

1 WHEREAS, in 2019 LASM welcomed over 175,000 program participants, of whom
2 over 105,000 were K-12 students from over forty parishes in Louisiana and five counties in
3 Mississippi, and of whom over 18% were tourists; and

4 WHEREAS, in 2020, having survived the shutdowns encountered by nearly one-third
5 of the nation's museums as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, with a 72% reduction in
6 earnings, staffing, and visitation as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the LASM
7 remained open to the public, as mandates allowed, and created a free-access, virtual museum
8 and digital learning platform to engage isolated individuals and quarantined audiences,
9 including those in healthcare and hospice facilities; over 40,000 individuals were provided
10 virtual and onsite programs in 2020; and

11 WHEREAS today, the LASM and Irene W. Pennington Planetarium remains open
12 and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, a standard held by only six percent
13 of museums nationwide and houses over 4,000 objects of art, including Louisiana modern
14 and contemporary art, American, and European art, and scientific objects and antiques
15 including an authentic mummy housed in one of the only permanent ancient Egypt galleries
16 in the southeastern United States; and

17 WHEREAS today, the LASM has secured over one-half million dollars in relief
18 funding; as a Blue Star Museum, veterans, active military, first responders, and their families
19 receive free admission year-round; and

20 WHEREAS today, in partnership with local corporations, over 3,000 high-needs
21 students are being provided STEAM-based virtual education programs to introduce students
22 to concepts and careers in STEAM-based occupations; and

23 WHEREAS, the LASM has begun rehiring and has begun preparing to welcome
24 students back to the museum in the fall.

25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
26 commend the Louisiana Art & Science Museum on its sixtieth anniversary and its endurance
27 despite the challenges encountered as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
29 recognize the Louisiana Art & Science Museum for educating our region's youth in both art

1 and science to reduce drop-out rates and increase workforce development in STEAM-based
2 careers.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby support
4 the Louisiana Art & Science Museum and Irene W. Pennington Planetarium in its
5 commitment to serving the general public, students, and tourists and to advancing
6 Louisiana's educational, cultural and economic development.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
8 Serena Pandos, executive director of the Louisiana Art and Science Museum.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 128 Original

2021 Regular Session

Selders

Commends the La. Art & Science Museum on its 60th anniversary.