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INAUGURAL PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS ARE ANNOUNCED FOR THE UNDERLINE

Miami-Dade's 10-mile linear park will be activated by four participatory artworks from January 14 – April 1, 2017.



Nicolas Lobo, study for forthcoming artwork *A Sculpture to Shape the Body*

MIAMI (November 22, 2016) - **The Underline, Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department and Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs' Art in Public Places** program are pleased to announce the inaugural public art program for The Underline, a planned world-class linear park designed to transform the underutilized land below Miami-Dade's Metrorail into an urban trail and art destination. These projects include four commissions by Miami-based artists **Bhakti Baxter, Naomi Fisher, Nicolas Lobo,** and **Agustina Woodgate** and will take place throughout a 9.7-mile corridor which includes eight Metrorail Station locations between the Brickell neighborhood and business district and Dadeland South.

The projects by these four artists will open to the public with a reception on **Saturday, January 14, 2017**, activating The Underline with public art interventions that reflect artistic excellence

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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and engage the community. Commissioned by **Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs' Art in Public Places** in collaboration with **Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces** and **Friends of The Underline Art Advisory** in cooperation with **Miami-Dade County Transportation and Public Works Department**, the four projects are funded by a \$200,000 nationally competitive **ArtPlace America Grant**. ArtPlace has invested in projects in which artists and arts organizations play an explicit and central role in strategies to help shape their communities' social, physical, and economic futures.

James Corner Field Operations, the firm which designed New York's celebrated **High Line** elevated park, has created a Master Plan for The Underline which includes biking and pedestrian trails connected with features and amenities that encourage Miami-Dade residents to get out of their cars to walk, bike, exercise, visit, and gather. The vision of the Master Plan will ensure that The Underline will become a destination for must-see art by incorporating space for public art into the design framework, whether as sculpture, performance, or installations. A rotating program of both local and international art works will draw residents and visitors, while also creating a platform for civic engagement for nearby artists and artisans.

As one of **Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez's** priorities, the project has received a **\$3-million commitment** from the County and is a public-private collaboration between Miami-Dade Parks, Miami-Dade Transportation and Public Works and Friends of The Underline, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

The Underline will also have substantial economic impact by encouraging mixed use development along U.S. Route 1, increasing property values, adding jobs and inviting adjacent businesses to activate and connect to it. In total, The Underline is anticipated to bring an additional \$170 million in total economic output during construction; \$50 million annually after completion and over \$650 million in increased property values. The project is part of the County's Masterplan Greenway network that consists of 500 miles of trails and connected public spaces.



Rendering of The Underline, James Corner Field Operations

“From the get-go, art is one of the pillars of The Underline,” says **Meg Daly, President and CEO of Friends of The Underline**. “Our community has seen the transformative power of the arts—from our museums and galleries to our schools and artist communities. We’re thrilled to be part of this rich community fabric.”

“Miami-Dade Art in Public Places has enabled some of the most exciting public art projects in the country. These four projects add to that important legacy, and also create the opportunity for site-specific, temporary public artworks to address timely issues,” says **Amanda Sanfilippo, Curator and Artist Manager, Art in Public Places, Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs.**

Maria I. Nardi, Deputy Director, Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department, adds “This is about creative place making as a means of investing in the public realm with parks, public space and art at the heart of a vision that will drive vibrancy and diversity so powerful it will transform our community.”

The four public artworks include the following:

For ***Metro Flower Power*, Bhakti Baxter** will create unique live floral planting arrangements for the interiors of each of the eight Metrorail Stations located along The Underline. For the installation, Baxter will fabricate sculptural planters responding to different local aesthetics. Each station will be formally unique—engaging Art Deco, industrial materials like cement and steel, and traditional ceramics.

The plants will be displayed to mimic grand floral arrangements near the entrance of each station, drawing on the tradition of Modernist design while celebrating the daily commute of many. After the duration of the project, the native tropical plants will be relocated outside of the stations and into The Underline linear park itself, to remain as part of the park’s landscape, allowing the temporary project to carry on indefinitely. **Metrorail Station Locations (Interior): Brickell, Vizcaya, Coconut Grove, Douglas Road, University, South Miami, Dadeland North, Dadeland South.**

At the Brickell Station, **Naomi Fisher** will create **#PUZZLED**, an architecturally-scaled participatory sculpture incorporating a motif of large anthropomorphic puzzle pieces. The hand-drawn shapes of the puzzle pieces will be laser cut onto mirror-finished steel, and include functional ballet barres. Furthering the dialogue of dance and performative practices within the realm of contemporary art, **#PUZZLED** combines sculpture and performance in a single work. The sculptural installation will be activated by ballet dancers to create unique performances throughout the duration of the artwork.

Open to the public for use at all times, the schedule of activations and programmed performances are forthcoming. **Metrorail Station Locations (Exterior): Brickell**

Nicolas Lobo presents ***A Sculpture to Shape the Body***, a participatory artwork functioning as a mobile exercise station and critique of self-improvement. Flexibly designed to address different parts of the body as it rests on any one of its six sides, the 10’ by 10’ cube framework of stainless steel echoes the Brutalist, utilitarian aesthetic of the Miami Metrorail transit system itself. Throughout the course of the temporary intervention, the artwork will inhabit four different locations along the linear park of The Underline, changing its orientation and location every few weeks.

Conveniently accessed by corresponding Metrorail station stops, the work will be further activated by a schedule of collaborations with a Parkour-informed calisthenics expert who will invite the public to experience specifically designed exercise routines each Saturday that the work is installed at a new station (see dates below). Hinging on Lobo’s interest in addressing leisure in the context of a capitalist society, ***A Sculpture to Shape the Body*** provocatively offers a program of self-care and wellness within a transit system designed for utility and labor. **Metrorail Station Locations (Exterior): Brickell (January 14 - January 28), University**

(January 28 – February 11), Douglas Road (February 11 – February 25), Vizcaya, (February 25 - March 11).

Agustina Woodgate will activate The Underline and its environs through a broadcast of **RadioEE.net**, a nomadic, bilingual, event-based online radio broadcast focusing on mobility, migration and transportation founded and maintained by the artist. On January 13th and 14th, Woodgate will interview the visionaries, planners, city officials, transportation specialists, and many others involved in the creation of The Underline. Interviews will take place while traveling the complete length of The Underline in a bicycle-powered mobile radio station. During this 10-mile journey, Woodgate will pick up and drop off various transportation specialists and conduct interviews which will be broadcasted live at radioEE.net.

The resulting recordings from the broadcast will then be transferred into podcasts, and remain available as an archive online and accessible to the public. Corresponding signage advertising access to the podcasts will be present within the rail cars in the form of posters and within the stations. **Metrorail Station Locations (Station interiors, platforms, railcars and performance along linear park): Brickell, Vizcaya, Coconut Grove, Douglas Road, University, South Miami, Dadeland North, Dadeland South.**

Upcoming Events:

Friday, January 13 & Saturday, January 14

Agustina Woodgate live radio broadcast at RadioEE.net and bicycle activation

Saturday, January 14

Brickell Station

Opening Reception, 2-5pm

Nicolas Lobo Fitness Activation, 3-5pm

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MEDIA NOTE:

Web and Print Ready

Images: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6bnp1f3jz4rily7/AACia5iOBeJiJagdBAXYdSu8a?dl=0>

Underline: fieldoperations.net/press, Password THE_UNDERLINE

ABOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

Art in Public Places is a program of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs responsible for the commission and purchase of artworks by contemporary artists in all media. One of the first public art programs in the country, Miami-Dade Art in Public Places was established in 1973 with the passage of an ordinance allocating 1.5% of construction cost of new county buildings for the purchase or commission of artworks, educational programs and collection maintenance. The Art Trust Fund is administered by a County Commission-appointed citizens' board, the Art in Public Places Trust, in consultation with its Professional Advisory Committee. For more information about the Art in Public Places Program and the Miami-Dade Department of Cultural Affairs, please visit www.miamidadepublicart.org and www.miamidadearts.org

ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE UNDERLINE

Friends of The Underline is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization advocating to transform the underutilized land below Miami's Metrorail into a 10-mile linear park, urban trail and canvas for artistic expression to create a safer, more connected, mobile, and engaged community. Friends of The Underline board of directors and sub-committee members include architects, designers, urban planners, biking advocates, marketing experts, philanthropists, legal and accounting professionals, business leaders, real estate developers, and more. They are partners with Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces and Transportation departments. www.theunderline.org

ABOUT MIAMI-DADE PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACES

Miami-Dade County Parks is the third largest county park system in the United States, consisting of 270 parks and 13,573 acres of land. It is one of the most unique park and recreation systems in the world. Miami-Dade County Parks is supported by The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization supporting the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department's efforts to further develop Miami-Dade County's world-class parks system for residents and visitors. Its mission is to create a healthier, more livable and sustainable Miami community by ensuring the implementation of the Parks Open Space Master Plan and the development of year-round park and recreation programs for local children, adults and people with disabilities.

www.miamidade.gov/parks/

To request materials in accessible format, sign language interpreters, and/or any accommodation to participate in any County-sponsored program or meeting, please call Francine Andersen, 305-375-5024 or email, fran@miamidade.gov, five days in advance to initiate your request. TTY users may also call 711 (Florida Relay Service).