

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 116

BY REPRESENTATIVES KNOX, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAGLEY, BEAULLIEU, BISHOP, BOURRIAQUE, BOYD, BRASS, BROWN, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARPENTER, CARRIER, ROBBY CARTER, WILFORD CARTER, CORMIER, COUSSAN, COX, CREWS, DAVIS, DESHOTEL, DEVILLIER, DUBUISSON, ECHOLS, EDMONDS, EDMONSTON, EMERSON, FARNUM, FIRMENT, FISHER, FONTENOT, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, FRIEMAN, GADBERRY, GAINES, GAROFALO, GEYMAN, GLOVER, GOUDEAU, GREEN, HARRIS, HILFERTY, HODGES, HOLLIS, HORTON, HUGHES, HUVAL, ILLG, IVEY, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, TRAVIS JOHNSON, JORDAN, KERNER, LACOMBE, LAFLEUR, LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MACK, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCCORMICK, MCFARLAND, MCKNIGHT, MCMAHEN, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, MINCEY, MOORE, MUSCARELLO, NELSON, NEWELL, ORGERON, CHARLES OWEN, ROBERT OWEN, PHELPS, PIERRE, PRESSLY, RISER, ROMERO, SCHAMERHORN, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHLEGEL, SEABAUGH, SELDERS, ST. BLANC, STAGNI, STEFANSKI, TARVER, THOMAS, THOMPSON, TURNER, VILLIO, WHEAT, WHITE, WILLARD, WRIGHT, AND ZERINGUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the support of the Legislature of Louisiana for the development of a Levitt Pavilion in Armstrong Park in New Orleans.

WHEREAS, the Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation, in partnership with the New Orleans community, as led by the Friends of Levitt Pavilion New Orleans and the city of New Orleans, have pledged their commitment to develop a Levitt Pavilion in Armstrong Park; and

WHEREAS, the Levitt Foundation provides significant grants and support resources to communities committed to developing and sustaining their own local Levitt program, creating community-building synergy at the intersection of music and public space; the Levitt program brings communities together through the joyful, shared experience of free live music, and it serves as a catalyst for the revitalization of underused parks and public spaces by providing a familiar place for people to connect; and

WHEREAS, each Levitt Pavilion presents the Levitt series of more than forty annual concerts and features a diverse lineup of entertainment that ranges from acclaimed emerging talent to award-winning veteran performers in a wide array of music genres and cultural programming; all concerts are free, making the arts accessible to everyone in a welcoming, inclusive, and open lawn setting; and

WHEREAS, the development of a Levitt Pavilion is a community-driven process; the Levitt Foundation was initially contacted in 2012 by Tremé For Tremé, a place-based community organization, and over the years, key stakeholders and community organizations surrounding Armstrong Park, in addition to city leadership, have consistently shown great enthusiasm for this development; and

WHEREAS, the Levitt model is a private-public partnership at its core; all Levitt venues are state-of-the-art outdoor venues that are city-owned facilities on city-owned land, typically public parks; the model requires that a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization be formed to work in partnership with the city and the Levitt Foundation in the development of a Levitt Pavilion and maintenance of the local Levitt program; and

WHEREAS, Friends of Levitt New Orleans will be responsible for producing the annual free Levitt concert series, which will be accomplished with grants and resources provided by the Levitt Foundation and local funding; the Levitt Foundation pledges a minimum \$500,000 seed grant towards the construction of the new Levitt Pavilion in Armstrong Park, provided the site and venue design meet the requirements of the Levitt Program, and an additional \$1.1 million in grant funding to help with the first five years of operation and for core operating support; in the sixth year of operation and beyond, the foundation will contribute a minimum of \$200,000 annually for core operating support through 2041; and

WHEREAS, the development of a Levitt Pavilion in Armstrong Park in New Orleans is an inspiring undertaking that is worthy of the highest recognition for making the arts accessible to all and for seeking to breathe new life into Louisiana's public spaces.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express support for the development of a Levitt Pavilion in Armstrong Park in New Orleans; does hereby further recognize the Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation for its support of the arts and local communities; and does hereby extend sincerest wishes for the success of this development which will help to promote Louisiana and New Orleans culture in a welcoming and inclusive setting.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE