

Memorandum



Date: May 9, 2023

To: Chair and Members
Art in Public Places Trust

From: Michael Spring, Director
Department of Cultural Affairs

Subject: Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-33 / *Duality* by Hank Willis Thomas,
Accession of Artwork Donation

Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-33

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ACCESSION OF “DUALITY” BY HANK WILLIS THOMAS TO THE MIAMI-DADE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COLLECTION PURSUANT TO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 1-3, GIFTS TO THE COUNTY, AND THE MIAMI-DADE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROCEDURES MANUAL 358

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve the accession of “Duality” by Hank Willis Thomas to the Miami-Dade Art in Public Places Collection pursuant to Administrative Order 1-3 Gifts to the County and the Miami-Dade County Procedures Manual 358.

Background

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on September 27, 2022 for the purpose of reviewing a donation of artwork by The Underline to the Art in Public Places Trust. Amy Rosenberg, representing The Underline, confirmed the organization’s desire to transfer title and ownership of “Duality,” a gift received by The Underline from the Braman/Wechsler Family, to the Miami-Dade Art in Public Places Trust. The artwork by NY-based artist Hank Willis Thomas depicts a human hand and arm with two fingers pointed up in a “peace sign,” a universal call to “loving action” to inspire mutual understanding and positive solutions. The stand-alone bronze sculpture, with approximate dimensions of 96 x 32 x 24 inches, would require the design and fabrication of a base to secure and protect the work in its permanent location. In addition to the artwork donation, The Underline, with funds received from the Braman/Wechsler Family, would cover all costs associated with the shipping, handling, and installation of the artwork at a designated location in Phase I of The Underline’s 10-mile linear park.

On October 11, 2022, the Art in Public Places Trust approved the PAC meeting minutes and recommendation to accept the artwork donation contingent on APP staff working with The Underline (the donor) to develop an installation and maintenance plan that would ensure the long-term care and integrity of the work in compliance with APP’s standard maintenance and conservation practices.

Per procedures outlined in the County’s Administrative Order 1-3 for Gifts to the County, under Donations of Art and Architectural Objects, and the Art in Public Places Accession Policy, APP staff and representatives of the Miami-Dade Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) have reviewed and have found satisfactory the proposed installation and maintenance plan for the artwork, developed by The Underline in collaboration with the artist’s team. The Underline, as donors of the work, are both responsible for developing and funding the artist’s approved installation plan while the Art in Public Places Trust as receiver of the donation is responsible for the long-term care of the artwork. APP

staff will include the donated artwork in the APP Collection Maintenance Log to ensure the regular monitoring and condition assessment of the artwork in coordination with The Underline team. Needs for specialized care and or repair would be paid with APP Conservation Funds and implemented through APP's Miscellaneous Contract for Conservation and Maintenance Services. On May 12th, APP staff will oversee the installation of the artwork by a qualified local art handler in partnership with The Underline at the "River Room," the designated location approved by all parties (DTPW, APP, and The Underline) next to the Miami River.

Given that The Underline has satisfactorily met the Trust's conditions for the acceptance of the artwork donation, APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution APPT No. 23-33 for accessioning of *Duality* by Hank Willis Thomas to the Miami-Dade Art in Public Places Collection.