

By: King of Hemphill

H.R. No. 1220

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Commission on the Arts has announced the
2 2021 appointments for the positions of State Poet Laureate,
3 State 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, Cyrus Cassells, the 2021 State Poet Laureate, is the
11 author of eight volumes of poetry, including *The Gospel According*
12 *to Wild Indigo*, which was a finalist for the NAACP Image Award and
13 the Balcones Prize, as well as *More Than Watchmen at Daybreak* and
14 the forthcoming *The World That the Shooter Left Us*; his translation
15 of *Still Life with Children: Selected Poems of Francesc Parcerisas*
16 won the Soeurette Diehl Fraser Award from the Texas Institute of
17 Letters, and his other honors include a Lambda Literary Award, a
18 Lannan Literary Award, two grants from the National Endowment for
19 the Arts, a Pushcart Prize, and a William Carlos Williams Award;
20 moreover, he was named a National Poetry Series winner; he is a
21 professor of English at Texas State University; and

22 WHEREAS, The 2021 Texas State Musician is Leon Bridges, whose
23 first album, *Coming Home*, debuted at number six on the Billboard
24 charts in 2015 and went on to be certified as a gold record; his

1 critically acclaimed second album, *Good Thing*, was released in May
2 2018; he has written and performed songs with such artists as
3 Macklemore, Ryan Lewis, Nick Waterhouse, Kacey Musgraves, Lecrae,
4 and Gary Clark Jr., and he has performed at the White House, the
5 Library of Congress, and other venues around the world; a four-time
6 Grammy nominee, he won for Best Traditional R&B Performance for his
7 song "Bet Ain't Worth the Hand"; and

8 WHEREAS, The unique work of Annette Lawrence, the 2021 State
9 Two-Dimensional Artist, turns the ordinary data of everyday life
10 into drawings, objects, and installations, and her pieces are
11 included in the collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the
12 Dallas Museum of Art, the Rachofsky Collection, Artpace San
13 Antonio, and the Blanton Museum of Art in Austin, among others; her
14 work appeared in the 1997 Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American
15 Art, and she is the recipient of a MacDowell Fellowship, the
16 Moss/Chumley Award from the Meadows Museum, and the Otis and Velma
17 Davis Dozier Travel Grant from the Dallas Museum of Art; she
18 recently retired as a professor of studio art at the University of
19 North Texas, and in August 2021, she will begin a visiting faculty
20 position at Bennington College in Vermont; and

21 WHEREAS, Jennifer Ling Datchuk, the 2021 State
22 Three-Dimensional Artist, was born in Ohio and raised in Brooklyn;
23 trained in ceramics, she utilizes materials often associated with
24 traditional women's work, such as porcelain, hair, and textiles;
25 she earned her bachelor of fine arts degree at Kent State University
26 and her master of fine arts degree from the University of
27 Massachusetts Dartmouth, and she has participated in residencies in

1 Germany, China, the Netherlands, and San Antonio; she received the
2 2017 Emerging Voices Award from the American Craft Council and was
3 named a United States Artists Fellow in Craft in 2020; she is an
4 assistant professor of art at Texas State University and maintains
5 a studio in San Antonio; and

6 WHEREAS, The artists who have been selected to hold these
7 prestigious posts have all greatly contributed to the vibrant
8 cultural life of the Lone Star State, and Texas is indeed fortunate
9 to be home to these talented individuals; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
11 Legislature hereby congratulate the 2021 Texas Commission on the
12 Arts honorees and extend to them sincere best wishes for continued
13 fulfillment in their creative endeavors.