

Memorandum



Date: January 10, 2023

To: Chair and Members
Art in Public Places Trust

From: Michael Spring, Director
Department of Cultural Affairs

Subject: Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-02 / Octavia Yearwood and Amani Lewis – Grove Central / Professional Artist Services Agreement

Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-02

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH THE ARTISTS TEAM OF OCTAVIA YEARWOOD AND AMANI LEWIS IN THE FIXED FEE AMOUNT OF \$52,500.00 FOR PHASE I - DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE GROVE CENTRAL ARTWORK PROJECT (FROM MIAMI-DADE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS – GROVE CENTRAL 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 the artists team of Octavia Yearwood and Amani Lewis in the fixed fee amount of \$52,500.00 for Phase I - Design Services for the Grove Central artwork project.

Background

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on December 15 and 16, 2022 to review design proposals from a group of ten (10) artists shortlisted from a regional Call to Artists for a combined series of public art opportunities for the Grove Central development project, a public-private partnership between developers Terra Group and Grass River and the Miami-Dade Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) at the grounds of the Coconut Grove Metrorail Station. Grove Central is a mixed-used commercial and residential hub designed for transit convenience, walkable lifestyle and environmental sustainability. The project's central, urban-infill-location immediately adjacent to the Metrorail station provides residents easy access to Miami's major employment centers, retail and entertainment hubs, universities, international airport, and particularly the central business districts of Coconut Grove, Coral Gables, Brickell and Downtown Miami.

Opportunities for public art included, but were not limited to, improvements to the newly built bus station including free standing sculpture, applications to canopies, wayfinding solutions to enhance connectivity between various modes of transportation (Metrorail, bus, vehicle garage, Underline bicycle and walking path), cladding or two-dimensional applications to exterior walls, and concepts for exterior lighting. Similar opportunities were also identified for the linear plaza connecting the Metrorail station to the new retail area and public spaces throughout the development including the connection with The Underline.

After careful deliberation and input from the client teams, APP Trust members, and APP staff, the PAC unanimously recommended the commissioning of the artists team of Octavia Yearwood and Amani Lewis to primarily pursue their concept "Say Cheese" for the underside of the bus station canopy and contingent on budget availability, explore other potential areas for additional two-dimensional work. The proposal is rooted in engaging community members and residents of the Coconut Grove area to participate in photo shoots and allowing their image to be translated into a painted portrait in the vibrant layered style of painter Amani Lewis. This imagery would then be translated to glass mosaic tile or other durable application for installation on the underside of the concrete canopy connecting the Grove Central building to the bus station area. The intent of the work is for regular bus users and visitors to pose and photograph themselves in context with the artwork, embracing a smiling, energetic, and friendly tone. The PAC recommended pursuing the more abstract direction of the artist's aesthetic when approaching the portraiture to highlight vibrant color fields rather than focus on hyper-realism.

APP staff recommends a total budget allocation of \$350,000.00 for this artwork commission and the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-02 authorizing a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with the artists team of Octavia Yearwood and Amani Lewis in the initial amount of \$52,500.00 for Phase I - Design Development of the Grove Central project.