

Memorandum



Date: July 11, 2023

To: Chair and Members
Art in Public Places Trust

From: Michael Spring, Director
Department of Cultural Affairs

Subject: Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-45 / Maria Martinez-Cañas – MIA Terminal /
Professional Artist Services Agreement

Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-45

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERVICES AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH MARIA MARTINEZ-CAÑAS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$375,000.00 FOR DESIGN, FABRICATION, AND INSTALLATION OF THE ISLANDS OF ORCHIDS SCULPTURAL PROJECT AT THE MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (FROM MIAMI-DADE AVIATION DEPARTMENT PUBLIC ART TRUST FUNDS)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with Maria Martinez-Cañas in the amount of \$375,000.00 for design, fabrication, and installation of the “Islands of Orchids” sculptural project at the Miami International Airport.

Background

A meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on May 25, 2023 to review the proposal concept from Miami-based artist Maria Martinez-Cañas for a prime location in the South Terminal at the Miami International Airport (MIA). The proposal was in response to the Trust’s invitation to commission Maria Martinez-Cañas for a new artwork of similar scale to her work *Años Continuous* completed in 1995 at the former MIA Concourse B. The airport’s North Terminal expansion program which combined the A, B, and C concourses in 2010 into today’s Concourse D, irrevocably compromised the integrity of the work and the viewers’ experience of *Años Continuous*.

In conversations with the artist and the Aviation Department, consensus was reached to identify a new prominent location for the artist to create a new commission that could be based on source materials from the original artwork or any other concept of interest reflective of the artist’s current practice. Considering funding and architectural limitations for modifying *Años Continuous*, the artist accepted the invitation for new commission and agreed to the deaccession of the former work from the County’s Public Art Collection and eventual removal by the Aviation Department of the physical glass components. APP staff is preparing necessary documentation to complete the deaccession of this work pursuant to Miami-Dade County Procedures Manual 358 and Administrative Order 8-2 – Care, Control and Disposal of County Property.

Following the artist’s thorough proposal presentation and a spirited discussion among the artist, PAC, and both MDAD and APP staff, the PAC unanimously recommended the commissioning

of Maria Martinez-Cañas to implement her proposal concept “Islands of Orchids.” This new idea pushes the artist’s creative envelope by once again exploring the boundaries of glass as a medium to realize a series of delicate and intricate sculptural modules featuring colorful orchids reminiscent of the artist’s childhood memories of lush gardens in her birthplace of Puerto Rico. The modular approach allows for the work to have multiple configurations that spread over an area of approximately 12 x 12 feet that is easily accessible to the general public and in close proximity to the South Terminal International Arrivals Meet and Greet Lobby. The footprint of the new location is ample enough to allow sufficient clearance for viewers to safely travel and experience the various parts of the artwork from a close distance.

In support of the PAC recommendation for the artist to pay special attention to the protection and monitoring of the work, APP staff recommends that this part of the scope be funded separately from the artwork budget and implemented in close collaboration between the artist, APP, and MDAD staff. This critical part of the artist’s work will be defined and priced during the early phase of design development. The proposed solution will be shared with the Trust for review and future funding via an addendum to the artist’s commission contract.

APP staff recommends the approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-45 authorizing a Professional Artist Services Agreement in substantially the form attached with Maria Martinez-Cañas in the amount of \$375,000.00 for the design, fabrication, and installation of the “Islands of Orchids” sculptural project at the Miami International Airport.