**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE CITY OF BEAUFORT AND THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BEAUFORT CENTER FOR THE ARTS ON RECEIVING A COVETED 2017 ELIZABETH O’NEILL VERNER GOVERNOR’S AWARD FOR THE ARTS.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the City of Beaufort and the University of South Carolina (USC) Beaufort Center for the Arts were recognized May 2, 2017, with South Carolina’s highest honor in the arts, the Elizabeth O’Neill Verner Governor’s Award (government category), presented by the South Carolina Arts Commission; and

Whereas, the City of Beaufort, a state‑designated Cultural District, has a long and successful history of supporting the arts. City leaders believe that cultural sustainability for residents, businesses, and visitors is fundamental to a healthy and growing community; and

Whereas, the USC Beaufort Center for the Arts has been the heart of the City of Beaufort’s rich and diverse arts culture for thirty years, serving as both sponsor and venue for all forms of the arts; and

Whereas, the city and the Center for the Arts partner to provide and promote opportunities for residents and visitors to benefit from the arts, including events such as the Beaufort Film Festival, the 2016 South Carolina Humanities Festival, Pat Conroy at 70 (now the annual Pat Conroy Literary Festival), theatre productions, a chamber music series, multiple gallery exhibitions, and more; and

Whereas, this collaboration between government and a nonprofit organization has been a catalyst to make Beaufort a robust arts and cultural center; and

Whereas, cognizant of their outstanding joint labors in promoting the arts, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in celebrating the City of Beaufort and the USC Beaufort Center for the Arts on receiving this well‑deserved accolade. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the City of Beaufort and the University of South Carolina Beaufort Center for the Arts on receiving a coveted 2017 Elizabeth O’Neill Verner Governor’s Award for the Arts.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the City of Beaufort and the University of South Carolina Beaufort Center for the Arts.

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