

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 775

By Hakeem

A RESOLUTION to honor Bessie Smith Cultural Center in  
Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing an institution that utilizes the arts, culture, and history to promote a better understanding of the past and a shared vision of a more equitable future; and

WHEREAS, Bessie Smith Cultural Center (BSCC or The Bessie) preserves and celebrates African-American history and culture in Chattanooga through art, education, research, and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, The Bessie is built upon the firm belief that understanding the culture, history, and contributions of Chattanooga's African-American community is essential to creating a diverse, strong, and equitable city; and

WHEREAS, an institution "where history lives," BSCC is developing an Oral History Collection for community members, both past and present, to document the cultural, political, social, and economic experiences of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, BSCC is committed to leading significant change in the community by offering creative community-building programs, including community day programs, multi-cultural collaborations, and daily guided tours; and

WHEREAS, BSCC is forging meaningful learning partnerships with schools, the home-school community, and after-school programs by offering live educational programs that feature performances and dramatic characterizations of African and African-American subject matter in a school setting and providing supplemental educational materials on various subjects being taught in the classroom via "Bessie in a Box"; and

WHEREAS, Bessie Smith Cultural Center is a valuable Tennessee institution that not only preserves African-American cultural history but also creates cultural connections, encourages artistic expression, and promotes the practice of cultural traditions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the Bessie Smith Cultural Center in Chattanooga for preserving and celebrating African-American history and culture in Chattanooga and providing programs that enhance and embrace cultural diversity in the community and express our gratitude to BSCC's dedicated administrators and staff members for their hard work and ongoing commitment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.