

### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 183

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas as it celebrates its 50th anniversary on February 16, 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, For decades, this Austin institution has been a repository for some of the region's most esteemed collections; in the past 15 years, the Blanton has skyrocketed to national prominence, and its reputation has grown exponentially with the opening of a spectacular new home and the rapid expansion of its international collections; and

**WHEREAS**, Today, the Blanton Museum of Art claims one of the most coveted Old Masters collections in the nation; its multifaceted Latin American holdings are among the country's most comprehensive; and

**WHEREAS**, Originally known as the University Art Museum, the Blanton has a long and storied history that spans locations, savvy donors, and colorful characters; its origins can be traced to the Roaring '20s, a large swath of land near the Gulf of Mexico, and a generous New York heir and his sculptor wife; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1927, Archer M. Huntington and Anna Hyatt Huntington donated to The University of Texas a 4,000-acre tract in Galveston; the land was eventually sold, and the proceeds from the sale created an endowment for the museum, which opened in 1963 on the Austin campus; and

**WHEREAS**, Many art world luminaries and writers have contributed to the success and scope of today's Blanton; the core collections include a 1971 gift of Latin American works from John and Barbara Duncan that consists of 1,200 drawings and some 200 paintings; donations from C. R. Smith and Charles Clark laid the foundation for the museum's American Western art and contemporary prints holdings; and

**WHEREAS**, Among the most noted gifts was that of author James Michener and his wife, Mari; this acquisition took place over decades and culminated in a collection of approximately 400 American paintings from the 20th century; and

**WHEREAS**, The Blanton's reputation was sealed with the acquisition in 1998 of the venerable Suida-Manning Collection; those holdings encompass hundreds of paintings and drawings by Renaissance and Baroque masters; and

**WHEREAS**, Today's institution is named after Jack S. Blanton, a former chairman of Houston Endowment, Incorporated, which donated \$12 million to help with the new museum's construction; designed by Kallmann McKinnell & Wood Architects, the building was opened in 2006, after many years of anticipation; and

**WHEREAS**, Because of these combined gifts and the unflagging determination of its many curators, the Blanton Museum of Art is now a formidable storehouse of fine art and a most worthy destination for international travelers and school students alike; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby honor the Blanton Museum of Art on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and extend to its staff and supporters best wishes in future endeavors; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Watson

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 11, 2013.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate