

**RESOLUTION NO. 136
BLACK WORLD HISTORY MUSEUM**

WHEREAS, Lois D. Conley founded the Black World History Museum in February, 1997. Ms. Conley's extensive academic and educational studies in museums around the world have propelled The Black World History Museum into history as only the second of its kind in the country. The Museum features life-size replicas of African Americans with a Missouri connection and whose life activities influenced the state, region, and sometimes the entire country; and

WHEREAS, the Museum is a place where visitors can "meet" and learn about Josephine Baker, Clara Brown, John Berry Meacham, Dred and Harriet Scott, Hiram Young, Elizabeth Keckley, William Wells Brown, James Milton Turner, Clark Terry, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Rev. Earl E. Nance, Sr., Miles Davis, Madame C. J. Walker, and York, the enslaved Black who accompanied his owner, William Clark on the "Exploration of the Corps of Discovery"; and

WHEREAS, the Museum also features an authentic slave cabin, originally built on the Wright-Smith Plantation in Jonesburg, Missouri. Visitors can solve puzzles, view documentary videos, and "board" a section of a ship that is the actual size used to transport Africans to America during the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The Museum's "Motherland Museum Shop" offers Afrocentric clothing, jewelry, figurines, sculptures, books, videos, and greeting cards; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its permanent collection, the Museum hosts temporary art exhibits by local and national artists which have included Tom Feelings' "Middle Passage"; Tony Gleaton's "The African Legacy in Mexico, Central and South America"; William Gottlieb's "The Golden Age of Jazz"; "Let Us March On: Selected Civil Rights Photographs of Ernest C. Wither 1955-1968"; The Smithsonian Institute's "Beyond Category: The Musical Genius of Duke Ellington"; "The Jazz Age in Paris: 1914-1940"; "Paul Robeson: Voice of the Ages"; "A. Phillip Randolph, 1869-1979"; "We Shall Overcome: Photographs From the American Civil Rights Era"; "Sequined Surfaces: Haitian Vodoun Flags" and the "Artistry of African Currency"; Wrapped In Pride: "Ghanaian Kente Cloth an African American Identity"; and

WHEREAS, the Museum sponsors lectures, gallery talks and cultural celebrations to enhance its community outreach. It also operates the Heritage Preservation Intern Project (HPIP), a youth training program that focuses on heritage preservation, museum management, career preparation, and cultural tourism.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis, meeting in regular session, that we pause in our deliberations to recognize The Black World History Museum as an edifice designed to educate the citizens of the City of St. Louis and the country in the historical progression of the African American heritage, and we further direct the Clerk of the Board of Aldermen to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of this proceeding and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsors.

Introduced on the 5th day of September, 2007 by:
Honorable April Ford-Griffin, Alderwoman 5th Ward
Adopted this 5th day of September, 2007 as attested by: