



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 14-6663, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING AND SALUTING MONICA HASLIP AND THE LITTLE BLACK PEARL 20TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

WHEREAS, Little Black Pearl is an Art and Design Center founded by artist, Monica Haslip. The cultural art center began as a dream of the artist more than twenty years ago in the basement of her greystone. Today the Little Black Pearl is a thriving, community based, forty-thousand square foot, state- of- the- art facility, serving the Kenwood/Oakland, Woodlawn, and Bronzeville communities. Though firmly rooted in the Black community Little Black Pearl provides cultural opportunities and a unique transformational educational experience for children, adults and families throughout the broader Chicago community; and

WHEREAS, The challenges of urban youth are countered by a rigorous program focused on skill development activities and opportunities with positive role models in a safe environment. They learn lifelong skills, enhance their self-esteem and benefit from the sale of their art. On April 3, 2012, Monica Haslip was honored as one of twelve leaders recognized for their work to prevent youth violence within their communities as part of the White House Champions of Change and the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention (the Forum) Department of Juvenile Justice; and

WHEREAS, Little Black Pearl offers an innovative visual and music arts education that provides a solid foundation in the business of art allowing their students to explore the connection between art and business through a creative learning environment. A more civil society is encouraged and fostered where diversity is embraced, injustice is spoken out against, and all are treated with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, In addition to Little Black Pearl, Monica opened Little Black Pearl Art and Design Academy (LBPA) in 2013. LBPA is a High School designed to encourage youth to re-discover their greatness, develop a passion for learning while preparing them for college and careers; and

WHEREAS, The continued success of Little Black Pearl is a tribute to its many volunteers, supporters, and employees. The Cook County Board of Commissioners acknowledges their accomplishments which have expanded our cultural, educational, business and social pursuits. We also applaud the dedication and visualization of one woman's dream and the pioneering spirit of founder, Monica Haslip,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Cook County salute Monica Haslip and Little Black Pearl on its 20th Anniversary year and the many achievements through love for their community. We wish them continued success on their mission to empower children by helping them to envision and achieve their unique potential through art, culture and entrepreneurship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Little Black Pearl and a copy be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body for the benefit of future generations.