

SENATE RESOLUTION 20

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor The Carpetbag Theatre, Inc., in Knoxville.

WHEREAS, it is with great pleasure that the members of this legislative body recognize those venerable organizations committed to bringing high-quality art to communities across this State, thereby enriching the lives of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such organization is The Carpetbag Theatre, Inc., of Knoxville, a first-rate professional, multigenerational ensemble company that has delighted audiences with entertaining and important performances for five decades; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1969, The Carpetbag Theatre was officially chartered in 1970; since that time, it has remained true to its core mission: to give artistic voice to the issues and dreams of people who have been silenced by racism, classism, sexism, ageism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression; and

WHEREAS, the company works in partnership with other community artists, activists, cultural workers, storytellers, leaders, and individuals throughout the community, creating original works through collaboration in a style based in storytelling and song; and

WHEREAS, the artistic vision of the company is rooted in the practice of hearing, interpreting, and reimagining the stories of the communities it serves; the artistic process begins with hearing the message and imagining an empowered listener, then helping that vision to fully manifest in theatrical form; and

WHEREAS, a key component of The Carpetbag Theatre's work is the Parris-Bennett Digital Storyhouse, which provides space in which individuals may claim the permission to tell the stories that need to be told; the digital stories make use of text, image, and audiovisual

components, creating a powerful medium for storytelling. Through this digital platform, the theatre emphasizes personal voice and facilitates teaching methods that foster that voice; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years, The Carpetbag Theatre has served communities by returning their stories to them with honesty, dignity, and concern for the aesthetic of that particular community, helping culturally specific communities redefine how they organize and tell their unique stories; and

WHEREAS, The Carpetbag Theatre is a true Tennessee treasure, and it is most fitting that the organization be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize and honor The Carpetbag Theatre, Inc., for the good work it has done in Knoxville and the surrounding communities, extending our best wishes for its continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.