

1 Introduced by Council Members Morgan and Cumber and Co-Sponsored by  
2 Council Members Freeman, DeFoor, Pittman, Bowman, Becton, Diamond,  
3 White, Priestly Jackson & Gaffney:  
4  
5

6 **RESOLUTION 2022-182-A**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING DOUGLAS  
8 ANDERSON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS ON THE OCCASION OF  
9 ITS 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE  
10 DATE.  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, in 1922 the South Jacksonville School, later to become  
13 known as the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts (DASOTA), was opened  
14 as the first and only school on the south side of the St. Johns River  
15 serving African American students in grades 1-9; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Douglas Anderson, a Jacksonville native, attended local  
17 public schools and completed his education in the carpentry division  
18 of Tuskegee Institute before returning to Jacksonville to live and  
19 work as a farmer and carpenter. Mr. Anderson played an active role  
20 in spearheading the allocation of the present school site and  
21 construction of the original school buildings, served as PTA president  
22 for many years, and was, at the time, best known for his successful  
23 and untiring efforts in acquiring free transportation to school for  
24 Black students. The school was renamed in his honor in 1945; and

25 **WHEREAS**, between the years of 1955 and 1959, the grade 1-9 school  
26 expanded to become a high school, with the Fiery Dragon as its mascot,  
27 and the class of 1959 became the school's first graduating senior  
28 class. Douglas Anderson School closed in 1968 to become the San Diego  
29 Campus of Florida Junior College, then in 1971, it reopened as Douglas  
30 Anderson Seventh Grade Center; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts opened in August

1 1985 as an arts school which brought faculty and students together  
2 with a common bond - a love for the arts. Students audition for  
3 placement and the school is dedicated to training both the students  
4 who will pursue a career in the arts, as well as the students who  
5 will be committed to the support of art in the community; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the school's facilities and resources have been vastly  
7 improved over the years, and those improvements have resulted in a  
8 school that is ranked among the top high schools in the country in  
9 both the arts and in its academic programs. Douglas Anderson was  
10 named a Grammy Foundation Gold Signature School in 2010, 2012 and  
11 2016, is currently ranked in the top 70 best arts high schools and  
12 top 200 best magnet high schools in the country, and is traditionally  
13 ranked among the best high schools in Florida; now therefore

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

15 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends  
16 Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, its faculty, staff, students and  
17 alumni, on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school's  
18 founding, and extends its best wishes for another century of  
19 outstanding achievement. DASOTA is one of the crown jewels of  
20 Jacksonville's educational system, and the school's fame has brought  
21 great credit to the Jacksonville community.

22 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
23 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
24 without the Mayor's signature.

25  
26 Form Approved:

27  
28           /s/ Paige H. Johnston          

29 Office of General Counsel

30 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

31 GC-#1490296-v1-2022-182-A.docx