Design Development of the first phase of the Culmer Apartments artwork project.