

By: Giddings

H.R. No. 560

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The presentation of a 2017 Texas Medal of Arts Award
2 to the Dallas Black Dance Theatre provides a welcome opportunity to
3 honor the organization's founder and artistic advisor, Ann
4 Williams, for her lifelong support of the arts; and

5 WHEREAS, The signature event of the Texas Cultural Trust, the
6 Texas Medal of Arts Awards honor the achievements and creative
7 talents of leaders in the arts, as well as those whose generosity
8 has provided artistic opportunities for Texans of all ages; and

9 WHEREAS, Ann Williams founded the Dallas Black Dance Theatre
10 in 1976, with the goals of encouraging an appreciation of dance
11 among minority youth and helping them use dance as a form of
12 creative expression; and

13 WHEREAS, Under her leadership, DBDT has grown to include a
14 fully professional company of multiethnic dancers who perform
15 modern, jazz, ethnic, and spiritual works across the country and
16 around the world; a second troupe, known as Encore!, is made up of
17 semiprofessional dancers and is involved in local and regional
18 educational outreach programs; in addition, DBDT operates a
19 training school, Dallas Black Dance Academy, which teaches ballet,
20 tap, modern, jazz, and ethnic dance to more than 475 students every
21 week; and

22 WHEREAS, Ms. Williams served as the artistic director of the
23 Dallas Black Dance Theatre until 2014, and she continues to remain
24 deeply involved as its artistic advisor; she is also a founding

1 member of the Dance Council of North Texas and the International
2 Association of Blacks in Dance, and she has further shared her time
3 and talents as a panelist for numerous organizations, such as the
4 Texas Commission on the Arts, the Dallas Center for the Performing
5 Arts Foundation, and the Houston and Arkansas Arts Councils; and

6 WHEREAS, This distinguished Texan has garnered myriad
7 accolades over the course of her career, including an Arts
8 Community Alliance Award for Excellence in the Performing Arts and
9 induction into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame; in 2005, she was
10 honored as part of the Masters of African American Choreography
11 series at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; and

12 WHEREAS, Through her vision and leadership, Ann Williams has
13 built an enduring cultural institution while inspiring a love of
14 dance in countless Texans; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
16 Legislature hereby commend Ann Williams for her immeasurable
17 contributions to dance and dance education and congratulate her on
18 the occasion of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre's receipt of a 2017
19 Texas Medal of Arts Award; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for Ms. Williams as an expression of high regard by the
22 Texas House of Representatives.