

By: Coleman

H.R. No. 709

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Rick Lowe of Houston has been named the 2015 Texas
2 Medal of Arts honoree for Visual Arts by the Texas Cultural Trust;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The Texas Medal of Arts program pays tribute to
5 residents of the Lone Star State who have made significant
6 contributions to a variety of artistic disciplines in the state,
7 either through personal achievement or through generous support;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, A native of Alabama, Mr. Lowe attended Columbus
10 College in Georgia and subsequently studied visual arts at Texas
11 Southern University; in 1993, he cofounded the nonprofit Project
12 Row Houses, which brought together local artists and volunteers to
13 restore 22 dilapidated shotgun-style houses in Houston's historic
14 Third Ward and to transform that two-block site into an arts venue
15 and community support center; over the years, the scope of the
16 initiative has been dramatically expanded to provide youth arts
17 education programs, exhibition spaces and studio residences for
18 artists, housing for young mothers, and even an organic gardening
19 program; and

20 WHEREAS, In addition to his achievements in his own
21 community, Mr. Lowe has helped establish arts-driven redevelopment
22 efforts in a number of other cities, including the Watts House
23 Project in Los Angeles, the post-Hurricane Katrina rebuilding
24 project Transforma in New Orleans, and a community market in

1 Dallas; he has also assisted with such community building efforts
2 as the Arts Plan for the Seattle Public Library, the Borough Project
3 for the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, and the
4 Delray Beach Cultural Loop in Florida; and

5 WHEREAS, The work of this world-renowned artist has been
6 exhibited in the Contemporary Arts Museum and the Museum of Fine
7 Arts in Houston, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, the
8 Gwangju Biennale in South Korea, and the Venice Architecture
9 Biennale; appointed to the National Council on the Arts by
10 President Barack Obama in 2013, he also serves today as
11 artist-in-residence at the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas and as
12 a Mel King Community Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of
13 Technology; in recognition of his visionary efforts, he was
14 selected as a 2014 MacArthur Fellow; and

15 WHEREAS, Rick Lowe has touched countless individuals through
16 his art and has used his extraordinary gifts to enhance the quality
17 of life in his community and in cities across the nation, and he is
18 most deserving of this prestigious accolade; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
20 Legislature hereby congratulate Rick Lowe on his selection as the
21 2015 Texas Medal of Arts honoree for Visual Arts by the Texas
22 Cultural Trust and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued
23 success; and, be it further

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