

Approved as to Form and Legality



City Attorney's Office

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER NOEL GALLO

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**RESOLUTION HONORING AND RECOGNIZING ARTHUR MONROE, A  
WIDELY RESPECTED ARTIST, EDUCATOR, AND COMMUNITY  
ACTIVIST FROM OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA.**

**WHEREAS**, Arthur Monroe, born in 1935 in New York City, grew up in the city where his close friends Max Roach, Amiri Baraka, Charles Lloyd, Harvey Tristan Cropper, and Charlie “Bird” Parker encouraged him “to know his axe;” that is, to know and celebrate his talent as a painter; and

**WHEREAS**, Arthur Monroe immersed himself in the exciting milieu of Manhattan’s East Village, had a studio facing Willem De Kooning's, and he hung around the Cedar Street Bar where he knew some of the most acclaimed Abstract Expressionists, including Franz Klein; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Monroe moved to Oakland in 1976, where he lived, worked, and painted for the next 43 years; and, he worked at the Oakland Museum of California for 35 years as a chief registrar, taking great care and pride in his role of tending to significant art and history collections; and

**WHEREAS**, during this time, Mr. Monroe moved into the Oakland Cannery on San Leonardo Street in East Oakland, a space he converted from an industrial warehouse into the first legal live-work space for artists in the city, and he worked in this pioneering space for the rest of his life and advocated for the creation and protection of similar spaces in the Bay Area with his son, Alistair; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Monroe’s work expressed profound beauty, truth, innovation, and passion, remaining committed to his abstract expressionist roots and Oakland’s arts community; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Monroe’s personal correspondence and papers have been donated to the Smithsonian Institute of American Archives for research and exhibition with materials from Evangeline Montgomery and Mary Lovelace O’Neal; and, further, his art has been added to the personal collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture; and

**WHEREAS**, Arthur Monroe’s legacy will continue through his family, including his sister, children, Alistair, Nafeesa, and Novella, and nephews, Wayne, Willie, Guy and Tyrone Perterkin; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the City of Oakland honors and recognizes Arthur Monroe as a well-respected, highly accomplished artist, educator, and community activist.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR,  
THAO AND PRESIDENT KAPLAN

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
ASHA REED  
Acting City Clerk and Clerk of the Council  
of the City of Oakland, California