

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 323

By Campbell

A RESOLUTION to recognize Cheekwood for its invaluable contributions to this State.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to commend those exemplary institutions that, through an abiding commitment to excellence, serve as cultural touchstones and foster an appreciation of art in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Cheekwood is integral to the State's tourism economy, having welcomed more than one million visitors over the past three years from all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and over twenty countries, and benefiting our State economy through tourism, local vendors, and jobs; and

WHEREAS, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Cheekwood is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, has a Level II National Arboretum Accreditation, is a three-time *USA Today* Top 10 Botanical Garden, and was named as one of the twelve most beautiful gardens in the South by Fodor's in 2021; and

WHEREAS, Cheekwood invests over \$1 million annually in community outreach, which includes its four annual cultural celebrations, Holi, Otsukimi, the Black Arts Bash, and *El Dia de los Muertos*, attracting more than 10,000 attendees and encouraging cross-cultural relationships with the Japanese Consulate in Nashville, the Hispanic and Black chambers of commerce, and like organizations; and

WHEREAS, Cheekwood's extensive involvement in the community includes some seventy community partnerships, four advisory councils, and collaborations with a number of Tennessee institutions of higher education, including Nashville State Community College, Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology, Fisk University, Tennessee State University, and Vanderbilt University and its premier healthcare institution, Vanderbilt Health; and

WHEREAS, Cheekwood offers twenty-one community outreach and initiative programs, with each one targeting a varied audience from childhood to adulthood and focusing on a range of subjects, including horticulture, art, wellness, and environmental issues; Cheekwood also fosters an appreciation for the importance of planting of trees, in partnership with the Nature Conservancy and Root Nashville in Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, Cheekwood's origins as an art museum are reflected in the display of its permanent collection in the museum's period rooms and galleries; in tandem with both institution-curated and traveling exhibitions, Cheekwood features an annual Artist in Residency program as well as ongoing acquisitions through both the museum and its outdoor sculpture trail, which comprises traditional as well as contemporary works; and

WHEREAS, offering free admission to more than 6,200 students in eighty-four schools across thirteen counties in Tennessee, southern Kentucky and northern Alabama, Cheekwood provides both inbound and outbound field trips and opportunities for students and their families to visit together; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we honor this august institution for its exceptional collection of art, varied exhibitions, dynamic programs, and myriad contributions to this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize Cheekwood for its invaluable contributions as a community partner to Middle Tennessee and this State and encourage all Tennessee residents to experience this exceptional institution and discover their places within Cheekwood's community impact initiatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.