

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTERS

A RESOLUTION

To commend and recognize the Martha's Vineyard African-American Film Festival for twenty-four years of Black excellence in film and for its significant contributions to cinema, culture, and education.

WHEREAS, the Martha's Vineyard African-American Film Festival (MVAAFF) was founded in 2002 by the husband-and-wife team, Stephanie and Floyd Rance, to celebrate and showcase films created by or prominently featuring Black filmmakers, actors, and storytellers; and

WHEREAS, the MVAAFF has grown into a nationally recognized and highly regarded nine-day annual cultural event held in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts, featuring screenings, panel discussions, networking events, and special celebrations such as the Summer White Party and Black Excellence Brunch; and

WHEREAS, the MVAAFF is recognized as an Oscar-qualifying festival for short films, underscoring its prominence in the film industry, while serving as a platform for independent and studio films, including documentaries and short films that highlight the creative achievements of Black artists and Black voices; and

WHEREAS, for more than two decades, the MVAAFF has attracted influential figures in the film industry and cultural leaders, fostering community engagement and supporting emerging Black filmmakers through educational programs, mentorship, and workshops; and

WHEREAS, the MVAAFF draws national and international audiences to Martha's Vineyard, contributing to the local economy and promoting the island as a center for cultural celebration and artistic excellence; and

WHEREAS, films and filmmakers presented at the festival have earned national recognition, awards, and acclaim, with the MVA AFF playing a key role in amplifying Black voices in the film industry; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana wishes to recognize and honor the MVA AFF for its enduring contributions to celebrating and advancing Black artistry in film, culture, and education.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate the Martha's Vineyard African-American Film Festival on the occasion of its twenty-fourth anniversary for its significant impact on the film industry and the elevation of Black voices in global cinema.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana encourages the continued growth and success of the festival in advancing Black artistry, storytelling, and cultural excellence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the founders of the Martha's Vineyard African-American Film Festival, Stephanie and Floyd Rance, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to cinema and the arts.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES