

*RESOLUTION NUMBER 57*

*WHEREAS*, This Honorable Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis has been apprised of the upcoming 16<sup>th</sup> Annual African Arts Festival to be held in Forest Park at the Worlds Fair Pavilion beginning Saturday, May 26 and ending Monday, May 28, 2007; and

*WHEREAS*, This festival began with the high ideal of bringing the St. Louis community a better understanding of the richness and vitality of African culture and its enormous contribution to world and western cultures; and

*WHEREAS*, Each year, festival organizers have attempted to reach its lofty goal by providing a variety of events and activities all in an African village setting to better foster understandings, appreciation, and historical truth; and

*WHEREAS*, The first African Arts Festival had its beginnings in 1991 and was an outgrowth of the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual African Studies Conference held at Washington University in that same year; and

*WHEREAS*, The African Arts Festival is sponsored by the African Heritage Association of St. Louis who's board of directors include a number of distinguished St. Louisans of African descent all committed to presenting a quality festival and learning experience; and

*WHEREAS*, Despite the many challenges in organizing such an ambitious endeavor, the festival organizers have been able to present a variety of activities for various age ranges over the past 16 years; and

*WHEREAS*, Such a festival helps to enrich and enliven St. Louis and continues to represent the diversity of communities that make up the greater St. Louis community and further helps to make the city a better place to live.

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis, that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual African Arts Festival and by adoption of this resolution, wishes to join in the festivities and we direct the Clerk of this Board to prepare a commemorative copy of this Resolution to the end that it may be presented to our honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 24th day of May, 2007 by:

Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward

Adopted this the 24th day of May, 2007 as attested: