

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 184

BY SENATORS QUINN AND DUPLESSIS

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Jana Napoli and the YA/YA Alumni artists for their art work and activities as ambassadors of Louisiana culture to the people of Poland and Germany through presentation of the Floodwall exhibit.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend New Orleans artist, Jana Napoli, and YA/YA Alumni Artists on their mixed
3 media composition, *Floodwall*, and to congratulate them on receipt of an invitation
4 to exhibit, extended by the United States Department of State, in its embassies in
5 Warsaw, Poland and Berlin, Germany as cultural envoys from the state of Louisiana.

6 WHEREAS, since the 1970's, Jana Napoli, a prolific painter and mixed media artist,
7 has exhibited her work extensively in solo and group shows, in galleries, and in privately-
8 held collections throughout the world; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1988, she opened the doors of her New Orleans studio to a group of
10 commercial art students from the local vocational high school and founded YA/YA, Inc.,
11 Young Aspirations/Young Artists; and

12 WHEREAS, since that time she has turned her creative energies toward the
13 program's evolution into a model for progressive youth development that has garnered both
14 national and international acclaim; today, she serves as honorary chair of its advisory
15 council; and

16 WHEREAS, *Floodwall* is a memorial to commemorate the tragic effects of
17 Hurricane Katrina on the residents of New Orleans and to convey the universal truths of loss
18 and new beginnings; and

1 WHEREAS, *Floodwall* is as a collection of hundreds of furniture drawers salvaged
2 from the debris scattered in the wake of the storm with each identified by the street address
3 where it was recovered; and

4 WHEREAS, these drawers from kitchen cabinets, bureaus, and desks were assembled
5 onto a vertical surface to create an installation intended as a monument to the victims of the
6 storm to represent their loss of life and precious possessions; and

7 WHEREAS, the art experience of *Floodwall* has struck a distinct chord with many
8 observers who draw comparisons to floods and other disasters, to the Holocaust, to the plight
9 of refugees who flee tyrannical regimes, and to the fate of the disenfranchised who are
10 denied equal protection and due process before the law; and

11 WHEREAS, Jana Napoli and the YA/YA Alumni artists, Carlos Neville,
12 Gentelle Pedescleaux, Madania Graves, and Turrón Patterson translate these ideas into
13 handiwork such as scraps of paper and love letters, cloth, pictures, and other personal items
14 nestled in the drawers; mementos hastily abandoned by the owner; and

15 WHEREAS, the human focus of *Floodwall* raises the poignant question of "what do
16 you take, what do you leave behind?"; and

17 WHEREAS, *Floodwall* will be exhibited in Warsaw and Berlin, together with
18 community programs, interactive scenarios, and performances led by YA/YA Alumni artists
19 during the months of July through September 2010; and

20 WHEREAS, the *Floodwall* installation itself serves as the framework for related
21 public performances and workshops on community building and civic education, especially
22 suited for young people, the elderly, and ethnic minorities; and

23 WHEREAS, the YA/YA Alumni are an amalgamation of multi-talented artists from
24 a variety of creative disciplines and backgrounds; and

25 WHEREAS, alumni artist and cultural envoy, Carlos Neville, is a professional
26 painter, cartoonist, dancer, and street performer with Dragon Master Showcase, and serves
27 as a member of the Board of Directors of YA/YA, Inc.; and

28 WHEREAS, Gentelle Pedescleaux, is a talented dancer, performance and visual arts
29 educator, and has dedicated her talents to community service in the Baton Rouge area; and

30 WHEREAS, Turrón Patterson is a visual artist and shares his creativity with local

1 New Orleans Youth; and

2 WHEREAS, YA/YA, Inc. Senior Guild Member, Madania Graves, is a multi-media
3 artist, production and studio manager, and youth arts mentor; and

4 WHEREAS, YA/YA , Inc., founder and *Floodwall* creator and curator, Jana Napoli,
5 is an internationally renowned mixed-media artist and Metairie native, who has dedicated
6 the last twenty years to the development of opportunities for New Orleans youth, to cultivate
7 their talents, and to boost their self-confidence through the use of creative processes; and

8 WHEREAS, the team of Louisiana artists, YA/YA, Inc., have greatly contributed to
9 a better understanding of American democratic society and its values of tolerance, diversity,
10 empowerment of women and minorities, and dedication to community service.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
12 does hereby commend artists, Jana Napoli and the YA/YA Alumni Artists, as envoys and
13 ambassadors of Louisiana's rich culture, congratulate them on their international recognition,
14 and wish for them much success in the future.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
16 Jana Napoli and the Alumni Artists of YA/YA.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Suzi Montague.

DIGEST

Quinn

SR No.

Commends New Orleans artist, Jana Napoli, and YA/YA Alumni artists on their mixed
media composition and exhibit, *Floodwall*.