

## RESOLUTION NO. RS2019-1562

### **A resolution honoring and recognizing the Metro Nashville Arts Commission (Metro Arts) upon the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the agency's establishment.**

WHEREAS, Metro Arts commissioners and staff have marked four decades of commitment to growing Nashville's public art collection, supporting and development the city's artistic community and resources, and giving every Nashvillian access to arts and culture through community investments, artist and organizational training, public art and creative placemaking, and direct programs that involve residents in all forms of arts and culture, and drive a more equitable and vibrant community through the arts; and

WHEREAS, Metro Arts, created by Metro Charter Ordinance in December 1978 under the administration of Mayor Richard Fulton, has support and spurred innovation in Nashville's arts and culture sector through a variety of investments, programs, and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, these investments, programs, and initiatives include hosting the Summer Lights Festival for more than a decade, initiating and managing the largest municipal cultural grant-making program in the state, and investing operational funds in start-up cultural organizations that are now key leaders of Nashville's cultural landscape, including Alias Chamber Ensemble, Actors Bridge Ensemble, African American Cultural Alliance, Intersections, TN Craft, Global Education Center, and Southern Word; and

WHEREAS, Metro Arts is also responsible for leading the passage of state legislation establishing a publicly funded public art program, the THRIVE neighborhood funding program and the Learning Lab Artist Training program, both of which are now looked to as national creative placemaking models, and Metro Arts also launched Racial Equity in Arts Leadership, a comprehensive initiative to drive equity in the arts within our cultural institutions and arts community; and

WHEREAS, Metro Arts, together with Davidson County Juvenile Court and Judge Sheila Calloway, has established the Restorative Justice and the Arts program, an arts-integrated intervention system for court-involved youth through a coalition of government agencies, non-profits, and individual artists, providing trauma-informed arts program for more than 400 youth per year; and

WHEREAS, Metro Arts, together with the Nashville Career Advancement Center, invests in developing youth as artistic leaders through the Opportunity NOW program, a summer employment program that provides mentorship, 21<sup>st</sup> Century skill building and work readiness training; and

WHEREAS, in its four decades of service, Metro Arts has spearheaded the commissioning and installation of more than 100 pieces of public art throughout Nashville, including iconic landmarks such as Christian Moeller's *Stix* and Alice Aycok's *Ghost Ballet for the East Bank Machineworks*, as well as the Art WORKS Collection, a pilot program to acquire two-dimensional works of art in a variety of mediums, created by local artists for public spaces in Metro buildings; and

WHEREAS, in tandem with its fortieth anniversary, Metro Arts has unveiled a new visual brand for the agency, one that reflects the cultural vibrancy of the city and includes the new official tag "Nashville's Office of Arts + Culture," a nod to the broader role Metro Arts has in community partnership coordination, interdepartmental arts integration, and national cultural policy innovation; and

WHEREAS, throughout its forty-year history, Metro Arts has supported the growth of art in the public realm as well as increases in arts funding and partnerships with local schools, galleries, and cultural organizations; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the commission's work, Nashville has been recognized by the National Center for Arts Research as second in the nation in cultural vibrancy, and by Americans for the Arts' Year in Review for its Learning Lab artist training program, and the commission continues to increase support for local artists and focus on policy and practices that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, setting a national standard of innovation through cross-sector partnerships and programming; and

WHEREAS, Metro Arts has made it its mission to integrate art into all areas of life, public transit, parks, and libraries, to lift up cultural stories and narratives of all Nashvillians, and to engender citizen engagement with artists and cultural life; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Nashville Arts Commission has enriched the arts and culture of Nashville and the lives of Nashvillians for four decades, and it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council honor the organization.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan County Council hereby goes on record as formally recognizing and honoring Metro Arts commissioners and employees for their 40 years of service, growth and commitment to arts and culture for all Nashvillians.

Section 2. The Metropolitan Council Office is directed to prepare a copy of this Resolution to be presented to Metro Arts Executive Director Caroline Vincent, and the Metro Arts Commission Chair.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

INTRODUCED BY:

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