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6 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION
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11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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15 To posthumously recognize and honor Peggy Cooper Cafritz for her tireless contributions to the
16 preservation of African and African American art and the cultivation of the artistic
17 community in the District of Columbia and beyond.
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19 WHEREAS, Peggy Cooper Cafritz was born in Mobile, Alabama, on April 7, 1947, and
20 moved to the District of Columbia in the fall of 1964 to attend the George Washington
21 University, where she was instrumental in establishing the Black Student Union and the
22 integration of Greek letter organizations on-campus;
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24 WHEREAS, Peggy Cooper Cafritz completed her baccalaureate degree in 1968 and
25 earned a law degree in 1971 from the George Washington University;
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27 WHEREAS, Peggy Cooper Cafritz, at the culmination of her academic career,
28 established the Summer Workshop for Careers in the Arts—a summer program centered on
29 exposing high school students to career paths in the arts;
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31 WHEREAS, Peggy Cooper Cafritz, driven by her lifelong passion to make high-quality
32 arts and academic education accessible to all high school students throughout the District,
33 partnered with the George Washington University, representatives from the John F. Kennedy
34 Center for the Performing Arts, and District of Columbia Public Schools to found the nationally-
35 renowned Duke Ellington School of the Arts;
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37 WHEREAS, Duke Ellington School of the Arts has produced numerous prominent artists
38 including Dave Chappelle, Micaela Angela Davis, Clifton Powell, Denyce Graves, and many
39 others;
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41 WHEREAS, Peggy Cooper Cafritz used her personal wealth to amass one of the largest
42 collections of African and African American art in the country, as well as foster the development
43 of contemporary African and African American artists;
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45 WHEREAS, Peggy Cooper Cafritz, personally mentored dozens of young people in the
46 District and across the country, donating her time and financial resources to provide these young
47 people with the holistic support they needed to pursue their personal and career aspirations;
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49 WHEREAS, Peggy Cooper Cafritz devoted herself to increasing access and fostering
50 meaningful connections between the District's artistic and civic communities through serving as
51 chairman emeritus of the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, co-chair of a
52 Smithsonian Institution's Cultural Equity Committee, a board member of the John F. Kennedy
53 Center for the Performing Arts and other arts institutions, and six years as President of the
54 District of Columbia School Board;
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56 WHEREAS, Peggy Cooper Cafritz passed away on February 18, 2018;
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58 WHEREAS, Peggy Cooper Cafritz is survived by her daughter, Arcelie Reyes, and her
59 sons, Zachary and Cooper Cafritz.
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61 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, This
62 resolution may be cited as the "Peggy Cooper Cafritz Recognition Resolution of 2017."
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64 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors Peggy Cooper
65 Cafritz for her decades of service and commitment to the arts and civic communities of the
66 District of Columbia.
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68 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
69 the District of Columbia Register.