

# 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 23-03 / Juan Ledesma – Grove Central /  
Professional Artist Services Agreement

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## **Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-03**

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH JUAN LEDESMA IN THE FIXED FEE AMOUNT OF \$41,550.00 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 Juan Ledesma in the fixed fee amount of \$41,550.00 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 South Florida-based artist Juan Ledesma

to pursue his concept “Skippin’ Over the Ocean,” a sculpture, instrument, and gathering site for musical encounters. The work, is an interactive instrument that is activated by visitors and combines the Quijada (Afro-Latin percussion made from a donkey’s jaw) sounds with its modern counterpart, the Vibra-slap, and takes inspiration from the lyrics of an iconic song written about Coconut Grove by musician Fred Neil. This installation expands on Neil’s ode and considers the joined histories tied to the neighborhood: Bahamian migration, 60’s songwriters and Latin American influence. The PAC recommended the artist work with APP and the client team to identify an active and suitable location within the linear plaza and explore the use of durable materials such as bronze, cast aluminum, stainless steel, and or IPE Brazilian hardwood for fabrication of this interactive work.

APP staff recommends a total budget allocation of \$277,000.00 for this artwork commision and the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-03 authorizing a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with Juan Ledesma in the initial amount of \$41,550.00 for Phase I - Design Development of the Grove Central project.