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By:  Bonnen of Brazoria H.R. No. 556

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Brandon Maxwell has been named a 2019 Texas Medal of Arts honoree by the Texas Cultural Trust for his accomplishments in the field of design; and

WHEREAS, A Longview native, Brandon Maxwell is the founder and creative director of the eponymous luxury women's ready-to-wear label; he launched Brandon Maxwell in 2015, and his designs have been worn by a host of influential women, among them Meghan Markle, Oprah Winfrey, Blake Lively, and Queen Rania of Jordan; his collection is sold in upscale retail stores around the world, and he has earned numerous professional accolades, among them the 2016 CFDA Swarovski Award for Womenswear; in 2019, he is starring as a judge in the relaunch of the hit show *Project Runway*; and

WHEREAS, At an early age, Mr. Maxwell was introduced to the magic of design by his grandmother, Louise Johnson, who was a buyer for a Longview boutique; he studied photography at St. Edward's University, and in 2009, he began assisting fashion stylists; three years later, he became a fashion director for Lady Gaga, and he also worked on fashion campaigns and editorials for prominent photographers; and

WHEREAS, Brandon Maxwell has brought Texas flair to the international fashion world while helping to make a positive difference in his home state; during a residency in Marfa in 2018, Mr. Maxwell designed a collection that serves as an homage to the Lone Star State; while working on the project, he used some of his time to meet with local residents, from artists to hospitality workers, to learn about the economic gap between citizens and visitors to their community; apprised of underfunding in the schools, he developed a corporate partnership for a philanthropic initiative and secured a significant donation for educational resources, as well as a vehicle for teachers to use in travel to professional training; he arranged for charitable giving to San Antonio Girl Scout troops and New York shelters as well; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Medal of Arts program pays tribute to luminaries who have achieved excellence in their creative endeavors, as well as those whose generosity has opened doors to artistic opportunity for Texans of all ages, and Brandon Maxwell is indeed a deserving recipient of this illustrious honor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Brandon Maxwell on receiving a 2019 Texas Medal of Arts from the Texas Cultural Trust and commend him for his many good works; and, be it further

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