

# 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 22-56 / JM Valdes Arts, LLC – South Dade Transitway Corridor / Professional Artist Services Agreement

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## **Trust Resolution No. APPT 22-56**

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH JM VALDES ARTS, LLC (LEAD ARTIST JUANA VALDES) IN THE FIXED FEE AMOUNT OF \$90,000.00 FOR PHASE I - DESIGN AND PHASE II – FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICES FOR THE SOUTH DADE TRANSITWAY CORRIDOR ARTWORK PROJECT (FROM MIAMI-DADE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS 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 JM Valdes Arts, LLC (lead artist Juana Valdes) in the fixed fee amount of \$90,000.00 for Phase I - Design and Phase II – Fabrication and Installation services for the South Dade Transitway Corridor artwork project.

### **Background**

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on April 27 and 28, 2022 to review design proposals from a group of 18 national-based artists for a combined series of public art opportunities along the South Dade Transitway Corridor. This major transportation improvement program will revitalize the current 20-mile South Dade busway running adjacent to US-1 Harriet Tubman Highway. The new transitway will connect the communities of the Village of Pinecrest, the Village of Palmetto Bay, the Town of Cutler Bay, unincorporated Miami-Dade County, the City of Homestead, and the City of Florida City. The principal visual components along the 20-mile corridor are 14 state-of-the-art Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stations and a new park-and-ride garage located at the intersection of SW 168 Street that will create a visual cohesiveness to the corridor while providing enhanced mobility services and options for the surrounding communities.

Artists' opportunities included but were not limited to applications to exterior areas of five (5) designated BRT stations including tile, cladding, or installation-based artwork, light-based artworks that may include video projection mapping and / or multi-media site specific installations, audio and time-based media artworks, and interactive, participatory technology-based artworks. At the park-and-ride garage, opportunities included artist-designed screens or cladding panels for exterior applications to the garage to address the south and east facades, and applications to the garage interior elevator lobbies and "kiss and ride" drop off area such as tile, cladding, or wall-based installations.

After careful deliberation and input from the client teams, APP Trust members, and APP staff, the PAC unanimously recommended the commissioning of Miami, Florida and Amherst, Massachusetts-based artist Juana Valdes to create an exterior installation on a feature wall at a select BRT station vestibule incorporating tile murals based on archival research. The works are intended to incorporate the artist's interpretation of local flora and fauna, historical photographs, and other references to historical objects and visuals of local significance. Ms. Valdes proposes to create large-scale digital collages that will be translated to UV resistant tile. APP will work closely with the project team to coordinate the design, fabrication, and installation of the artwork on time for the opening of the transit corridor anticipated for the first quarter of 2024. Based on the artist's interests and research approach, APP suggests that the artist pursue a site-specific design development for the designated BRT Station at the City of Homestead.

APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 22-56 authorizing a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with JM Valdes Arts, LLC (lead artist Juana Valdes) in the fixed fee amount of \$90,000.00 for Phase I - Design and Phase II – Fabrication and Installation of the South Dade Transitway Corridor artwork project.