

# Memorandum



**Date:** April 11, 2023

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

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

**Subject:** Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-26 / Tomm El-Saieh – Civil and Probate Courthouse / Professional Artist Services Agreement

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## **Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-26**

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH TOMM EL-SAIEH IN THE FIXED FEE AMOUNT OF \$45,000.00 FOR PHASE I - DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE CIVIL AND PROBATE COURTHOUSE ARTWORK PROJECT (FROM MIAMI-DADE INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT 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 Tomm El-Saieh in the fixed fee amount of \$45,000.00 for Phase I - Design Services for the Civil and Probate Courthouse artwork project.

### **Background**

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on January 25 - 27, 2023 to review design proposals from a group of seventeen (17) artists shortlisted from a national Call to Artists for a combined series of public art opportunities for the Civil and Probate Courthouse, located in Downtown Miami on NW 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue between Flagler Street and NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street. This public/private development will serve the Civil and Probate Divisions of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, the Clerk of Courts and other related court partners including administrative services, court-related programs, court support functions, and facility management services. A very special project with great community significance, the new courthouse will functionally replace the existing iconic Miami-Dade County Courthouse which has been in service since the 1920s. The project includes twenty-four (24) floors, forty-six (46) finished jury courtrooms and one (1) additional shell space for an additional four (4) jury courtrooms including fifty-nine (59) secure parking spaces. The courthouse is designed to be a significant landmark.

Opportunities for public art included, but were not limited to, large-scale site-specific artworks for the main lobby including durable wall applications and suspended sculpture, terrazzo flooring in targeted areas such as security screening, main elevator lobby, 4<sup>th</sup> floor café, ceremonial courtroom, jury pool holding room, and site-specific artworks for a designated feature wall at each of the 12 typical waiting rooms and the ceremonial courtroom. Exterior opportunities included exterior screening system and applied artworks to enhance the FPL utility area and ADA access ramp. In addition to the funding for commissioned work, funds were set aside for acquisition of two-dimensional original works of art for installation within conference room, department lobbies,

and public corridors with the intent to create a unique Miami-Dade County Civil and Probate Courthouse Artbank Collection.

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 Tomm El-Saieh to create a large-scale work within a typical courtroom waiting room. It was envisioned the work would reflect the artist's signature style of hyper-detailed dry brush technique in a monochrome palette of either black, blue, or pink. As proposed, the work would be executed in acrylic on acid free primed cotton canvas coated with archival UV protecting varnish and mounted on foldable aluminum stretchers.

Of the total \$3.2 million dedicated for commissioning of public art at this new facility, APP staff recommends a total budget allocation of \$150,000.00 for this artwork commission and the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-26 authorizing a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with Tomm El-Saieh in the initial amount of \$45,000.00 for Phase I - Design Services for the Civil and Probate Courthouse artwork project.