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By:  Collier H.R. No. 1803

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, TaKiyah Wallace-McMillian is helping to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in Tarrant County and the surrounding communities through her work as founder and executive director of Brown Girls Do Ballet; and

WHEREAS, A nonprofit organization, Brown Girls Do Ballet promotes diversity in the arts through annual scholarships, a mentor network, and community programs to empower young girls; in 2013, the Brown Girls Do Ballet Small Studio Grant and scholarship program was established to provide financial assistance for young dancers; further support for aspiring ballerinas is available through the organization's pointe shoe program, and a supply closet was created following natural disasters that displaced dancers in Houston and Baton Rouge; the initiative continues to provide dancewear to ballerinas in need through corporate and individual donations; and

WHEREAS, In addition to its support for dancers' training, Brown Girls Do Ballet helps to increase awareness and participation of underrepresented populations in ballet programs by organizing and arranging ballet performances, photo exhibitions, and social media campaigns; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wallace-McMillian is a former teacher and television host, and she is the owner of Some Sweet Photography; her work has been featured in several publications, including *Wedding Nouveau* and *The Washington Post*; she holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas and a master's degree from Texas Christian University; and

WHEREAS, Through her passion, dedication, and tireless efforts, TaKiyah Wallace-McMillian has made a positive and lasting difference in the lives of countless young girls and set an inspiring example of community engagement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby commend TaKiyah Wallace-McMillian and Brown Girls Do Ballet for supporting dancers of color and extend to all those associated with the organization sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Ms. Wallace-McMillian as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.