

By: Gervin-Hawkins

H.R. No. 2311

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For the better part of a century, the Carver
2 Community Cultural Center has played a prominent role in the social
3 and civic life of San Antonio's historic Eastside area; and

4 WHEREAS, When the center was built in 1929, it was the only
5 library and performance venue available to the city's African
6 American residents; from the 1930s through the early 1960s, it
7 played host to legendary musicians such as Duke Ellington, Ella
8 Fitzgerald, Paul Robeson, Louis Armstrong, Charlie "Bird" Parker,
9 and Dizzy Gillespie; it also served as the location for high school
10 graduations, debutante balls, weekly social dances, weddings,
11 political rallies, club meetings, and a plethora of other events
12 that shaped the lives of generations of area citizens; and

13 WHEREAS, Due to the impact of desegregation, as well as
14 changing housing patterns and inadequate maintenance of the
15 building, the Carver Community Cultural Center was closed in the
16 late 1960s; during the next decade, a number of Eastside civic
17 leaders lobbied for the restoration of the center; after
18 discovering that the city planned to demolish it in 1973, employees
19 and clients of the United Citizens Project Planning and Operating
20 Committee, under the leadership of director Nova Hill, placed
21 themselves in front of bulldozers until the mayor rescinded the
22 demolition order; after the center was saved, negotiations for its
23 renovation began in earnest; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1976, the newly renovated Carver Community

1 Cultural Center reopened under the ownership and management of the
2 City of San Antonio; city officials introduced a new vision that
3 transformed the facility into a multiethnic and multicultural
4 performing and visual arts center primarily focusing on the
5 artistry of African Americans; today, the center continues to bring
6 nationally and internationally acclaimed artists to San Antonio and
7 hosts exhibits, artist residencies, master classes, workshops, and
8 private functions for individuals and organizations; and

9 WHEREAS, The Carver Community Cultural Center has long served
10 as an essential resource for residents of San Antonio's Eastside
11 and a living link to their shared history, and its continued
12 existence is a testament to the collective will of many individuals
13 with a desire to preserve the community's rich cultural legacy;
14 now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
16 Legislature hereby recognize the Carver Community Cultural Center
17 for its historical significance and ongoing civic contributions and
18 commend all those associated with this iconic facility; and, be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for the center as an expression of high regard by the Texas
22 House of Representatives.