



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MEDIA CONTACT:
Liliana Hernandez-Constenla
305-375-5829 / lilianh@miamidade.gov

Miami-Dade County selected as a finalist in Bloomberg Philanthropies \$1 million public art challenge

Department of Cultural Affairs' proposal "Climate Sync Miami" explores the issue of rising seas through public art projects

(Miami – July 18, 2018) – [Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs](#) has been selected as a finalist in the running to receive up to \$1 million as part of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge, a program that aims to foster creative collaboration, address civic issues, and support local economies through public art. More than 200 cities applied, and Miami-Dade County, along with 13 other communities, has been invited to submit a full proposal.

The Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs' proposal, "**Climate Sync Miami**," explores the urgent issue of rising seas and its impact on Miami through a series of site-specific temporary public art interventions. **The Department's Art in Public Places program would commission 8-12 temporary and semi-permanent public art works by internationally renowned artists and outstanding Miami-based artists for 18 months in 10 neighborhoods throughout Greater Miami** at parks, libraries and transportation locations. In February, Bloomberg Philanthropies invited mayors of U.S. cities with 30,000 residents or more to submit proposals for temporary public art projects that address important civic issues, and demonstrate an ability to generate public-private collaborations, celebrate creativity and urban identity, and strengthen local economies.

"Miami-Dade County is at the forefront, leading the way in implementing a countywide resilience and environmental sustainability strategy," said Michael Spring, Senior Advisor to Mayor Carlos Gimenez and Director of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs. "Public art can play an effective role in creatively spotlighting critical community issues and developing awareness about the need for effective solutions. Artists are innovative problem-solvers and can collaborate on addressing issues so critical to South Florida and so important to our world."

Bloomberg Philanthropies will select at least three winners in the fall from among these 14 finalists to execute their projects over a maximum of 24 months. The grant is intended to provide catalytic funds as part of a strong, committed consortium of supporters. As such, the Bloomberg Philanthropies grants will cover project-related expenditures including development, execution, and marketing, but will not fund 100 percent of the total project costs.

The Public Art Challenge is a part of Mike Bloomberg's American Cities Initiative, an effort to help U.S. cities generate innovation and advance policy. The Public Art Challenge allows mayors and artists to join forces to elevate the value of including the creative sector when developing solutions to significant urban issues.

Experienced in working with contemporary visual artists on the topic of climate change, Miami-Dade County's Art in Public Places program has a successful track record of executing site-specific temporary public art commissions, in addition to works created through its renowned permanent public art program. Art in Public Places has collaborated with major foundations to execute critically recognized temporary public art commissions, including ArtPlace America and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

In addition, since 2012, Art in Public Places has sustained a commitment to temporary public artworks through its initiative Fringe Projects. Through this program, more than 30 site-specific temporary commissions have been realized for flexible durations at sites determined by the artists, including such nationally and internationally renowned artists as Dara Friedman, Hew Locke, Rosario Marquardt & Roberto Behar, David Brooks and Nicolas Lobo.

Most recently, in 2017, Art in Public Places launched SEA LEVEL RISE, a year-long series of site-specific temporary public art interventions with seven artists at over 10 sites exploring the topic of rising seas and its impact in South Florida in conjunction with the University of Miami - School of Communications. In an effort to bring broader awareness to the topic, each artist was paired with a student to produce a short documentary video as part of their class curriculum.

More information about the Public Art Challenge can be found on <http://publicartchallenge.bloomberg.org>. Since its inception in 1973, Art in Public Places has commissioned over 700 works of public art that transform civic spaces, celebrate the diversity of our community and capture the remarkable uniqueness of Miami-Dade County. For information on the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs - Art in Public Places program visit www.miamidadepublicart.org.

It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request materials in accessible format, sign language interpreters, and/or any accommodation to participate in any Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs program or meeting, please contact Francine Andersen at 305-375-4634 culture@miamidade.gov at least five days in advance to initiate your request. TTY users may also call 711 (Florida Relay Service).

###

About Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs

The Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and its volunteer advisory board, the Cultural Affairs Council, develop cultural excellence, diversity and participation throughout Miami-Dade County by strategically creating and promoting opportunities for artists and cultural organizations, and our residents and visitors who are their audiences. The Department directs the Art in Public Places program and serves its board, the Art in Public Places Trust, commissioning, curating, maintaining, and promoting the County's art collection. The program has become a national leader in its field as one of the first programs in the nation to commission fully integrated, site-specific works of public art. For information on the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs - Art in Public Places program visit www.miamidadepublicart.org.

About Bloomberg Philanthropies

Bloomberg Philanthropies works in 480 cities in more than 120 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on five key areas for creating lasting change: Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation, and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's charitable activities, including his foundation and his personal giving. In 2017, Bloomberg Philanthropies distributed \$702 million. For more information, please visit www.bloomberg.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Snapchat](#), and [Twitter](#).