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H.R. No. 2403

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Commission on the Arts has announced the
2 2024 appointments for State Poet Laureate, State Musician, State
3 Two-Dimensional Artist, and State Three-Dimensional Artist; and

4 WHEREAS, The state's highest accolade for excellence in the
5 arts, the Texas State Artist designation is conferred on
6 individuals who represent the best of our rich and diverse artistic
7 community and who inspire others through their unique creative
8 expression; and

9 WHEREAS, Amanda Johnston, the 2024 State Poet Laureate, has
10 authored two chapbooks, *GUAP* and *Lock & Key*, and a full-length
11 poetry collection, *Another Way to Say Enter*; named one of the "13
12 Black Poets You Should Know" by the tech media platform Blavity, she
13 has been published in numerous online and print publications, as
14 well as in the anthologies *Furious Flower: Seeding the Future of*
15 *African American Poetry* and *Women of Resistance: Poems for a New*
16 *Feminism*; she is the former board president of Cave Canem
17 Foundation, a cofounder of Black Poets Speak Out, founder of Torch
18 Literary Arts, and a member of the Affrilachian Poets; her work has
19 earned her several fellowships, grants, and awards, and she has
20 facilitated creative writing workshops and served as a presenter at
21 universities and literary venues across the country; and

22 WHEREAS, The 2024 State Musician is Kelly Clarkson, who rose
23 to stardom as the winner of the debut season of *American Idol* and
24 has since gone on to captivate fans and critics alike with her

1 powerhouse vocals and down-to-earth charm; following her
2 chart-topping first album *Thankful*, her sophomore release,
3 *Breakaway*, sold more than 12 million copies worldwide and
4 established her as a global sensation; she made subsequent forays
5 into rock, country, and R&B, demonstrating her versatility as a
6 recording artist while continuing to rack up hits, Grammy Awards,
7 and Grammy nominations; in recent years, she has become one of the
8 titans of daytime television as the host of *The Kelly Clarkson Show*,
9 and her work in television has also included stints as a coach on
10 *The Voice* and as cohost of *American Song Contest*; and

11 WHEREAS, Michael Ray Charles has been named the 2024 State
12 Two-Dimensional Artist; a contemporary painter, Mr. Charles
13 explores the enduring legacy of racial stereotypes in media through
14 challenging works that incorporate minstrel characters into
15 compositions resembling vintage advertisements; a Louisiana native
16 who now teaches at the University of Houston, he draws on his
17 studies in advertising design and illustration to create his unique
18 and subversive imagery, which has been exhibited at the Museum of
19 Modern Art in New York, the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo,
20 and the Austin Museum of Art, among other locations; his works have
21 received critical acclaim and have also been a source of
22 controversy, and in 2001, he was the subject of a short documentary
23 on the program *Art in the Twenty-First Century*; and

24 WHEREAS, The 2024 State Three-Dimensional Artist, Diana
25 Kersey, specializes in creating visually detailed architectural
26 ceramics for interior and exterior spaces; the Lubbock native has
27 been commissioned by the City of San Antonio, VIA Metropolitan

1 Transit, the San Antonio River Authority, and other entities to
2 craft colorful public art pieces featuring her translucent, earthy
3 glazes, and her body of work further encompasses a collection of
4 highly intricate and boldly designed vessels and platters; she
5 serves on the faculty of Northwest Vista College in San Antonio and
6 owns and operates Kersey Ceramics, LLC; and

7 WHEREAS, The artists who have been selected to hold these
8 prestigious posts have all greatly contributed to the vibrant
9 cultural life of the Lone Star State, and Texas is indeed fortunate
10 to be home to these talented individuals; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
12 Legislature hereby congratulate the 2024 Texas Commission on the
13 Arts honorees and extend to them sincere best wishes for continued
14 fulfillment in their creative endeavors.