

# 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 23-47 / Richard G. Medlock: *Wishing Stone*,  
Deering Estate, 1999

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## **Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-47**

RESOLUTION APPROVING ADDENDUM I TO THE PROPOSAL CONTRACT WITH RICHARD G. MEDLOCK IN THE NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$1,500.00 FOR DEVELOPING A MAINTENANCE MANUAL FOR COLLECTION ARTWORK "WISHING STONE" LOCATED AT THE DEERING ESTATE (FROM ART IN PUBLIC PLACES REPAIR AND RESTORATION FUNDS).

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve Addendum I to the Proposal Contract with artist Richard G. Medlock in the not-to-exceed amount of \$1,500.00 for the development of a Maintenance Manual for collection artwork "Wishing Stone" located at the Deering Estate.

### **Background**

*Wishing Stone*, is the only earthwork in the County's public art collection, installed in 1999 by Miami-based artist Richard Medlock at the northern edge of the boat turning basin at Deering Estate, a property of Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS). *Wishing Stone* consists of two large-scale fabricated stones on which cycles of nature, scientific ratios and mathematical equations are subtly referenced in the imagery inscribed on top of the two stone surfaces. A "bench stone" serves as a seating element on land and the "tide stone" is sited in the shallow coastal waters. The rhythm and fluctuation of the tides create an ever-changing effect as the waters ebb and flow over and around the tidal stone. During high tide, the tide stone is all but obscured by incoming waters. During low tide, the relief carving is revealed as it releases captured water through evaporation. *Wishing Stone* is designed to encourage visitors to stop and observe the mangrove colony and waters of lower Biscayne Bay, creating a magical place for contemplation.

Designed to be revealed and submerged in the tidal waters, the solid rock components of the work require ongoing specialized maintenance that cannot be performed by the staff at the Deering Estate. The work, last restored by the artist in 2014, was recently identified by the Deering Estate staff as needing a complete maintenance treatment and replacement of the artwork's signage with a durable solution that could withstand the extreme outdoor conditions of this artwork.

In response to the Deering Estate's request, the Trust through Resolution APPT No. 22-16 approved a proposal contract with the artist to perform an artwork condition assessment and provide recommendations for the restoration of the work and its ongoing maintenance needs. Through this first phase, the artist completed a comprehensive report including 3 different approaches to restoring the overall earth installation, each at a different price point. However, the development of a detailed maintenance manual with projected cost estimates was excluded due to limitations in proposal funding

and the significant effort required to gather reliable quotes from qualified vendors to perform these services.

To understand the long-term financial commitment of restoring and maintaining this important collection artwork, APP staff recommends approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-47 authorizing Addendum I to the Proposal contract with Richard G. Medlock in the not-to-exceed amount of \$1,500.00 to complete a detailed maintenance manual for collection artwork "Wishing Stone" at the Deering Estate.