

# 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 23-04 / Asser Saint-Val – Grove Central /  
Professional Artist Services Agreement

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## **Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-04**

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH ASSER SAINT-VAL IN THE FIXED FEE AMOUNT OF \$34,500.00 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 Asser Saint-Val in the fixed fee amount of \$34,500.00 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 Miami-based artist Asser Saint-Val to

pursue the development of one or two of his proposed concepts including the “Planter Busts” and the “Clapping Games Benches.” The whimsical “Planter Busts” are from his series “Grovehamians” inspired by the design of early twentieth century fashion and early Bahamian settlers to Coconut Grove. The bust concepts function as planters, featuring the ability for an array of lush tropical plants to thrive, obscuring the identity of the individual and suggesting hair or a fantastical head-dress. For this specific concept, the PAC recommended inviting Mr. Saint-Val to consider a larger-scale or scaled grouping of his “Planter Busts” that would function as an iconic sculpture and focal point for the bus roundabout area. The PAC also recommended Mr. Saint-Val’s “Clapping Games Benches,” organically shaped sculptural benches featuring colorful mosaic-covered surfaces that relate to his sculptural body of work. The bench’s comfortable design would invite users to sit and engage in an array of hand-games traditionally played by the original residents of the Coconut Grove area. The PAC suggested that the benches be sited at the bus terminal to encourage interaction and participation by young riders waiting for their next bus.

APP staff recommends a total budget allocation of \$230,000.00 for this artwork commision and the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-04 authorizing a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with Asser Saint-Val in the initial amount of \$34,500.00 for Phase I - Design Development of the Grove Central project.