

1 Introduced by Council Member Pittman:
2

3 **RESOLUTION 2026-278**

4 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING JACQUELYN H. "JACKIE"
5 CORNELIUS FOR HER LEADERSHIP AND ENDURING IMPACT
6 ON ARTS EDUCATION IN THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE AS
7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEVELOPING ARTISTS
8 FOUNDATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Jacquelyn H. "Jackie" Cornelius, a Jacksonville native
11 and graduate of Duval County Public Schools, earned a bachelor's
12 degree from the University of Florida, and Master's degree in
13 Educational Leadership from the University of North Florida; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Cornelius was an invaluable asset to the Duval
15 County Public Schools for 47 years, including her service as the
16 principal of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts for 20 years, where
17 under her leadership and guidance, Douglas Anderson School of the
18 Arts was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence,
19 a National Model School, and a National Leader School by the US
20 Department of Education, as well as being listed by Newsweek magazine
21 as one of the Best Academic High Schools in the country; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Jackie Cornelius, a humanitarian dedicated to
23 supporting projects and opportunities that primarily benefit
24 students, schools, faculty and staff, retired from Duval County Public
25 Schools in 2017, has continued to distinguish herself as a dedicated
26 arts advocate and community leader in Jacksonville, helping expand
27 opportunities for young artists and strengthening arts education
28 throughout the region; and

29 **WHEREAS**, under her leadership as Executive Director, the
30 Developing Artists Foundation, a non-profit organization established
31 in 1987, has worked to support arts education and professional

1 development opportunities for students, particularly those attending
2 Douglas Anderson School of the Arts; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Developing Artists Foundation advances its mission
4 by providing resources that enhance arts education, including funding
5 for visiting professional artists, artist-in-residence programs, arts
6 teacher fellowships, specialized equipment, and student scholarships,
7 ensuring that students receive high-quality training and exposure to
8 professional artistic practice; and

9 **WHEREAS**, through the Foundation's DuBow Summer Arts Scholarship
10 Program, students can attend competitive summer arts intensives and
11 conservatory programs across the United States and internationally,
12 gaining advanced training and mentorship opportunities; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in 2024, the Developing Artists Foundation awarded
14 \$52,000 in scholarships to nine students from Douglas Anderson School
15 of the Arts, enabling those students to participate in prestigious
16 summer arts programs and further develop their artistic talents; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Foundation also played an important role in
18 expanding the arts infrastructure at Douglas Anderson School of the
19 Arts, including philanthropic support that made possible the Betsy
20 Lovett Amphitheatre, a \$1.18 million outdoor performance venue that
21 provides students with a professional space for performances,
22 showcases, and community events; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the impact of the Foundation's work is further
24 reflected in the accomplishments of Douglas Anderson's students,
25 including the Class of 2024 receiving more than \$28 million in college
26 scholarship offers, with many graduates pursuing higher education in
27 the arts and creative industries; and

28 **WHEREAS**, through leadership, advocacy, and philanthropic
29 engagement as Executive Director, Jackie Cornelius has played a vital
30 role in supporting efforts to expand educational opportunities for
31 students and bolster the city's cultural community; now therefore

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

2 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby commends Jacquelyn H.
3 "Jackie" Cornelius for her outstanding leadership, dedication, and
4 continued service to students and the arts in Jacksonville through
5 her work as Executive Director of the Developing Artists Foundation.

6 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
7 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
8 without the Mayor's signature.

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10 Form Approved:

11
12 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

13 Office of General Counsel

14 Legislation Prepared By: Brandon Russell, City Council Research

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