

RESOLUTION NO. 130

Resolution honoring the work of That Uppity Theatre Company and Ashleyliane Dance Company's Dance the Vote and the St Louis Voter Registration Group and encouraging all voters in the City of St. Louis to vote on November 6th, 2018.

WHEREAS, only 36.4 percent of the voting-eligible population turned up for the 2014 midterm elections, according to numbers from the United States Election Project;

WHEREAS, in the 2016 Presidential Election, eligible voter turnout was just over 58 percent;

WHEREAS, in the City of St. Louis voter turnout dropped nearly 6.5% between the 2008 and 2016 Presidential elections;

WHEREAS, in recent elections, a low number of voters have been determining the fate of the nation.

WHEREAS, in order to increase voter turnout, it is necessary to use a variety of creative and innovative methods to register and engage voters;

WHEREAS, The St. Louis arts community has teamed up to promote voter awareness and registration through the "Dance the Vote" campaign by getting people registered to vote before the October 10th voter registration deadline for the upcoming November 6th General Election, and committed to voting on election day;

WHEREAS, the St Louis Voter Registration Group and Dance the Vote have registered or updated registration for approximately 3,000 voters since its inception in 2016;

WHEREAS, The Dance the Vote event will occur on October 6, 2018 at 1:00 pm at the steps of the Missouri History Museum and will include choreography as well as spoken word and poetry that is based on various themes of the voting experience, including the experience of African Americans, women, Latinx and people with disabilities as well as the wider public around voting, voting rights, voter suppression, voting in other countries, among other themes;

WHEREAS, Dance the Vote exemplifies the way the arts can be used to encourage creative expression, engaged citizenship and build community by offering opportunities for many artists to individually and collectively share their talents and perspectives;

WHEREAS, Dance the Vote organizers and performers reflects the diversity of the St Louis community and honors the city and its artists by spreading awareness of some of the range of talent in the community;

Therefore, let it be ordained that the Board of Aldermen pause in our deliberations to:

Recognize the work of That Uppity Theatre Company and Ashleyliane Dance Company's Dance the Vote and the St Louis Voter Registration Group in engaging the arts community registering and engaging voters in the City of St. Louis;
And;

Encourage all residents of the City of St. Louis who are eligible to register to vote, to register by the October 10th voter registration deadline;
And;

Encourage all residents of the City of St. Louis who are registered to vote by the October 10th voter registration deadline, to exercise their right to vote on November 6th, 2018;

And;
Declare October 6 2018 Official
Voter Registration Day in the City of St Louis.