

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 97

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities for its outstanding contributions to the state of Louisiana and to express sincere gratitude to the Prime Time Head Start programs for its lasting contributions to early childhood education in Lafayette Parish and in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, founded in 1971, acts as a steward of Louisiana's diverse culture, keeper of its vibrant history, and supporter of its humanities-centered programming; and

WHEREAS, its mission is to partner with communities, institutions, and individuals to explore Louisiana's past, while reflecting on its present, and imagining its future; and

WHEREAS, the humanities are the exploration and documentation of the human experience with an approach to learning that cultivates critical thinkers who can become more appreciative of divergent opinions, more creative in the exploration of work and study, and more open to innovation; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities is dedicated to ensuring access to the humanities, and to offering and broadening pathways that lead to a lifetime of learning for people of every generation and from every walk of life; the organization champions the humanities to enrich the lives of Louisianians in all sixty-four parishes; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities is for residents to realize their full potential through the humanities and it values excellence in stewardship of the resources entrusted to it from individuals, corporations, and organizations, and partnerships with federal, state, and local governments with equity and integrity; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, the child and family education arm of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities created Prime Time Incorporated, a program dedicated to strengthening families and communities by making quality humanities-based education accessible to all; Prime Time, Inc. offers programs designed to engage, educate, and support

children and their families; and

WHEREAS, Prime Time, Inc. was awarded a federal grant in 2020 to operate head start and early childhood education programs in Lafayette and Iberia parishes, and in Lafayette, the former Immaculate Heart of Mary School was an ideal physical location for the program with a rich history of educating children in a community-based environment; and

WHEREAS, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church was created in 1934 to be the home of the first black priests, known as the four Divine Word Missionaries, to be trained and ordained in the United States, and the Church established a school that same year; and

WHEREAS, after many years of providing a caring and faith-filled learning environment for children, the Immaculate Heart of Mary School closed ahead of the 2016-2017 school year when the Diocese of Lafayette announced that the campus did not have the enrollment numbers or financial support needed to continue operating; and

WHEREAS, in April, 2022, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities celebrated the grand opening of its second Prime Time Head Start location in Lafayette at the former Immaculate Heart of Mary School; this project has revitalized a landmark for black Catholics and the northside community and provides school readiness programming for children ages three to five years old from low-income families at no cost; and

WHEREAS, Prime Time Head Start offers a relentless focus on positive child and family outcomes to help close the achievement gap and build bright futures for the children, families, and communities served by the head start program; and

WHEREAS, children at the Prime Time Head Start in Lafayette receive personalized instruction based on the Frog Street curriculum, which is a tier one prekindergarten educational program, while their families receive advocate-led assistance that connects them to social services helping them create the most solid foundation possible for their children; and

WHEREAS, the collaborative efforts of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities through the Prime Time Head Start Program and the steadfast determination of the Immaculate Heart of St. Mary parish is commendable and an admirable model for innovative educational opportunities in Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities for its dedication to preserving the study of humanities in the state of Louisiana and does hereby extend congratulations upon the grand opening of its second Prime Time Head Start Program location in Lafayette.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and the Prime Time Head Start at Immaculate Heart of St. Mary.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE