


CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER WANG

RESOLUTION HONORING THE CREATORS OF ‘CO-FOUNDERS: THE MUSICAL’ FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OAKLAND’S CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL LANDSCAPE, AND FOR ADVANCING THE CITY’S VALUES OF INNOVATION, RACIAL JUSTICE, AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT THROUGH THE PERFORMING ARTS

WHEREAS, Oakland is a national leader in arts and culture, and has long served as a home and inspiration for generations of creative risk-takers, educators, and movement-builders who challenge the status quo and tell stories that matter; and

WHEREAS, *Co-Founders: The Musical* was developed with deep ties to Oakland’s cultural ecosystem, blending humor, original music, and sharp critique into a bold new form of storytelling that reflects the complexities of modern entrepreneurship and equity; and

WHEREAS, *Co-Founders* was first developed at Z Space in San Francisco and later presented at Oakland’s historic Flight Deck theater, where it connected with local audiences and garnered support for its dynamic portrayal of two women — a Black woman coder from Oakland and a privileged Ivy League dropout — navigating the challenges of startup culture, systemic bias, and personal ambition; and

WHEREAS, the musical draws on Oakland’s spirit of innovation, justice, and disruption, and has engaged local creatives, artists, and musicians in its evolution while fostering civic conversation around equity in tech, storytelling, and access to capital; and

WHEREAS, the themes explored in *Co-Founders* — race, gender, class, power, and the tension between vision and exploitation — resonate with the lived experiences of many Oaklanders and underscore the city’s broader efforts to champion inclusive economic development and racial equity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland celebrates cultural work that challenges assumptions, empowers communities, and builds bridges between disciplines — particularly art and social change — and recognizes the transformative power of theater to educate, provoke, and inspire; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Oakland City Council hereby honors the creators of *Co-Founders: The Musical* for their artistic excellence, civic imagination, and commitment to telling stories that center Oakland values and elevate underrepresented voices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Oakland affirms its support for artists and cultural producers who promote racial justice, education, and innovation, and extends its deepest appreciation to the *Co-Founders* team for their contributions to Oakland's creative and civic life.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROWN, FIFE, GALLO, HOUSTON, RAMACHANDRAN, UNGER, WANG, AND
PRESIDENT JENKINS

NOES –
ABSENT –
ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____
ASHA REED
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California

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