

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2024-4666, by Representatives Stearns and Chopp

1           WHEREAS, The Burke Museum was founded in 1885 by the Young  
2 Naturalists' Society, a group of curious teenagers inspired by seeing  
3 Seattle transform before their eyes, and has built upon this legacy,  
4 collecting objects and artifacts that help us understand how the  
5 Northwest has grown and changed; and

6           WHEREAS, On March 6, 1899, the Washington State Legislature first  
7 designated the Burke Museum the State Museum of Washington as "a  
8 depository for the preservation and exhibition of documents and  
9 objects possessing an historical value, of materials illustrating the  
10 fauna, flora, anthropology, mineral wealth, and natural resources of  
11 the state, and for all documents and objects whose preservation will  
12 be of value to the student of history and the natural sciences"; and

13           WHEREAS, Since that time, the Burke Museum has had the great  
14 honor to share and care for more than 18 million fossils, cultural  
15 items, and specimens from the Pacific Northwest and beyond; and

16           WHEREAS, Today, the Burke Museum continues to serve Washington  
17 state by providing hands-on science and culture education, conducting  
18 original research and establishing baseline data, preserving our  
19 shared heritage, and providing tools for state and federal agencies;  
20 and

21           WHEREAS, The Burke Museum education programs use authentic  
22 materials and specimens to inspire learners of all ages to ask

1 questions about the world around us, foster curiosity, and create  
2 wonder; and

3 WHEREAS, Students, researchers, artists, and community members  
4 draw on the collections to build knowledge of our world and address  
5 challenges facing communities in the Pacific Northwest and around the  
6 globe; and

7 WHEREAS, The Burke Museum's research and programs partner with  
8 institutions, communities, and people around the world to understand  
9 our past and create positive change in the future; and

10 WHEREAS, The Burke Museum maintains relationships with  
11 communities and tribes to preserve the ingenuity, creativity,  
12 science, and complex knowledge of natural and cultural resources,  
13 acknowledging they are the caretakers while tribes and community  
14 members are the experts; and

15 WHEREAS, Thousands of people have championed the work of the  
16 Burke Museum through the years, including visitors, tribal nations,  
17 and an inclusive group of researchers, enabling the museum to  
18 continue to share collections so all people can learn, be inspired,  
19 generate knowledge, feel joy, and heal;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives  
21 recognize the cultural and scientific contributions of the Burke  
22 Museum and celebrate its 125th Anniversary as the official State  
23 Museum of Washington.

--- END ---