SLS 25RS-466

ORIGINAL

2025 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

BY SENATOR FOIL

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the Louisiana Art and Science Museum/Irene W. Pennington Planetarium on its centennial celebration to mark the 100th anniversary of the historic Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Passenger Railway Station.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To commend the Louisiana Art and Science Museum/Irene W. Pennington Planetarium on
3	its centennial celebration to mark the 100th anniversary of the historic Yazoo and
4	Mississippi Valley Passenger Railway Station.
5	WHEREAS, the Louisiana Art & Science Museum (LASM), a celebrated cultural
6	and educational institution, is housed in the historic Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Passenger
7	Railway Station, which was originally constructed in 1925; and
8	WHEREAS, this iconic train depot, now a cornerstone of Baton Rouge's cultural
9	landscape, has stood for one hundred years as a symbol of the region's rich history, built in
10	the classical revival style; and
11	WHEREAS, in 1971, the depot was leased to the city of Baton Rouge with the
12	stipulation that it be used by LASM and new life was brought to the building as LASM made
13	its home a hub for art, science, and education; and
14	WHEREAS, in 1988, the city-parish government purchased the old railway station
15	from the Illinois Central Railroad for \$100,000 and subsequently leased it to the LASM for
16	a 99-year term, ensuring that this historic structure would be preserved and re-purposed to
17	serve the public good; and
18	WHEREAS, the historic train depot was placed on the National Register of Historic

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- Places in 1998, recognizing its importance in the region's history and its continued role in
 the cultural development of Baton Rouge; and
- WHEREAS, over the years, the LASM has offered countless exhibits, programs, and
 educational opportunities to the public, with a mission to inspire creativity, foster discovery,
 and engage the community in the wonders of art and science; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the museum's relocation to the historic depot has preserved the 7 building's legacy, while enhancing its cultural significance by housing exhibits, such as the 8 Irene W. Pennington Planetarium, and providing an inspiring space for educational programs 9 and cultural events; and
- WHEREAS, the LASM has continued to serve as a cultural beacon for over 60,000
 visitors annually, providing programs and exhibits that educate and inspire students and
 tourists alike; and
- WHEREAS, today, the LASM and Irene W. Pennington Planetarium remains open and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, a standard held by only six percent of museums nationwide and houses over 4,000 objects of art, including Louisiana modern and contemporary art, American, and European art, and scientific objects and antiques including an authentic mummy housed in one of the only permanent ancient Egypt galleries in the southeastern United States; and
- WHEREAS, today, the LASM continues to be a leading institution in Baton Rouge
 and Louisiana, promoting arts, science, and education, and enhancing the community's
 cultural, educational, and economic development.
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louisiana Art & Science Museum on the 100th anniversary of the historic train depot in which it is housed and recognizes the invaluable role that the museum in conjunction with the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium continues to play in the cultural and educational life of Louisiana.
- 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 28 celebrate the enduring legacy of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Passenger Railway 29 Station and its transformation into the Louisiana Art & Science Museum, ensuring that this 30 historic site continues to inspire generations to come.

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to

- 2 Karen M. Soniat, PhD, President and Executive Director of the Louisiana Art & Science
- 3 Museum.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

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