

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 2456

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Texas Commission on the Arts has announced the  
2 2015 appointments for the positions of State Poet Laureate, State  
3 Musician, State Two-Dimensional Artist, and State  
4 Three-Dimensional Artist; and

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

10           WHEREAS, The 2015 State Poet Laureate is San Antonio native  
11 Carmen Tafolla, a prolific poet, storyteller, performance artist,  
12 and motivational speaker who has earned critical acclaim for her  
13 work; she has published more than 20 books and is one of the most  
14 widely anthologized Latina writers today; chosen as the first Poet  
15 Laureate of the City of San Antonio in 2012, she visited over 300  
16 schools, universities, professional conferences, and community  
17 arts centers during the course of her two-year tenure; she has been  
18 accorded a host of accolades, which include the coveted Americas  
19 Award presented to her at the Library of Congress in 2010; and

20           WHEREAS, Legendary Austin-based guitarist Jimmie Vaughan is  
21 this year's State Musician; as a founding member of The Fabulous  
22 Thunderbirds, Vaughan helped spark the revival of blues music on  
23 the pop charts with the release of eight albums and the success of  
24 hits like "Tuff Enuff"; he received two Grammy nominations with the

1 band and later launched a solo career in 1994, gaining further  
2 prominence in the realm of modern roots music; his masterful  
3 playing, defined by vigor, authenticity, and originality, has  
4 earned him the admiration of such icons as Eric Clapton and B. B.  
5 King, and he was cited as the most formative influence on the career  
6 of his younger brother, the late Stevie Ray Vaughan; and

7         WHEREAS, Vincent Valdez has been selected as the 2015 State  
8 Two-Dimensional Artist; he was educated at the renowned Rhode  
9 Island School of Design, and in 2004, a collection of his charcoal  
10 drawings was shown at the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio, making  
11 him the youngest artist, at age 26, to ever have a solo exhibition  
12 there; his work is now widely featured at such venues as the Los  
13 Angeles County Museum of Art and the Smithsonian Museum; born and  
14 raised in San Antonio, he currently serves as chair of the Drawing  
15 and Painting Department at the Southwest School of Art; and

16         WHEREAS, Named the 2015 State Three-Dimensional Artist,  
17 sculptor Margo Sawyer of Elgin studied in England at the Brighton  
18 Polytechnic Faculty of Art and Design and at the Chelsea School of  
19 Art in London, before returning stateside to enroll in the Yale  
20 University sculpture program; through her work, she explores the  
21 concepts of space and transcendence, and she has recently  
22 specialized in creating large-scale installations that reflect her  
23 interest in architecture; she has been exhibited nationally and  
24 internationally, and in addition to pursuing her artistic vision,  
25 she is a professor of sculpture and studio art at The University of  
26 Texas at Austin; and

27         WHEREAS, The artists who have been selected to hold these

1 prestigious posts have all greatly contributed to the vibrant  
2 cultural life of the Lone Star State, and Texas is indeed fortunate  
3 to be home to these talented individuals; now, therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
5 Legislature hereby congratulate the 2015 Texas Commission on the  
6 Arts honorees and extend to them sincere best wishes for continued  
7 fulfillment in their creative endeavors.