

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

BY SENATOR HEWITT AND REPRESENTATIVE CROMER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate the first week of December as "Shop Local Artists Week" in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the arts enhance the quality of life for all Louisiana residents and draw millions of tourists to our state; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's rich culture is one of its greatest assets, and includes visual artists, musicians, dancers, performing artists, writers, culinary artists, actors, filmmakers, museums, theatres, and festivals; and

WHEREAS, this cultural fabric provides Louisiana's second largest employment sector, with over one hundred seventy thousand jobs representing more than six and one-half percent of the state's workforce; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's cultural industries produce nearly twenty billion dollars in annual revenue, representing more than seven and one-half percent of the state's total revenue; and

WHEREAS, between 2007 and 2013, Louisiana's cultural industry jobs increased by approximately fifteen and one-half percent, nearly triple that of the state's overall job increases; and

WHEREAS, the arts are an instrumental component of economic development and are included as consideration when attracting new business; and

WHEREAS, Arts-in-Education programs teach creativity, teamwork, problem-solving and strategic thinking, thus laying the foundation for our children's future business and all-around success; and

WHEREAS, the arts provide important therapy for those recovering from illnesses, injuries, natural disasters, and other crises affecting communities, making arts an invaluable component of the healing process; and

WHEREAS, support of artists and arts organizations, in particular local artists in communities throughout the state, is vital to ensure Louisiana's rich culture and all of its assets can continue to flourish and enhance our state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate the first week of December "Shop Local Artists Week", to be celebrated annually in support of artists and arts organizations throughout Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES