



HR0309

LRB102 18524 ECR 26747 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2
3
4
5
6
7

WHEREAS, In 1982, Carlos Tortolero organized a group of fellow educators and founded the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum, which opened its doors in 1987; the museum created an award-winning youth initiative, Yollocali Arts Reach, in 1997 and was renamed the National Museum of Mexican Art (NMMA) in 2006; and

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15

WHEREAS, The founding mission of the National Museum of Mexican Art is to showcase the beauty and richness of Mexican culture by sponsoring events and presenting exhibitions that exemplify the majestic variety of visual and performing arts in the Mexican culture, to develop, conserve, and preserve a significant permanent collection of Mexican art, to encourage the professional development of Mexican artists, and to offer arts-education programs; and

16
17
18
19
20

WHEREAS, The National Museum of Mexican Art defines Mexican culture as sin fronteras, or without borders, and its programs and exhibitions capture the wide range of Mexican cultural expressions and art forms from ancient to modern and on both sides of the border; and

21
22

WHEREAS, The National Museum of Mexican Art curators are experts in Mexican art, and their passion for the museum is

1 contagious; this can be seen from the up-close-and-personal
2 placement of the art to the bilingual stories that guide
3 visitors through the galleries; and

4 WHEREAS, Today, the National Museum of Mexican Art stands
5 as one of the most prominent first-voice institutions for
6 Mexican art and culture in the United States; it is home to one
7 of the country's largest Mexican art collections, including
8 more than 11,000 seminal pieces from ancient Mexico to the
9 present; and

10 WHEREAS, Over the years, the National Museum of Mexican
11 Art has grown, its audience has broadened, and its reach now
12 extends across the United States and beyond; in 2001, the
13 museum expanded to a 48,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art
14 facility in the heart of Pilsen; and

15 WHEREAS, Twenty of the National Museum of Mexican Art's
16 exhibitions have traveled across the United States, and six
17 have traveled to Mexico; landmark exhibitions that have
18 traveled include The Art of the Other Mexico (1992), Maria
19 Izquierdo (1996), The African Presence in Mexico (2006), and
20 Frida's Contemporaries: Women Artists of Modern Mexico (2007);
21 and

22 WHEREAS, The National Museum of Mexican Art also hosts

1 cultural programs, including symposia, theater, dance, music,
2 authors, and performance companies that share the rich
3 diversity of the Mexican culture; the museum's annual Sor
4 Juana Festival honors the accomplishments of Mexican women
5 with women's performances; and

6 WHEREAS, The National Museum of Mexican Art offers a wide
7 range of educational programs for children, families, teens,
8 school groups, and educators; its art exhibitions, performance
9 arts, and educational programs are experienced by more than
10 130,000 visitors annually, including 58,000 K-12 students; and

11 WHEREAS, The National Museum of Mexican Art is a nonprofit
12 institution funded by donations and grants; and

13 WHEREAS, The National Museum of Mexican Art is a national
14 leader and mentor for cultural institutions and community
15 organizations and for the advocacy of "first voice" and
16 cultural equity issues; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we commend the National Museum of Mexican Art for its
20 contributions to Mexican-American culture and community; and
21 be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the National Museum of Mexican Art as a symbol of
3 our esteem and respect.