

By: Meyer

H.R. No. 596

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing
2 and Visual Arts in Dallas has been named the recipient of a 2015
3 Texas Medal of Arts Award by the Texas Cultural Trust; and

4 WHEREAS, Presented biennially since 2001, the Texas Medal of
5 Arts Awards celebrate the power of the arts to enhance the quality
6 of life in the Lone Star State; they recognize those who have
7 achieved greatness and those who have opened doors of opportunity
8 for others, and Booker T. Washington High School is the first
9 educational institution to receive this prestigious accolade; and

10 WHEREAS, Booker T. Washington High School was built in 1922
11 as the city's first African American high school; a half-century
12 later, the Dallas Independent School District transformed the
13 campus into an arts magnet high school with a dual focus on the arts
14 and scholarship, and it became a prototype for similar institutions
15 across the nation; its long list of distinguished alumni includes
16 jazz trumpeter Roy Hargrove, Philadelphia Orchestra cellist John
17 Koen, visual artists Christian Schumann and Chris Arnold, and
18 singers Erykah Badu, Norah Jones, and Edie Brickell; and

19 WHEREAS, Since its establishment, BTW has won well over 200
20 DeeBee awards from *Downbeat* magazine, and the National Foundation
21 for Advancement in the Arts has designated it as one of five
22 Distinguished Schools in the Arts; the campus received the National
23 Blue Ribbon Award for Exemplary Education from the United States
24 Department of Education, which ranks it among the best eight magnet

1 schools; moreover, the school has been named one of the best
2 academic schools by *Newsweek* magazine and one of the top performing
3 arts schools by *U.S. News and World Report*; each year, 99 percent of
4 its students graduate, and 90 percent go on to pursue further
5 education; and

6 WHEREAS, The high standards of excellence maintained by
7 Booker T. Washington HSPVA illustrate the degree to which the arts
8 can enrich the lives of young Texans, and this noteworthy
9 institution is indeed deserving of this outstanding honor; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
12 Legislature hereby congratulate Booker T. Washington High School
13 for the Performing and Visual Arts on its receipt of a Texas Medal
14 of Arts Award from the Texas Cultural Trust and extend to the
15 school's students, faculty, staff, and alumni sincere best wishes
16 for continued success; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for the school as an expression of high regard by the Texas
19 House of Representatives.