

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 305

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, An appreciation and a mastery of the arts are among  
2 the greatest joys to experience, and by fostering these worthwhile  
3 attributes in young people, the Artists-in-the-Making after-school  
4 program has distinguished itself as a project worthy of  
5 recognition; and

6 WHEREAS, Childhood is the time to develop interests, skills,  
7 and aptitudes that will last a lifetime; through meaningful art  
8 activities, children develop initiative, creative ability,  
9 self-evaluation skills, discipline, and a heightened awareness of  
10 their environment; and

11 WHEREAS, Established in 1999 at the Ella Austin Community  
12 Center in San Antonio, the program aims to provide a positive outlet  
13 for self-expression and an alternative to the temptation of  
14 juvenile delinquency, tap into the talent of disadvantaged  
15 low-income youth, encourage local artists to share their skills  
16 with the Eastside community, and promote an interest in art  
17 throughout San Antonio; and

18 WHEREAS, Artists-in-the-Making offers four different art  
19 mediums: mixed media, ceramics, drawing, and painting; classes are  
20 free and participants range in age from 7 to 16; and

21 WHEREAS, In 2005, students in the program completed a mural  
22 entitled *Texas-Born Musicians*; this impressive 24-by-14-foot work  
23 employs ceramic tile to celebrate native Lone Star musicians who  
24 have made a lasting mark, including Selena, Willie Nelson, Ornette

1 Coleman, and Buddy Holly, to name a few; the mural stands in the  
2 city's historic Sunset Station, and generations of Texans will  
3 surely enjoy its timeless images; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition to *Texas-Born Musicians*, students have  
5 also contributed to *The House That Ella Built: Mrs. Austin*  
6 *Remembered*, a reproduction of the turn-of-the-century homestead  
7 once occupied by Ella Austin, a local woman who, together with her  
8 husband, made a home for homeless African American children in San  
9 Antonio; under the able guidance of director Gary Lett, program  
10 participants re-created household artifacts and copied paintings  
11 of major historic sites around the San Antonio area to adorn the  
12 walls of this distinctive model; and

13 WHEREAS, By promoting in young people an awareness of their  
14 own creative gifts and an appreciation for the arts, the  
15 Artists-in-the-Making program enriches the life of the community  
16 and teaches important life lessons, even as it opens new vistas of  
17 possibility and opportunity in the hearts of youth; now, therefore,  
18 be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
20 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commend the  
21 Artists-in-the-Making program for its worthwhile endeavors and  
22 extend to all those involved with this outstanding initiative  
23 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for the program as an expression of high regard by the  
26 Texas House of Representatives.